

THE ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY
FAMILIES, TANF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the importance for Congress to address the concerns of a welfare reform bill. I support the 3-month extension to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant Program through fiscal year 2003. I also ask the U.S. Senate to move on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, more than 35 States have made cuts in programs funded with TANF and child care block grant funds. Most importantly, these cuts are in programs that promote the goals of welfare reform. These cuts reflect both the exhaustion of many States' surplus. Cuts are in welfare to work programs, cuts are in programs to help the most disadvantaged families, cuts are in transportation assistance, cuts are in basic cash assistance benefits, cuts are in teen pregnancy prevention programs, and cuts are in child care. My dear colleagues, let us come together—set aside our differences—and work to pass a bipartisan measure that will provide adequate aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) and critique the job opportunities and basic skills training (JOBS) programs.

Mr. Speaker, our Governors have spoken out and printed on recycled paper critical funding and flexibility of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant, which must be preserved—without any set-asides. The program should be reauthorized to ensure that States are able to continue their current innovative efforts to assist low-income individuals and families. I ask that we work together to provide meaningful legislation that will lead our families to self sufficiency.

HONORING REBECCA JOHNSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize a dedicated educator. Rebecca Johnson has provided exemplary service as a teacher at Redlands Middle School in Grand Junction, Colorado, and it is my pleasure to honor the creativity that Rebecca has employed in touching the lives of her students and incorporating real life lessons in her classroom.

Rebecca has used a number of tools and methods to bring her academic lessons to life for the children she teaches. She has reinforced her students' interest in reading, turning her classroom into a movie set based on a book they read together. Rebecca has also encouraged interest in the arts as she supervises murals painted at the school. Rebecca's creativity has surely impacted her students in a positive manner and assisted them in developing a life-long appreciation for learning.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress today to express my admiration and gratitude for Rebecca's service and

devotion to teaching. Individuals like Rebecca symbolize the dedication and commitment necessary to impart strong values to future generations and allow them the opportunity to succeed. Rebecca has answered a noble call that demands the utmost admiration and respect. Thank you, Rebecca, for your dedication and selfless public service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my district's most prominent and accomplished agriculturalists. Bob Taylor is the founder of a farming dynasty that has flourished for the last fifty years in La Plata County, Colorado. In addition to a wealth of agricultural knowledge, his reputation precedes him throughout the county as a fair and honest man. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Bob for the contributions that he has made throughout Colorado.

In spite of adverse conditions for area farmers, Bob has persevered throughout the last decade. He is consistently one of the top agricultural producers in the area and is always willing to offer advice to fellow agriculturalists. For his efforts, the Durango Area Chamber of Commerce has recently honored Bob as Agriculturalist of the Year.

The community also recognizes Bob for his long history of service to his church and the surrounding community. He embarked upon his two-year Mormon Church Mission after high school and began his service to the nation when he joined the Army during World War II. Bob was elected to a County Board position in 1954, but declined to run again after his church's local ward summoned him to serve as Bishop. Bob continues to maintain his public involvement by serving on two water-district boards.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize Bob Taylor before this body of Congress and this nation. He served his country with honor as a soldier, and he has excelled in his agricultural career ever since. I congratulate Bob on his recent award and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ALUMNI OF THE
FRANCES PAYNE BOLTON
SCHOOL OF NURSING

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations and gratitude to the nurses who served in the United States military during World War II and the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps who are alumni of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. These nurses were honored during their Reunion Celebration, which took place on May 17, 2003 at Severance Hall in Cleveland, Ohio.

Representative Frances Payne Bolton acquired the congressional seat of her late hus-

band, which she maintained from 1939–1969. As a Member of Congress, she led the effort to create the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps which trained 125,000 nurses in 1,100 nursing schools from 1943 to 1948 to reduce the nursing shortage and improve health care in the military and throughout the entire nation. She was the very first Congresswoman to serve the state of Ohio.

It is my pleasure to join with the Case Western Reserve University community and the citizens of the 11th Congressional District in honoring this group of nurses for their untiring service to this country.

