

the growing northern suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, which provides state and local officials with some of our greatest transportation mobility challenges. The increase in traffic over the past three decades is a result of unprecedented population and employment growth experienced in the North Texas region.

The transportation congestion and mobility challenges of Interstate 35 East could minimize economic opportunity and investment in the North American international trade corridor if our country's leaders do not support the development of an efficient, seamless, intermodal trade and transportation system. With congressional passage of several important trade agreements, the heartland of America enters a new era as a geographic crossroad for international trade.

Interstate 35 extends from Laredo, Texas, the busiest U.S. border crossing into Mexico, to Duluth, Minnesota. One third of the highway is in Texas, including the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Of \$57 billion in U.S. trade into Mexico annually, 78 percent moves through Laredo, and much of that on Interstate 35. The North American Superhighway's Coalition estimates it will take \$3.4 billion to upgrade Interstate 35 over the next five years. Texas alone would require about \$2.87 billion.

I am actively working with local, state, and federal officials to improve international trade transportation on Interstate 35 by widening current lanes and adding frontage roads without sacrificing Texas' ability to meet its regular mobility needs within the state. The North Texas Mobility Improvement Act of 2003 would authorize \$2.5 million to widen from four lanes to six lanes those segments of Interstate 35 East between FM Road 2181 and Lake Lewisville in Denton County. The environmental review for this interstate expansion is currently underway by the Texas Department of Transportation.

With ever-increasing demands on our transportation system for both local mobility and international trade transportation improvements, the North Texas Mobility Improvement Act of 2003 would help the Texas Department of Transportation accelerate the widening of the segments both north and south of the existing 6-lane segment in order to alleviate the overburdensome bottlenecking on this vital segment of Interstate 35 East. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the widening of this portion of Interstate 35 East. The North Texas Mobility Improvement Act of 2003 would provide for the additional needed funding to complete the project and address the immediate needs of my constituents and other North Texas commuters that Interstate 35 East on a daily basis.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEARWATER BASIN PROJECT ACT

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before the House today to introduce the Clearwater Basin Project Act, a bill to provide for enhanced collaborative forest stewardship management within the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests in Idaho. I am pleased to be joined by Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, a fellow Idahoan, in introducing this legislation.

The Forest Service has not been able to adequately address insect outbreak, catastrophic fire, and other fish and wildlife habitat and ecosystem health issues on the lands it manages within the basin. That is why I am introducing The Clearwater Basin Project Act to provide a better mechanism to address critical resource issues concerning Clearwater and Nez Perce national forest lands. The legislation takes advantage of existing collaboration and stewardship mechanisms to provide a more effective framework for stakeholders to work with the Forest Service to attain some meaningful forest management results on the ground.

In 1996, the state of Idaho established a Federal Land Task Force to design potential pilot projects on federal lands. The task force report identified a broken decision-making process as part of the problem on federal lands. An eight-member working group identified five pilot projects on Idaho's federal lands. The legislation I am introducing today is a product of that process. The Clearwater Basin Project Act implements concepts and addresses needs identified in the Clearwater Basin Collaborative Project that was described in the December 2000 Federal Land Task Force Working Group Report, "Breaking the Gridlock." The aims of the original Clearwater Project and the Act are to provide a better mechanism to address critical resource issues concerning Clearwater and Nez Perce national forest lands within the basin.

This legislation provides an up-to-date, reasonable and realistic approach to implementing a pilot project on national forest lands in the Clearwater Basin. The Act facilitates forest management through consensus-building procedures to expedite identification, scheduling and implementation of specific high-priority forest stewardship activities. The legislation provides a working test of innovative collaborative management, fully within the framework of existing environmental laws.

This legislation requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Clearwater Advisory Panel (CAP), a collaborative group comprised of a broad spectrum of stakeholders in Clearwater Basin national forest management. The CAP is to work with the Forest Service, other agencies and the public to consider and recommend specific high-priority forest stewardship activities to implement over a five-year period within the Basin.

This act does not bypass existing environmental legislation. Rather, it requires the Forest Service and other federal agencies to complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other consultation and coordination procedures for each proposed schedule of activities, within one year after the Forest Service issues the public scoping notice for the proposed schedule. The appropriate forest supervisor is required to review the five-year schedule of activities for each forest, then issue a decision document within 30 days regarding whether to approve the schedule recommended by the CAP.

The Act also provides additional authority for stewardship and other contracting to prepare and carry out activities recommended and approved for priority implementation. Also authorized is monitoring to measure the success of the project and to assure accountability and determine what funding and other support is needed for the project to succeed.

It is important to note that nothing in this act (1) transfers ownership or control of any na-

tional forest lands from the United States to anyone else; (2) transfers Forest Service national forest decision authority to anyone else; (3) exempts Forest Service decisions or the priority activities from environmental laws, or from administrative appeal and judicial review; or (4) impairs opportunities for participation by any interest group or the general public.

