

who elect to take full responsibility for their care, their upbringing, and their overall well-being is an important service not only to these children, but to our country at large.

Adoption not only provides obvious benefits to the affected child, but it has proven to be one of the most rewarding experiences for many adoptive parents. We all benefit when a needy child is adopted.

The County of Onondaga in New York's 25th Congressional District will be recognizing the importance of adoption on Friday, November 22nd in ceremonies at Onondaga County Family Court. It is my privilege to recognize and thank all those families, case workers, and staff gathered for this important event who have dedicated themselves to improving the welfare of our community's children. It is my hope that this recognition further promotes the importance and benefits of adoption for all those involved. I thank all those responsible for organizing this special local observance of National Adoption Awareness Month.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIAN ROCK NATURE PRESERVE, BRISTOL, CT

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding organization, Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut. I join them in celebrating a special milestone, the 25th anniversary of their Indian Rock Preserve located in Bristol, Connecticut.

The Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut has been a leader in Environmental Education and open space land preservation. They reach over 30,000 students a year from more than 180 schools in Connecticut. They currently own and manage over 525 acres of open space in Connecticut and are adding more land each year.

The organization was founded in 1969 as a not-for-profit charitable organization for land preservation and environmental education with the original purchase of 40 acres of land on Shrub Road, Bristol. Shortly thereafter they completed construction of the Harry C. Barnes Memorial Nature Center on Shrub Road and began educational programs dealing with the environment. Today, the Barnes Nature Center provides the public with many exhibits and a library. This facility is open to the public without charge.

In 1977, they received the 150 acre Indian Rock Nature Preserve and enlarged their educational programs with the opening of the farm life program for elementary schools and a summer day camp for youth. In 1986, the organization constructed a 3,300 square foot building on the preserve to accommodate growing educational programs and the summer camp. Just recently, they completed construction of 1,200 square foot addition to accommodate their continued growth. The Center provides over 130 different educational subject topics for organized schools and groups throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut is an organization of great dedication and commitment to their mission and to the citizens of Con-

necticut. Their success is well earned and I am honored to share their accomplishments with the House of Representatives and the nation. The accomplishments of this organization are many and it is my privilege to congratulate them on the 25th anniversary of the Indian Rock Nature Preserve. Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut, congratulations, and all the best to you in your future endeavors.

CHINA'S MILITARY THREAT AGAINST TAIWAN

**HON. EARL F. HILLIARD**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, it seems Beijing is applying a two-pronged Taiwan policy. On one hand, Beijing talks peace about Taiwan. It demands Taiwan accept their "one country, two systems" formula of unification. This is their soft prong. If Taiwan is unwilling to negotiate peace under this formula, there is the hard prong—Beijing continuing to conduct military exercises around Taiwan. In fact, in recent months, Beijing has deployed 400 tactical guided missiles on China's eastern coast, less than 200 miles from Taiwan. As sophisticated weapons, these missiles can hit targets in Taiwan easily.

Beijing's undisguised military intimidations against Taiwan pose a serious threat to the well-being of the 23 million people on Taiwan. After all, Republic of China President Chen Shui-bian has assured Chinese leaders that he wants a structured, constructive cross-strait relationship, setting no preconditions for resumption of talks. He has continued to express his good will, exercising utmost restraint to avoid provoking China while liberalizing restrictions on socioeconomic ties between Taiwan and China.

Unfortunately China has chosen to ignore President Chen's overtures, continued its efforts to interfere with democratic elections on Taiwan, suppressed Taiwan's activities in the international community and threatened Taiwan with military force.

I, however, hope that China will realize that it is good for people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to live in peace, that China should allow Taiwan to be an equal partner in trade and commerce to China, since both China and Taiwan are now members of the World Trade Organization and that any military action against Taiwan will lead to chaos and destruction for many countries in the region.

For peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, I urge China to withdraw its missiles and reduce its stockpile. This is a constructive step to avert an arms race and military confrontation. I am pleased to see that the European Parliament has taken steps to urge China to de-escalate tension in the Taiwan Strait, and I hope other countries and other members of Congress will issue similar pleas to China.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DRAINAGE AREA PROJECT RECOGNIZED WITH TWO AWARDS

**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Los Angeles County Drainage Area Project (LACDA) for recently receiving the Golden Eagle Award at the County of Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission's 16th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program. The national award follows an earlier honor, when the project was named one of the American Public Works Association's Public Works Projects of the Year.

Since entering Congress, completion of this project has been one of my highest priorities. I was pleased that Congress appropriated \$157 million during the past seven years for this work to be completed five years ahead of schedule. The bipartisan commitment to this project by area members of Congress and the hard work and extraordinary cooperation between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Los Angeles County Public Works Department ensured that construction of LACDA proceeded on an efficient and rapid timetable.

Completion of the LACDA project—which began in 1996—restores flood protection to nearly 500,000 people living in the flood plains of the Los Angeles and Rio Hondo Rivers. Due to the danger of severe flooding, in 1998 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mandated that area residents and businesses carry flood insurance at an average cost of \$400 per year. Now that the requirement has been lifted, the County of Los Angeles estimates that property owners will save a collective \$22 million in annual insurance premiums.

The successful completion of this project has been a model for any major public works project. The federal, state, and local agencies involved should be proud of a job well done. Along with flood protection, residents also will enjoy a cleaner, safer environment and more recreational opportunities. As part of the LACDA project, 22 miles of bike and equestrian trails along the Los Angeles River have been improved and enhanced with landscaping, rest stops, and safer signage.

Receiving the American Public Works Association's Public Works Projects of the Year award and being honored with the Golden Eagle Award from the County of Los Angeles is a tribute to the many men and women who envisioned, planned, and finally constructed this important project. I tip my hat to all of them for their fine work and congratulate them on being chosen for these distinguished awards.

TRIBUTE TO CECIL WILLIAMS, JR.

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Arkansas's finest citizens, Cecil Williams, Jr. I am proud to recognize Mr. Williams in the United States Congress for his invaluable contributions to his profession, his family, his state and his nation.