NATIVE AMERICAN SACRED
LANDS PROTECTION ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, many would argue that the United States Capitol is sacred. It is a testament to freedom, a symbol of government, a monument of national historical and cultural significance. Throughout its halls there are statues of our founders, our heroes, our history. For the past 200 years, legislators have sweat blood and tears debating the laws of our great country.

It is sacred to me, to the American people and to the underlying principles of this country. No patriotic American or friend of this great country would even think to spoil or mar the sanctity of this building.

But there are many places across this country no less sacred than the Capitol building, that are being desecrated as we speak. It is inconceivable to have open-pit mining in Arlington Cemetery or to imagine an oil rig plopped in the middle of the Sistine Chapel. But in fact that is the very problem facing Native American sacred lands today.

For example, the proposed site for a 1,600-acre, open-pit gold mine in Indian Pass, California, is a place where "dream trails" were woven. The Bush administration revoked a Clinton-era ruling that said mining operations would cause undue impairment to these ancestral lands, an extremely sacred place to the Quechan Indian tribe. Now the tribe is left fighting for its religious and cultural history. Although the state of California has taken action to help protect this site, the Federal government remains poised to permit the gold mine.

Long before my ancestors arrived on these shores, American Indians were the first stewards of this land. They respected the earth, water and air. They understood you take only what you need and leave the rest. They demonstrated you do not desecrate that which is sacred.

Most Americans understand a reverence for the great Sistine Chapel, or even the United States Capitol. Too often non-Indians have difficulty giving the same reverence we give to our sacred places to a mountain, valley, stream or rock formation.

We cannot fight to preserve Native American sacred lands on a case by case basis. We need a comprehensive process to protect bona fide Native American sacred sites wherever they may lie on the public domain.

That is why today I am introducing the Native American Sacred Lands Protection Act.

First, the bill would enact into law a 1996 Executive Order designed to protect sacred lands. Specifically, it ensures access and ceremonial use of sacred lands and mandates all federal land management agencies take the necessary steps to prevent significant damage to sacred lands.

Second, my bill gives Indian tribes the ability to petition the government to place federal lands off-limits to energy leasing or other incompatible developments when they believe those proposed actions would cause significant damage to their sacred lands.

This is an extremely important provision. The tribes would no longer have to depend on the good graces of federal bureaucrats to protect these lands. Rather, the tribes themselves could initiate those protections.

Third, the bill respects the confidentiality requirements of some Native American religions. And finally, the bill would permit sacred lands be transferred from the Federal government to the affected Indian or co-management plans to be implemented.

If you look to our national parks, forests and monuments you see the commitment to preserve many of our country's natural treasures. The Federal government has put its full weight behind protecting these lands, and we can do the same for Indian country.

At a time when the Bush administration is promoting increased energy development, we must enact comprehensive legislation that prohibits the further loss of Native American sacred lands. We must not stand idly by as these unique places are wiped off the face of the earth.

HONORING VIRGINIA ROCKWELL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize a dedicated school counselor. Virginia Rockwell has served as a kindergarten through twelfth grade counselor for schools in Swink, Colorado for the past 21 years. For two decades, Virginia has provided enthusiastic service to our state's youth. Now, as she enters retirement, it is my pleasure to honor the character and achievements that have defined Virginia's dedicated career.

While Virginia has always been reluctant to take credit for her students' achievements, she has turned out a remarkable number of accomplished scholars, athletes and dedicated citizens. However, some of the students of which she is most proud are those who had to work the hardest to graduate. Virginia's commitment to her students and caring touch have not gone unnoticed. She was the state multi-level Counselor of the Year and runner up nationally in the early 1990s. Having little experience with schools in rural areas when she started, Virginia has come to appreciate the support and unique relationships that she has made while working in Swink. Upon her retirement, Virginia's peers and students will certainly reciprocate the touch of sadness that she experiences when her students graduate.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this Congress today to express my gratitude for Virginia Rockwell's many years of service. In-

dividuals like Virginia symbolize the dedication and commitment necessary to impart strong values to our next generation and allow them the opportunity to succeed. Virginia Rockwell has answered a noble call that demands our admiration and respect. Thank you, Virginia, for your many years of dedicated and selfless public service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK AND SUE MENEGATTI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize Frank and Sue Menegatti of Walsenburg, Colorado. Frank and Sue have spent years managing The Capps Ranch Limited Partnership. During this time, they have enhanced stream quality, increased wildlife populations and protected the lands under their care from the ravages of fire. For their conscientious stewardship, Frank and Sue have received the Colorado Agricultural Outlook Forum's Leopold Conservation Award.

