

changed dramatically over the years. Since the 1930's, the assessor has been a service office, not assessing property, but helping residents, businesses and public agencies better understand property matters, taxation and assisting with appeals.

Since 1996, to improve operational efficiencies while providing broader services, the Township has entered into partnerships with other governments and private agencies to coordinate and expand its youth, senior and mental health programs. Intergovernmental agreements exist between the Township and all the other 10 governmental units in Oak Park and River Forest—villages; parks; libraries; schools and the River Forest Township.

From its humble beginnings serving Oak Park's population of 3,000 residents in 1903, one hundred years later Oak Park Township has evolved into a fullservice unit of local government serving Oak Park's 53,000 residents in 2003. I congratulate Oak Park Township on their 100th birthday and know that they will continue to identify and address unmet needs in their community.

**BILL TO FACILITATE ACQUISITION
OF MINERAL RIGHTS AT ROCKY
FLATS**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to facilitate the acquisition by the Federal Government of mineral rights or other non-Federal interests in lands that are located within the boundaries of the Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

In the 1950's, the Federal Government bought land at Rocky Flats for the use as a production facility for nuclear-weapon components. However, the purchase did not include all the mineral rights, some of which remained in private ownership.

Production at Rocky Flats ended more than a decade ago. Since then, the Department of Energy, through its contractors, has been working to have the site cleaned up and closed.

In 2001, Congress passed legislation I sponsored with Senator Wayne Allard to guide the future of Rocky Flats. Under that legislation—the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act Of 2001—once the cleanup and closure are accomplished, most of the land at Rocky Flats will be transferred from the Department of Energy to the Department of the Interior and will be managed as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge act includes some provisions related to the non-Federal minerals—primarily sand and gravel—at Rocky Flats. It says “nothing in this [law] limits any valid, existing . . . mineral right” except for “such reasonable conditions on access . . . as are appropriate for the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats and for the management of the refuge.” And it says that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOE and Interior is to “address the impacts” mineral rights “may have on the management of the refuge, and provide strategies for resolving or mitigating these impacts.”

These provisions were included in the refuge act in order to make clear that while these

mineral rights are to be respected as private property, future development of the minerals could have adverse effects on the land, wildlife habitat, and other values of the future wildlife refuge. That is why Congress directed the agencies to consider these potential future effects and work to find ways to mitigate those impacts.

So far, however, the Energy and Interior Departments have not been able to agree on what to do about the minerals, and the MOU has not been completed.

I think the best way to handle this would be for the Federal Government to acquire the minerals. However, neither the DOE nor Interior has made this a priority, and the current budgetary situation places constraints on such acquisitions.

My bill is intended to make it more feasible for the Interior Department to acquire some or all of the minerals. It would do that by giving the Secretary of the Interior two additional methods (either instead of or in addition to purchase for cash) for completing such acquisitions—

(1) by giving “credits” that could be used instead of cash to pay for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(2) by allowing federal lands or minerals anywhere in the country to be exchanged for the Rocky Flats minerals (under current law, such exchanges can only occur within the same state—Colorado lands/minerals for other Colorado lands/minerals).

The bill has no compulsory provisions. It does not require that any of the non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats be acquired by the government, and it does not require anyone to accept anything other than cash for any interests that the government may acquire. It would merely provide the Interior Department with new tools—in addition to those it already has—for such acquisitions.

In developing the bill, I sought and obtained technical assistance from the Interior Department. I also have given careful consideration to comments from local governments and others in Colorado, and have made revisions to earlier drafts of the legislation in response to points raised in those comments.

Mr. Speaker, this bill—the “Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act”—is narrow in scope. However, I think it can assist in successful implementation of something that is very important for all Coloradans—the establishment of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. I think it deserves the support of every Member of the House.

For the information of our colleagues, here is a short outline of the bill:

**OUTLINE OF ROCKY FLATS MINERALS
ACQUISITION BILL**

BACKGROUND

When the ongoing cleanup of the Rocky Flats site is completed, it will be closed and most of the site will be transferred to the Interior Department for management as a National Wildlife Refuge. Within the site's boundaries there are some privately-owned mineral rights (primarily sand and gravel). Federal acquisition of at least some of these mineral rights would further sound management of the site as a wildlife refuge. However, the current budgetary situation makes it difficult to complete such acquisition.

