

his colleague, "It's like Van's a member of every fan's family." His name and voice have become intertwined with the world of Buffalo Bills football, and it is no surprise that Mr. Miller was inducted into the Buffalo Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 1999. In fact, after his 752nd and final Bills broadcast, Mr. Miller's equipment was sent to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Ohio, commemorating both the field of play-by-play broadcasting and the man who left an invaluable and indelible mark upon it. We will surely miss his presence on the field and on the air this coming season, but we know his contributions to Buffalo will continue for years to come.

TAIWAN

HON. CHRIS BELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support of efforts by the Taiwanese President and people to facilitate a peaceful, stable, and democratic environment in East Asia. Despite continued aggression by the People's Republic of China, Taiwan has maintained grace and sensibility. For this, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of President Chen Shui-bian and the Taiwanese people.

On March 20, 2004, the Taiwanese people will vote on a referendum for peace, which will consist of two questions. One is:

Would you agree that our Government should engage in negotiations with Mainland China on the establishment of a "peace and stability" framework for cross-strait interactions in order to build consensus and for the welfare of the people on both sides?

This would be the first official communication between Taiwan and China since 1949, a historic attempt at conciliation between two sparring nations. I would remind my colleagues of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, in which we put forth the expectation that "the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means" and state that "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means . . . is of grave concern to the United States." As Taiwan makes a sincere effort to improve relations with Mainland China and support a peaceful continuation of the status quo, we must applaud and support them.

The other referendum question is:

The people of Taiwan demand that the Taiwan Strait issue be resolved through peaceful means. Should Mainland China refuse to withdraw the missiles it has targeted at Taiwan and to openly renounce the use of force against us, would you agree that the Government should acquire more advanced anti-missile weapons to strengthen Taiwan's self-defense capabilities?

This referendum is neither provocative nor a move toward Taiwanese independence. It constitutes an effort to prevent Mainland China from using force and unilaterally changing the status quo. China has never renounced the use of force in the Taiwan Straits and has 496 missiles targeting Taiwan. I urge China to withdraw those missiles, which upset the military balance in the Taiwan Straits and whose continued presence demonstrates China's hostile approach to cross-strait relations.

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right

to life, liberty and security of person." Taiwan has the right to voice its concerns and to protect itself from harm. A nonviolent resolution of the Taiwan Straits issue is Taiwan's ultimate goal. This peace referendum is the first step in that process and the right of the Taiwanese people.

In the Taiwan Relations Act, we reaffirmed our nation's commitment to "the preservation of human rights of the Taiwanese people." Now is the time to stand behind that statement. For President Chen Shui-bian's work to create a stable, peaceful, and democratic environment in the region, he deserves our recognition and support.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY BELL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Shirley Bell, a dear friend of Minnesota veterans and a great mentor, leader and activist in my community.

Shirley Bell was an active member of the United Veterans Legislative Council since its inception and volunteered as its Secretary for many years. She was also a member of the Gold Star Wives, an association of survivors of brave men and women who gave their lives in battle or as a result of their service. Everyone who knew her loved and admired her.

Along with Shirley Bell's service to our veterans, she was also deeply involved in the well-being and education of others as the co-program director of The School of Anesthesia at Northwestern Hospital of Minneapolis. She went on to develop the Baccalaureate Completion program for CRNA's as an Associate Professor of Nursing Anesthesia in the School of Medicine at the University of Minnesota—a position created especially for Shirley to enable her to use her creativity and exceptional mentoring skill to promote and encourage students. As recognition for her accomplishments in Anesthesia Education, Shirley received the Helen Lamb Outstanding Education Award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in 1994.

Shirley Bell's work and selfless dedication to helping others in our community was tremendous. Her leadership, commitment and tireless efforts will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRIAN L. POTTS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I know that you and my distinguished colleagues are aware that we usually appear before the House of Representatives to voice the concerns of our constituents on matters related to the legislative process and about particular issues associated with bills that warrant our attention. Yet, while debating the issues of the day, we often take for granted the hard work and dedication required to transform an idea into a bill, and a bill into a law. It is with these thoughts in mind that I am here today to pay

tribute to Mr. Brian L. Potts, a dedicated staff member of the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction.

Brian is departing the House Appropriations Committee at the end of this week to begin a new position with the Senate Appropriations Committee. His departure is a loss that will be felt for quite some time, yet it is good to know that we have another friend working in the Senate.

Brian came to the Committee from the Naval Audit Service as a Detailee in 1997 and joined the Committee staff in January 1999, and his contributions to the Committee are many. He has always been a focused and hard working individual who conducts himself with the utmost professionalism, and his strengths and accomplishments are many. As a Certified Public Accountant Brian has a keen ability to cut to the heart of a Department of Defense audit report and find savings that have offset the costs of the Military Construction bill. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, Brian is a wizard with spreadsheets and tables, and an invaluable support to the Subcommittee clerk.