The exemplary efforts of Frank and Sue are all the more notable in light of the devastating drought that Colorado experienced in 2002. Frank and Sue have constructed ponds, developed twenty-five springs, and laid twenty-six miles of subterranean water pipeline in order to increase their ability to store water and protect it from evaporation. Their labor has benefited Colorado for many years, particularly at critical times, and it has helped develop a successful ranch while also caring for the natural beauty of Colorado's environment. Today, their ranch provides a habitat for twice as many elk, antelope, deer and sage grouse as it did before they began their remarkable stint as stewards.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to bring Frank and Sue's achievements to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. Frank and Sue Menegatti serve as role models and inspirations not only to ranchers, but also to all who understand the need to protect our nation's great natural beauty for future generations.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEPPNER FLOOD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of one of the most tragic events in the history of Oregon and a defining chapter in the story of the small town of Heppner. June 14, 2003, will mark the 100th anniversary of the Heppner Flood, a natural catastrophe of unprecedented scale in my state that took the lives of 247 Oregonians, almost a quarter of the town's 1,146 residents. Though generations have passed since the people of Heppner witnessed nature's awesome, destructive wrath, even today the residents of this resilient community carry with

them the painful memory of the devastation that occurred a full century ago.

June 14, 1903, was like any other Sunday in the peaceful town of Heppner, when the humble, God-fearing townspeople went about their lives, worshipping together and resting from a week spent toiling in their fields, minding their stores and tending their flocks and herds. As evening approached, none sensed the pending calamity that would befall the close-knit community and alter the lives of its residents forever.

Mr. Speaker, the rain came in an instant, swelling streams and unleashing a torrent that careened toward the town and destroyed everything in its wake. Trees were uprooted, structures crushed liked matchbox houses and homes and livestock were swept away in the deadly cascade. So, too, were many of the people of Heppner—men, women and children who drowned by the hundreds. An account of the disaster in the East Oregonian newspaper later estimated that more than three billion pounds of water passed through Heppner that night at a rate of 70 million pounds per minute.

Whole families were swept from the face of the earth, joining the horrendous flotsam of bodies and debris that rushed forward and disappeared into the churning water. With astonishing and merciless speed, the Heppner Flood destroyed the town's water system, ruined the railroad, took down telegraph lines and collapsed the bridges over Willow Creek. In a few short minutes, what had been a sleepy, idyllic Oregon town was transformed into a seething, watery graveyard. Scarcely a resident of the town could be found who had not lost a friend or family member or suffered the loss of property. Many of the hundreds of dead lay buried in the Heppner Masonic Cemetery, where today their descendants tend their graves and honor their precious memories.

The outpouring of assistance from nearby communities following this tragedy said much about the compassion and humanity of the people of the Northwest. In a poignant letter to Heppner's Mayor, Frank Gilliam, three little girls in Colfax, Washington, sent \$11 they collected by selling homemade candy to help victims of the flood. Mayor Gilliam, touched by the gesture, wrote a note of thanks that tragically captured the sorrow that had been visited upon his town. "Two weeks ago yesterday morning, Heppner was a happy little town," he wrote. "Our church bells rang and our little ones sang songs of praise and worshipped by their mother's side. Evening came, and with it the storm, and many of our precious little children were carried away to worship at the throne of God. Those who have gone before are happy now, while those of us who remain are sad. Sad because of the little ones who are no more—who cannot be with us to cheer our weary way."

Mr. Speaker, a century has passed since the disaster, yet the Heppner Flood remains the worst natural disaster in the history of Oregon. Though the buildings that had been torn down would be rebuilt, the fields would be replanted and herds replenished, the overwhelming human loss would remain like an open wound, the horror of the flood a constant nightmare from which the survivors would never awaken. In my travels to Heppner, I have come to know many descendants of both