The purpose of the bill is to provide the Interior Department with two additional tools to assist in the acquisition of minerals rights or other non-Federal property at Rocky Flats:

(1) Authority to provide “credits” (instead of or in addition to cash) that could be used for bonus bids or royalties for mineral leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(2) Authority to provide eligible BLM lands (or interests) anywhere in the country in exchange for the interests acquired at Rocky Flats (waiving the current requirement that exchanges must be within the same state).

SECTION-BY-SECTION OUTLINE

Section 1—

(1) provides a short title: “Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act.”

(2) includes findings regarding the status of Rocky Flats and the desirability of federal acquisition of mineral interests within its boundaries

(3) states the bill's purpose as being to facilitate acquisition of non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats by authorizing the Interior Department to use credits or interests in certain public lands, instead of or in addition to cash.

Section 2—

(1) authorizes the Interior Department to use appropriated funds, credits, exchanged lands or interests therein, or any combination of these, to acquire mineral interests or other non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats;

(2) defines “credits,” making clear that they can only be issued with agreement of recipient, can only be used for bonus bids or royalty payments for oil or gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf and must be used within 10 years of their issuance;

(3) specifies that while exchanges can involve BLM lands or interests in any State, only lands or interests identified as suitable for disposal under current law can be transferred to private ownership through such an exchange;

(4) provides that interests acquired by the United States under the bill will be managed as part of the wildlife refuge and cannot be developed or transferred out of Federal ownership; and specifies that the bill adds to the Interior Department's existing authority and does not reduce any authority the Department already has.

**PAYING TRIBUTE ELVA
MARTINEZ-DRYER**

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a phenomenal athlete from my district. Elva Martinez-Dyer, a former student-athlete from Western State College, will soon be inducted into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. Her exploits on the track are legendary and I would like to recognize the hard work and determination she gave the sport.

Elva helped the track team at Western State earn nation-wide recognition, personally achieving All-American status 16 times and winning five national championships. Elva became a dominant force in the sport; she did not lose a race during her final two years at school. She was awarded the “NCAA—II Track and Field Athlete of the Year Award,” for her accomplishments and was inducted into the Colorado Sportswomen's Hall of Fame. Elva currently holds three records in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, as well as four conference championships.

All of Elva's hard work and dedication paid off, as she earned a spot on the 2000 Olympic

Team in the 5,000-meter event. In her most recent major race, Elva finished fourth in the Boulder Bolder, running the 10-kilometer race in the Elite Division.

Mr. Speaker, Elva's accomplishments are certainly deserving of praise before this body of Congress and this nation. She has accomplished more in her short career than some could hope for in an entire lifetime. Congratulations, Elva, on your induction into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame and good luck with your future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING LOUIE WONG
FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
TO CALEXICO, CALIFORNIA

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louie Wong for his distinguished service to Calexico.

Louie was born in China and has made his home in Calexico since 1971. Mr. Wong and his wife own and operate YUM YUM Restaurant in Calexico where they serve, "the Best Chinese Food in Town." The YUM YUM restaurant has become a hub of activity for the Calexico community, hosting local politicians who meet to share ideas and concerns over plates of good food.

As a successful local businessman and a community activist, Louie has a long record of supporting numerous community organizations. He has just completed a term as President of the Calexico Chamber of Commerce where he has served with great distinction. He is a past recipient of the coveted Lava Lamp Award, presented annually by the Calexico Chamber of Commerce for service to the community. He was an early champion of Calexico's new cultural arts center, located in the renovated De Anza Hotel. The plan involves creating four rooms, or chambers, each dedicated to a different artistic discipline. Louie has supported this vision since its inception, by building community support for the plan and raising money, including personally paying for the architectural renderings.

Louie is a member of numerous community organizations and committees, including serving as a Trustee of the Imperial Valley College Board of Trustees, and on the Imperial Valley College Foundation Board of Directors. He has been much honored for his community service, receiving the first community service citation ever presented by the Calexico Unified School District and the Man of the Year Award from the Calexico Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He has served as Grand Marshal of the Calexico Christmas Parade.