The need for this legislation is greater now than ever. Elk City, a small rural community in my district, is an island in a sea of Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and state lands. The town is surrounded by dead and dying timber. However, because of federal regulations there is little or no access to the resource. That is threatening the local mill and placing the city and its residents at risk of catastrophic wildfires. Inaction no longer is an alternative for the Clearwater Basin. We cannot sit idly by and watch the forest burn. We must take action before our precious resource is destroyed and the lives of those dependent upon the resources are changed forever.

EIGHT AMERICAN HEROES FROM THE GREAT STATE OF OHIO

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor eight American heroes from the great State of Ohio.

JoAnn Gallitto, Robert S. Kraska, Paul J. Mizerak, Florence I. Ousley, George T. Radigan, Walter L. Ratcliffe, Kathleen C. Sauterer, and Theresa Ann Yakubik are the honorees of the distinguished Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Merit Award presented by the Cuyahoga County Bar Foundation and the Cuyahoga County Bar Association as a result of their more than twenty years of faithful service to the bench, bar and public in Cuyahoga County.

JOANN GALLITTO—CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT

Cleveland Heights Municipal Court Chief Deputy Clerk JoAnn Gallitto is this year's nominee of Judge A. Deane Buchanan. JoAnn has been employed at the Court since 1974, and she has been Chief Deputy Clerk since 1984. Her duties include supervision of the Civil Division of Ohio's largest single judge municipal court, the processing of new cases, judgment execution proceedings, preparation of judgment entries and a myriad of other tasks, including direct contact with the bar and public. A graduate of Shaw High School in East Cleveland, JoAnn is the eldest of 4 children, who credits her upbringing by two hard-working parents in a close, traditional Italian-American family, with instilling in her a level of encouragement and support that has allowed her to succeed personally and professionally. An avid Browns' and Indians' fan, JoAnn looks forward to a Super Bowl trophy in Cleveland sometime soon. While waiting for that event, she enjoys reading and music of the '50's and '60's, particularly that of Dean Martin, whose shows she saw frequently while visiting her favorite vacation destination Las Vegas, the home of two very good friends. JoAnn has a myriad of memories in almost three decades of work. She recalls, from early in her career, the excitement of being a witness at a wedding before her Judge, which was followed

about a week later by the happy couple's filing assault charges against each other. She also relates the story of a lawyer who asked for a continuance of a hearing on the day of the hearing as a result of severe bronchitis; she told the lawyer that he would need to file the continuance in writing, only to be amused later that same day to have the not-so-sick lawyer there to file his continuance. JoAnn is proud to note that she is the second generation of her family to be honored with the Public Servants Merit Award, having followed the example of her Uncle, Richard Gallitto, who was honored in 1982.

ROBERT S. KRASKA—CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Robert Steven Kraska is the Assistant Chief Court Reporter at the General Division of the Court of Common Pleas and has been a court reporter there since 1975. Administrative and Presiding Judge Richard McMonagle's nominee, Robert is a 1969 graduate of Garfield Heights High School, who worked in the private sector until his graduation from the Academy of Court Reporting and employment with the Court. Robert, the father of a grown son, was on the All Ohio High School Baseball Team his senior year and enjoys attending games at Jacobs Field. He also fishes and travels to Canada and West Virginia to play slot machines. Robert recalls two incidences clearly, from his many years of court reporting, but he discreetly will not identify either Judge involved. In one, he recalls a lawyer arguing that his client was "as sober as a Judge," which, after looking at the Judge, he corrected "as sober as the Pope." Another time, when a Judge seemed to be a little lost in asking some standard questions of a defendant when taking a criminal plea, Robert tried to help by suggesting that the next question should be "Are you under the influence of drugs or alcohol?" to which the Judge replied, "No, I am not."

PAUL J. MIZERAK—CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL COURT

Chief Bailiff Paul Joseph Mizerak is Cleveland Municipal Court Administrative Judge Larry Jones' nominee this year. Paul has worked at the Court since 1976, following employment at U.S. Steel and Yellow Trucking. Paul's duties are many. He oversees department supervisors, ensures enforcement of court orders, manages the day-to-day operations of his department (including scheduling, assignments and discipline) and trains all supervisors in his department. Paul graduated from the Cleveland schools and received bachelor's and master's degrees at Cleveland State University. Paul is a hitter, but in a good way. Hitting is part of his life-long commitment to sports and fitness, which includes playing in two men's baseball leagues and visiting Florida each Fall to play in the Roy Hubbs League. He also has trained in the martial arts. He has been married for 15½ years to Maureen and actively participates in the lives of his 13 nieces and nephews.

