

the past 22 years, he has continued his dedication to his nation by serving as a volunteer in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. On March 8th, 2003, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will honor over a half of a decade of service as Mr. Quirk begins his retirement.

During World War II, Mr. Quirk was a member of the famed 56th Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps and achieved the status of Double-Ace. Shot down on his 100th mission, he was subsequently held as a prisoner-of-war at Stalag Luft I, Barth, Germany until April, 1945. For his commitment and bravery in the Second World War, he received the Silver Star and was additionally awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he suffered when his plane was shot down.

Mr. Quirk returned to the U.S. in 1945 where he entered Catholic University and pursued his degree. In 1947 though, the call to serve his nation yearned in his heart and he returned to military, joining the U.S. Air Force where he would remain for the next 30 years. Over the course of his career in the U.S. Air Force, he flew with the 4th Fighter Group flying F-80 Shooting Stars, at Langley Air Force Base flying F-86 Sabre jets, in La Paz, Bolivia training Bolivian pilots to fly the P-47, and served at the Central Air Defense Force from 1951-52. In addition, he was the Commander of the 87th Fighter Interceptor Squadron and flew with the 453rd Tactical Fighter Training Wing. After over 30 years of military service, Mr. Quirk retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Colonel in 1977.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Quirk and his wife Kit joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as members of the voluntary division of the U.S. Coast Guard. Rising through the ranks, he was named Commodore of the 8th Coastal Region in 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Michael J. Quirk on his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. His contributions to the United States of America are significant and impressive and I consider him a patriot of the highest order. On this such occasion, we honor one of America's greatest citizens; a committed soldier and dedicated volunteer.

H.J. RES. 4

HON. TIMOTHY J. RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns with certain provisions in H.J. Res. 4, specifically the provisions that expand logging in federal forests and prevent any administrative or judicial review of the Tongass Land Management Plan. These changes are detrimental to our environment and our country.

When faced with a decision that may potentially damage our environment, I try to follow the lead of President Theodore Roosevelt, who founded the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1903. I share his philosophy that our environment is essential to our lives and is of the greatest importance. As President Roosevelt said, ". . . the conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others." And here we are now, 100

years later; I would like to think that we will continue to be a part of the vision that began a century ago.

I am also concerned with the provision that allows FY 2003 Bureau of Land Management funding for exploratory oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Arctic Refuge is one of our country's largest refuges and is among the most pristine and undisturbed ecosystems on Earth. The Refuge belongs to the people of the United States, not to a select few. President Roosevelt's National Wildlife Refuge System created ANWR, "For the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values . . ." Let us render to our future generations a world more enriched than we have found it.

DAVID P. HANLON

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the life of David P. Hanlon, beloved principal of McDowell Intermediate High School in Erie, Pennsylvania, who passed away tragically at the age of 46 on January 10, 2003.

Dave Hanlon will be remembered by the Millcreek community as a dedicated and loving husband, father, teacher, coach, and friend.

As Millcreek Township's athletic director and later MIHS Principal, Hanlon was known for his reassuring presence and ability to inspire students.

He would spend little time in his office during the day, preferring instead to walk the halls of McDowell reaching out to students and teachers. But he spent many late nights at his desk implementing his ambitious plans for the school's future. Dave Hanlon was a fixture at McDowell arts and sporting events, and led many school trips including a government class trip that visited the Capitol two years ago.

Because of his contagious enthusiasm for McDowell, it was often said that he bled blue and white, the McDowell Trojans' school colors.

Mike Gallagher, a close friend, once observed that Hanlon's ability to connect with students "changed the way kids view adults in their lives."

The Reverend John Detisch eulogized that "David was a teacher. And what he taught came not so much from the classroom; what he taught came from the heart."

McDowell sophomore Hubbell McGeorge wrote the following about Dave Hanlon's immeasurable impact on students lives:

"The first day back to school after such a tragedy is very hard. It feels like a piece of all of us is missing and can't be fixed. There is, and will be, a hole in the school, the district, and the community for years to come."

Dave Hanlon's dedication to his students was surpassed only by his devotion to his wife Paige and three children, Collin, Peyton, and Braden. On the last day of his life, Dave Hanlon confided to a student about the "perfect life" he had found with his family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the life of David P. Hanlon, a devoted family man and model edu-

cator who will be deeply missed by an entire community.

INTRODUCTION OF FOREST RESTORATION AND FIRE RISK REDUCTION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, along with my cousin and colleague, Representative Tom Udall of New Mexico, I am today introducing the Forest Restoration and Fire Reduction Act.

This bill is designed to accelerate efforts to reduce the risks from wildfires to communities—including their water supplies—and to promote locally-based efforts to restore the conditions of our forest lands. It is the result of over four years of involvement with questions of forest management and particularly the dangers of unusually severe wildfires.

Since my election to Congress, I have visited forest lands in Colorado and elsewhere to see first hand the result of over 100 years of national policies emphasizing fire suppression—the accumulation of small diameter trees and thick underbrush. I have also examined areas where work has been done to reduce the likelihood of such fires and to move toward forest conditions that will make it possible for fire to play its historic role as a natural and valuable part of forest ecosystems. And I have studied areas like the lands affected by last year's Hayman Fire—which burned over 130,000 acres near Denver—to learn about the harm to lands, communities, and water supplies that can come from unnaturally hot fires resulting from drought and high winds combined with the build-up of vegetative fuels.

I have also been listening to many Coloradans, other Westerners, scientists, and others with expertise in forest management to learn their views on the conditions of our forests and what if anything they think should be done to improve those conditions.

From what I have learned, I have long been convinced that in some forest regimes, such as the ponderosa forests along Colorado's Front Range, reducing fuel loads through thinning—by controlled burns or mechanical means—can lessen the likelihood of unusually severe fires.

I am also convinced that our limited resources—both of time, people, and money—should be expended on doing that kind of work in the areas where the likelihood of unusually severe wildfires presents the most urgent risk to homes, people and water supplies. Those areas are the lands where homes and municipal water facilities adjoin or intermingle with forest lands. These areas are often called the "wildland/urban interface, but Coloradans usually call them the "red zones." They extend across ownership boundaries, including not only federal lands but lands owned by others as well. In Colorado, the "red zones" encompass over 6 million acres—and there are additional millions of acres of such high priority lands throughout the country.

I have long worked to accelerate thinning projects in Colorado's "red zones." In July of 2000, I introduced a bill—cosponsored by my