

had turned into rivers of mud and ice. They unloaded their 2.5 ton trucks as mortars fell all around them.

Also, let us remember the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II who overcame resentment, suspicion and segregation to become the first African-American fighter pilots, and time and again they flew over 1,500 combat missions and never lost a single bomber under their escort on bombing runs into Germany. When African Americans broke the color barrier in the Marine Corps, they went to the frontlines of Guam, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Although these are just a few instances of African Americans having courage, valor, bravery and commitment to the ideas in preserving and fighting for freedom and justice for all. We as a people have a long history of achievement in defending and protecting America's sovereignty. It was revealed in a few, even though many African Americans in earlier years were excluded from recognition due to pervasive racism, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Congressional Medal of Honor was approved by President Lincoln on December 21, 1861 for the Navy and July 12, 1862 for the Army, it is the highest American award for military valor.

There were 23 Congressional Medals of Honor awarded to African Americans for bravery and gallantry in the Civil War. Eight Medals of Honor for Naval service recipients from 1865 to 1898, 17 Medals of Honor during the Western Campaigns, 6 Medals of Honor for the Spanish-American War, one Medal of Honor to Corporal Freddie Stowers of the 370th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Infantry Division which was awarded in 1991. Seven Medals of Honor for World War II African American veterans who were not awarded until 1997, when only one of seven—Vernon Baker—was still alive (four of the seven were killed in action).

Today, I commend all of our veterans who fought and lost their lives to defend our country from the Revolutionary war of 1775 to 1781, the War of 1812, Civil War 1861 to 1865, Spanish-American War 1898, World War I 1917 to 1918, World War II 1941 to 1945, Korean conflict 1950 to 1953, Vietnam conflict 1960 to 1972, Persian Gulf War 1991, and our future veterans of the Iraq conflict. Thank you for your service.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ALABAMA SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN THE KOREAN WAR

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2003*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the soldiers from Alabama who answered President Truman's call to protect democracy and stop the spread of communist aggression across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the Korean War was supposed to be a short and a decisive victory for our soldiers. However, from 1950 to 1953, our country was embattled in a bitter fight along the 38th Parallel. All told, over 750 soldiers from Alabama perished during this conflict. However, when the fighting ceased and the guns were finally silenced, South Korea remained a free and democratic state.

For many people, the Korean War is known as the forgotten war. This is an unfortunate

misrepresentation. Mr. Speaker, the Korean War set the precedent that the United States will not sit idle as aggressors invade and try to destroy another nation's freedom. The Korean War is a war that cannot, and will not be forgotten.

Tomorrow in Athens, Alabama, Edward McMunn and the other members of the Alabama Korean War Commemorative Committee will unveil and dedicate a monument to honor the Alabama soldiers who died during the Korean War. The monument includes a central marble stone memorial with an engraved map of Korea that is surrounded by four carved granite stones on pedestals bearing the names of each soldier.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow's ceremony is a fitting tribute to those that died in the defense of freedom and democracy. On behalf of all the residents of North Alabama, I commend Edward McMunn, and all the members of the Alabama Korean War Commemorative Committee, for their hard work and dedication that made this monument become a reality.

#### TRIBUTE TO EVELYN M. WITKIN

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2003*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today at the White House, Evelyn M. Witkin was awarded the National Medal of Science Award, the nation's highest science and engineering honor.

"The ideas and breakthroughs in fundamental science and engineering by these extraordinary pioneers have influenced thousands of other researchers," said Rita Colwell, director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). "We now see the daily evidence of the tremendous advancements in technological capabilities, human health and vast new knowledge within our physical world due to these heroes of science we celebrate today," Colwell said.

The National Medal of Science, established by the 86th Congress in 1959 and administered by the NSF, honors the impact of individuals on the present state of knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical, engineering, social and behavioral sciences. Not including the 2002 recipients, the medal has been awarded to 409 distinguished scientists and engineers, including three previous Rutgers winners.

Witkin was largely responsible for creating the field of DNA mutagenesis and DNA repair, which focuses on how mutations, most of which are unhealthy, occur in DNA and how they may be corrected. Her work, which furthered our understanding of the genetic response to harmful environmental factors such as radiation, has played an important role in the biochemical sciences and in clinical radiation therapy for cancer.

"I had no idea that anything like this was possible. I am very gratified by the award," said Witkin. "That I was nominated by colleagues means a lot to me, having been in the field of genetics since the mid-1940's."