FLORENCE I. OUSLEY—CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROBATE COURT

Call Probate Court, and find out that Florence I. Ousley communicates. Florence, Probate Court Administrative Judge John Donnelly's nominee this year, has worked for the court for 27 years, the last decade as Telephone Operator. In addition to direct, initial contact with the public, Florence is also the Court's interpreter for deaf visitors seeking Probate Court's assistance. Beginning her

public employment some four decades ago as a summer employee of the County Recorder's office, Florence has worked more than the last quarter century at Probate Court. A graduate of Notre Dame Academy, Florence has been a single mom for 27 years and is proud of her three children, Dionne, Holly and Flournoy, all now adults. She has been active in many political activities, but she also finds time to assist the elderly in nursing homes by providing cosmetology services. She also enjoys reading, cooking, listening to music and line dancing! Florence's commitment to public service can be traced to helping her father, former Councilman and Judge Theodore M. Williams. However, that lifetime of achievement by Florence still leaves her with pride about a recent part of her life, her substantial time with her pride and joy, her grandson, Quinn, who, without apologizing to Muhammad Ali, she says is "The Greatest."

GEORGE T. RADIGAN—UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT (N.D.O.)

George T. Radigan, Chief United States District Judge Paul Matia's nominee, has been a probation officer for more than two decades. After a few years' service with the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, George has, since 1974, been involved in both pre- and post-sentencing probation services, including preparation of sentencing recommendations, supervision of pre-release clients and monitoring of offenders after their release from formal custody. A John Carroll University graduate, George is married to Kathleen and is father to two adult sons. To him, his true blessing is his wonderful family. He has actively participated in parents' groups for his sons' high schools and colleges and also his own college alumni organization. As he nears the end of his career, he reflects that his service has been a major part of his life, and he hopes that he has helped his clients in a positive manner. He does recall, with clarity, two occasions involving his car, which gave some humor to a serious job. The first occurred when he was visiting a client who was a well-known auto thief. He locked his keys in his car and, reluctantly, asked that client to help him. In a matter of seconds, his car was open, and the client inquired, "Was that a test, Mr. Radigan"? Second, he was dealing with a well-known organized crime figure and George was asserting the criminal had violated his probation and requested that he be returned to prison. At that time, the criminal noted "I think you need a new car." Four years later, when the criminal was released, George still had the same car (which he liked), and the client offered to help George out and buy him a new car.

WALTER L. RATCLIFFE—SHAKER HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT

Walter L. Ratcliffe, Shaker Heights Municipal Court Judge K. J. Montgomery's nominee, has capped over two decades of public service as Chief Bailiff of the Court. There, he supervises all the bailiffs, oversees court security and performs duties assigned by his Judge. Walter, a 40-year resident of Shaker Heights, is in his second period with the Shaker Heights Municipal Court. He started his career as a Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Officer, prior to being a Probation Officer and Deputy Bailiff in Shaker Heights. He then served as a Pretrial Service Officer with the United States District Court, before returning to Shaker Heights in his current position in

1994. He is proud to recall his mother's public service with the Cleveland Board of Education as a nurse and educator and her pioneering efforts to gain employment for African-American nurses. He was also a pioneer, as the first African-American student at Shaker's Moreland Elementary School, and he attended the Shaker schools through high school. Married for two decades to April, and the father of three, Walter is the Youth Director at Good Shepherd Baptist Church and participates in Church and Youth Ministry. Recognizing that court proceedings are serious, he points to some humor, particularly the instance of an obviously delusional criminal defendant, who insisted that the acting judge presiding that day was, in fact, television's George Jefferson, and who demanded an opportunity to see the Judge's wife "Weezy." At the same time, that defendant thought Walter was "Wimpy" from the comic Popeye and was glad to offer to pay Walter Tuesday for a hamburger that day.

KATHLEEN C. SAUTERER—CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK OF COURTS

As Deputy Director of the Cleveland Municipal Court's Criminal Division, Kathleen C. Sauterer makes sure that her division runs smoothly. She continues to be instrumental in the Court's efforts to bring its new computer system on-line in 2004. As a 30-year employee, since about the time of her graduation from Cleveland's John Marshall High School, Clerk Earle C. Turner's nominee has risen from a part-time position through supervisor of the night shift to her current position. Kathleen has been active at her two daughters' school and prides herself on her almost 24 years of marriage to her husband James, with whom she lives in Olmsted Falls. When not assisting her daughters and husband, Kathleen enjoys gardening.

THERESA ANN YAKUBIK—CUYAHOGA COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS

This year, Connon Pleas Clerk Gerald E. Fuerst, a long-time supporter of the Public Servants Merit Awards, has nominated Theresa Ann Yakubik. Since about the time she graduated from high school, Theresa has worked at the Common Pleas Court Clerk's Office, starting as a deputy clerk in the Mortgage Department and proceeding through a number of positions to that of Chief Internal Auditor, a title she has proudly held for the past decade. Theresa verifies titling receipts and data for accuracy and insures that millions of dollars, which are deposited flow to the agencies entitled to receive them. Beyond her duties within the Clerk's office, she has been her office's representative on a number of state titling committees, including helping to structure state-wide automated title process systems. In this later work, she was so persistent in "bugging" the programmers constructing the systems to provide accurate design and reports in the systems that her colleagues throughout the State dubbed her "Terri, the Report Queen from Cuyahoga County" and presented her with a crown, scepter and sash. Terri volunteers with the Make-a-Wish Foundation and in her local parish, St. Wendelin's. She also enjoys sewing, baking and making table centerpieces for social and political functions.