Mr. Speaker, Louie Wong is a community leader, equally at home creating regional cultural arts centers as he is serving up Chinese food at high school football games to raise money for charity. He gives wholeheartedly to the organizations he supports that benefit the people of Calexico. While his service as President of the Calexico Chamber of Commerce is coming to an end, I have no doubt that he will find even more ways to improve the quality of life in his community.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES L.
STUPPARD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate Commander Charles L. Stuppard, United States Navy, who is leaving from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be the next Commanding Officer of the USS *Arleigh Burke* (DDG51). The *Arleigh Burke* is a guided missile AEGIS Destroyer with a complement of about 325 personnel including 25 Officers. Commander Stuppard is slated to be at the helm of this powerful Navy vessel in April 2004.

Commander Stuppard joined the Naval Officer Corps in 1985. He obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Cornell University and his Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. Commander Stuppard's achievements and accomplishments are truly exemplary and I hope many young people from my district and around the country will follow in his footsteps as an Officer and a Gentleman. I congratulate Commander Stuppard for a job well done and wish him and his family fair winds and following seas.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGETOWN, COLORADO—ONE OF AMERICA'S
DOZEN DISTINCTIVE DESTINATIONS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the town of Georgetown, Colorado, for being selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of its 2003 Dozen Distinctive Destination locations. This designation acknowledges the outstanding work of the residents of Georgetown in protecting, respecting and celebrating their unique history and cultural heritage.

Anyone who has spent time in Georgetown knows of the wealth of historical structures that have been preserved and protected. This heritage provides a lasting reminder of the early years of mining and living in rugged mountainous areas of Colorado and the West.

Georgetown, the county seat of Clear Creek County, was established in 1864, when the discovery of the Belmont Lode started a stampede of prospectors and ultimately gave the town its nickname, "Silver Queen of the Rockies." The town still operates under an 1868 charter from Colorado's territorial legislature.

As the National Trust notes in its announcement of this designation: "Many vestiges of the town's heyday remain, including the Georgetown Loop Railroad, a marvel of engineering, hailed as the most complex railroad loop in the world at the turn of the century. Today, the historic railroad is still thrilling passengers as it traverses the Devil's Gate High Bridge, soaring 95 feet above Clear Creek. A year-round vacation wonderland, Georgetown's spectacular setting provides unlimited

opportunities for fun. Summer months offer trout fishing, back-country hiking, biking, rafting and more—while during ski season, Georgetown is a convenient base for hitting the nearby slopes."

It was for these reasons and more that the National Trust, the country's largest private, nonprofit preservation organization, named Georgetown to its 2003 list of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations, an annual list of unique and lovingly preserved communities in the United States.

In recognizing Georgetown, the National Trust singled out the Hamill House Museum, completed in 1879 as the home of silver baron William A. Hamill and adorned with furnishings delivered from its owner's birthplace in England. Another notable landmark is the Hotel de Paris, built in 1876. In its heyday, it was one of the finest hotels and gourmet restaurants in the state. Today the Colonial Dames operates the hotel as a museum.

Also noted by the National Trust are the town's holiday celebrations, which include a Christmas Market, Santa Lucia Processional, and horse-drawn wagon rides.

This is the fourth time the National Trust for Historic Preservation has compiled a list of A Dozen Distinctive Destinations. More than 50 destinations in 27 states were nominated by preservation organizations and local communities. Georgetown was selected because it met the National Trust's criteria of well-managed growth, a commitment to historic preservation with a protected historic core and meaningful context, interesting and attractive architecture, cultural diversity, activities for families with children, an economic base of locally-owned small businesses, and walkability for residents and visitors.

The National Trust also noted that Georgetown residents have taken forceful action to protect their town's character and sense of place and have worked hard to preserve the historic and scenic assets of their communities, with rewards that transcend town limits. In so doing, Georgetown has preserved its quality of life for its residents and tourists alike. Georgetown and towns like it in Colorado and throughout the west preserve the allure of the western lifestyle and the respect that settlers had and still have for the special places that have been established.

In announcing the places on the list of distinctive destinations, Richard Moe, the President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, had this to say about Georgetown: "It is encouraging to see communities so committed to the preservation of their historic landmarks, the revitalization of their downtown areas, and the protection of their unique heritage. Georgetown represents a truly distinctive slice of America. That makes it an exciting alternative to the homogenization of many other vacation spots. It is my hope that more American cities and towns will follow Georgetown's lead in preserving their own spirit of place."

All I can add to that is, "amen," and my own congratulations to the people of Georgetown for this honor, so well earned through their efforts to preserve one of the places that makes Colorado such a special place to live.