Witkin's investigations into DNA repair led to her discovery of genes that can heighten bacterial resistance to DNA-damaging agents. In 1973, while on the faculty of Rutgers' Douglass College, she defined the *E. coli* "SOS Re-

sponse," a system that is triggered by DNA damage. This system activates at least 40 genes that promote DNA repair and enhances individual and population survival. We now know that humans and many other organisms use the same kinds of DNA repair mechanisms.

Witkin came to Douglass College in 1971 and taught in the department of biology for 12 years. She then spent eight years on the faculty of the Waksman Institute of Microbiology until her retirement in 1991.

I congratulate Evelyn Witkin on her award, and I thank her for the contribution she has made to improve our society.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF VETERANS' DAY 2004

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2003*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Veterans' Day. It is my honor to acknowledge the men and women who have fought in the Armed Forces to protect the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic. Observed on November 11, each year, Veteran's Day is a national day of honor, respect, and remembrance of the sacrifice of the few to protect the freedoms of the many. So today I rise with pride for America's veterans, both past and present, and salute them for their service.

The year was 1918. On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, the world was finally at peace after the bloody ending of WWI, the war to end all wars. Veteran's Day was first established as a national holiday on May 13, 1938, twenty years after the conclusion of the war, and was intended to honor those who fought in WWI. Originally called, "Armistice Day," this holiday was intended to celebrate world peace and mutual understanding among nations. Congress proclaimed that all government buildings display the flag of the United States as well as observe the day in schools, churches, and all other areas of public and private services.

Although Armistice Day was intended to honor only those who fought in WWI, the events of the next two decades quickly changed the sentiments of Americans. In 1954, after WWII claimed the most lives and machine power of any war in history, and following the conclusion of the Korean conflict, the 83rd Congress struck out the words "Armistice" and inserted "Veterans" in its stead. Thus, the national holiday observed on November 11th would no longer honor just those veterans of WWI, but all veterans of all wars and would hence be known as Veterans' Day.

Later that same year, President Eisenhower instituted a Veterans' Day Committee, which would be chaired by the Administer of Veterans' Affairs. This new committee, headed by the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, would oversee all appointments and national planning around the holiday.

The first major change to Veterans' Day came on June 28, 1968, when Congress passed the Uniforms Holiday bill. This bill sought to give the American people four, three-day holidays during the year. Those holidays included, George Washington's Birthday,

Memorial Day, Veterans' Day, and Columbus Day, were all rearranged and moved to different days. Most states refused to obey, however, and continued to recognize these holidays on their original days. The first Veterans' Day under this new law did not fall on November 11th as it previously had, but on October 25th.

Realizing the importance of these holidays, especially Veterans' Day, President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-97 on September 20, 1975. This law reversed the Uniforms Holiday law and moved Veterans' Day back to its original date of November 11, starting in 1978.

With the change back to November 11th, the history and honor of the holiday remains intact and the memory of those that fought and died in service of the United States in all major conflicts is preserved forever. Regardless of the day, Veterans' Day continues to remain one of the most respected and honored holidays of the year and always inspires the nation to reflect. Today, there are many organizations that sponsor a year-round tribute to veterans, such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. On Veterans' Day, these groups raise money for charities in memory and honor of the wounded men and women who have returned from war.

As we speak, the United States and indeed the world are again at war. The war on terrorism reaches all corners of the globe and is in no way uniquely American. The men and women who bravely fight for freedom in Iraq, Afghanistan, and all other countries where freedom is opposed, deserve equal praise as those who fought before them.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 11, 2004, I, along with millions of fellow Americans, will proudly honor those men and women who have fought, and continue to fight, for our freedom. Our veterans made the ultimate sacrifice by placing themselves in harms way when they served our country to protect the liberty all humankind deserves. May God bless our veterans and may He continue to bless America.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON  
H.R. 1904, HEALTHY FOREST RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in support of the principle of open conference committee meetings that are bipartisan as well as bicameral, as required in H.R. 1904. It is past time that this body return to the basic principles of democracy in its own practices.

Yesterday, I had the privilege of leading the entire bipartisan House delegation from California and many members from other states in honoring those firefighters and other public servants who worked so heroically to fight the devastating wildfires which we have just experienced in Southern California. That was the time to focus solely on the celebration of human courage and sacrifice.

Today, it is time to come together to find the best possible legislation that will finally focus on how to protect our urban environments

from wildfires—whether they are frequent seasonal fires or the massive, historically destructive fire we suffered last week.

First, it is important for everyone to be clear that the Cedar fire in San Diego County was initially and primarily fueled by the chaparral which covers the mesas and foothills of Southern California. Later, it also moved into our national forest lands, where many of the trees had been affected by the beetle infestation.

As I toured the Cedar Fire area in San Diego by helicopter, it was stunning to realize the speed with which the firestorm driven by the Santa Ana winds overtook hundreds of thousands of acres of our open lands, much of which are public not private lands.

This fire was not about environmental laws preventing logging that would have prevented this fire. It was not about lack of roads that hindered fighting the fires.

It was about the failure to prevent the build-up of fuel by using authorized funding for removal of hazardous material which is adjacent to urban areas and the failure of the federal government to supply funds to deal with the pest infestations in these forests, as the Governor requested last spring and FEMA declined to do.

While it may or may not be possible to find the best legislation and also meet the deadline included in this bill, there are several basic principles that must be in the final conference bill. Many of them are found in the bill just passed by the Senate.

First, we must prioritize the protection for urban areas.

Second, there must be significant money authorized for this purpose. While there may be authorization in other bills for "such sums" as may be necessary to address hazardous fuel reduction, we in Congress have inadequately appropriated these funds because they are not specified.

Instead, the funds which have been allocated for treatment and prevention have been required to fight the fires that result from inadequate protection. Real funding must be clearly identified and available to begin the needed protection. It must not be based solely on the sale of logged trees because so much of our land needing fuel reduction is covered with chaparral, which has no logging value. We must also be sure that this legislation will continue to protect old growth timber.

I believe that the members of the committees going to conference can and will be able to fashion a conference report that can be a model for returning this Congress to open, bipartisan, bicameral conferences that reach appropriate, compromise legislation. I look forward to this result.

TRIBUTE TO TENNESSEE SENATOR  
DOUGLAS HENRY

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2003*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of Nashville, Tennessee's most beloved citizens. Through many years of public service, he is building a legacy of selfless devotion to his state, his home city and his state senate district.

Senator Douglas Henry is being honored this weekend by the Friends of Radnor Lake

for his three decades of commitment to conservation issues. In 1973, Senator Henry worked tirelessly to be certain that Radnor Lake was named Tennessee's first state natural area. He has continued to work to protect the lake and the funding necessary to support the protection of the natural area.

Senator Douglas Henry could be honored on this floor for any number of reasons. He has chaired the Finance committee of the Tennessee senate for many years, he is a staunch supporter for the rights of women and children and has a deep interest in public policy affecting them. He has served as chairman of the Southern Legislative conference and the Council of World Regions, the Law and Justice Institute in Washington, DC. However, it is my pleasure to stand today and honor him, not only for these accomplishments but for the commitment to preservation and conservation that he has to his district and our state.

HONORING BOULDER CITY LEND A  
HAND AND THE LATE ED ANDREWS

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2003*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Boulder City Lend A Hand and the late Ed Andrews, one of Lend A Hand's most active and well-known volunteers. Ed, originally from Los Angeles and a leader in the aviation industry, joined Boulder City Lend A Hand just one year after its founding in 1989, and quickly became Master of Ceremonies for their events and a hard-working team member for its primary mission, providing assistance to Senior Citizens in Boulder City. Ed was famous for his booming voice, which endeared him to all who knew him and quickly earned the respect of those who didn't.

Sadly, Ed Andrews passed away in March of 2003, and is survived by his wife Nita, one of the founders of Boulder City Lend A Hand, two daughters and three sons, and many grandchildren. Ed will be missed by all who knew him, especially those whom he served in Boulder City.

Lend A Hand is a program designed to help the elderly and chronically ill of Boulder City, Nevada remain in their homes by providing a variety of services by volunteers. Services include staying with persons needing assistance so that their caregivers can 'take a break' for rest and relaxation or to attend to personal business. Other services available are helping individuals by running errands, going shopping, driving to medical appointments or by providing companion services in the home.

I am pleased to be a supporter of Boulder City Lend A Hand, and to have had the opportunity to know Ed. I urge the House to join me in remembering Ed Andrews, thanking his wife Nita for her service to the community, and honoring Boulder City Lend A Hand for its commitment to meeting the needs of our seniors.