During my tenure as the Chairman of the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee, I have found Brian to be a quietly powerful and effective staff member, possessing the unique ability to impart a sense of calmness to emotionally charged situations. One of his finest characteristics is his ability to treat others with kindness and respect. Brian views his job as a privilege and feels fortunate to contribute. These are rare qualities that enable him to effectively carry out his duties and have opened the door to new opportunities for him in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Mr. Brian Potts on his career, his time spent doing invaluable work for the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction, and to thank him for his outstanding service to this great legislative body. Finally, I ask for God's Blessings as Brian embarks on this phase of his career with the Senate Appropriations Committee, which is very lucky to have him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TIMUCUAN
ECOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVE
BOUNDARY REVISION
ACT OF 2004

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that provides needed protection to an historic area of Florida with great national significance known as American Beach. This bill will expand the current boundaries of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve to include approximately 12.5 acres of land in American Beach, Amelia Island.

The Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve currently provides protection to an important ecological treasure and the addition of American Beach will serve to enhance its national significance.

This beautiful stretch of shoreline provides a great history and a great story. Founded in the 1930s by A.L. Lewis, American Beach provided a sunny paradise for those Americans

who, because of segregation, were not able to enjoy most of America's beaches. This area of Florida's northeastern shore attracted African Americans from all over the country. While this nation struggled to find equality within its shores, American Beach provided a relaxing, culturally unique vacation spot for African Americans along the ocean's edge.

The significance of this site was recognized when the beach and 120 residential homes in the area were added to the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, in 1992, the Florida Legislature named American Beach the first site on the Florida Black Heritage Trail.

In his recently released budget, President Bush provides resources for a new "Preserve America" program through the National Park Service. This initiative is designed to encourage heritage tourism throughout the country. Today, this legislation answers the President's call without spending a single dime of taxpayer's money.

Last year, American Beach's neighbor, Amelia Island Plantation made arrangements to donate these 12.5 acres to the National Park Service. Unfortunately, the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve is not able to accept this generous gift because the acreage rests outside the boundaries of the Preserve.

This legislation allows the National Park Service to accept this historic site by simply modifying the boundaries of the Timucuan. I support this addition to the Timucuan—and others like it—where willing property owners and the National Park Service can work cooperatively as stewards of our national treasures.

Mr. Speaker, it is especially fitting this legislation comes to the floor of this House as we celebrate Black History Month to honor those individuals who worked to bring equality to all Americans.

THANKING COURTNEY AND CHLOE SMITH FOR REPRESENTING LOUISIANA DURING THE CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK CELEBRATION

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 3-year-old twins, Courtney and Chloe Smith, of Alexandria, Louisiana. Courtney and Chloe have been selected to serve as ambassadors for the millions of kids treated this year at children's hospitals across the United States.

Born in March 2000, Courtney and Chloe are the smallest twins at birth ever to survive in the U.S. For over 3 months, they fought for their lives in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at CHRISTUS St. Francis Cabrini Hospital. Due to their miraculous show of strength, they will serve as representatives for Foresters Champions Across America, a national Children's Miracle Network program.

As representatives of Louisiana, Courtney and Chloe will visit Capitol Hill and the White House to meet with some of our Nation's leaders. They will also travel to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida to participate in the taping of the Children's Miracle Network celebration.

As the father of twin girls, I am able to comprehend the magnitude of such a situation.

Children are a gift, and any parent is twice as happy when two special children are brought into the world at one time.

I come to the floor of the House of Representatives today to personally commend, honor and thank Courtney and Chloe Smith for taking on the responsibility of representing Louisiana during such an important and meaningful event. It is rare that we as Members of the U.S. Congress are able to recognize people that are so young and yet so fierce in their fight for life. Courtney and Chloe can truly attest to the life-saving abilities and importance of the Children's Miracle Network. This nationwide system of hospitals deserves tremendous acknowledgement and appreciation for all the assistance they bring to families such as the Smiths.

Again, thank you to Courtney and Chloe Smith for so honorably representing the state of Louisiana.

HONORING GEORGE M. MOORE JR.

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George M. Moore, Jr., a resident of my district, for his service and commitment to America's veterans. Mr. Moore has served as Director of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Martinsburg since 1998. In 1999, Moore became the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service Line Director, making him responsible for the management of all prosthetic operations in Martinsburg, WV, Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, DC. Previously he has worked with the VA in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Jackson, MS.

Moore served our country on active duty as an Air Force fighter pilot in Vietnam. Recently, the Disabled Veterans of America recognized him as their 2003 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year.

All of us in West Virginia and in Congress are proud of the service George Moore has given to our Nation. Both as a soldier himself, and later as a worker for disabled veterans, Moore has distinguished himself as a leader in our Nation's fight for freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to apologize for my absence from the House floor this past week. My father, Ralph Pombo, Sr., underwent heart surgery last week and it was important that I be with him and my family in California during this trying time. As such, I was unable to attend votes last week. We all pray for his swift and full recovery.

HONORING ED CASEY, RECIPIENT OF THE "HEART O'GOLD AWARD"

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today that I honor Ed Casey, an outstanding American who has dedicated himself to cultural exploration and community service, as the "Heart O'Gold Award" is bestowed upon him by the Quaboag Highlander Pipe Band of Monson, Massachusetts.

Ed Casey is an icon in the Pioneer Valley and western Massachusetts and is well known throughout the community for his commitment to bagpipes and Celtic culture. As a resident of Springfield and Belchertown, MA, Ed has played his pipes at parades, inaugurations, celebrations, and internments. He is loved by so many in our area.

Mr. Casey, who spent years as a public school teacher in Holyoke, MA, has taught the craft of playing the bagpipes to many others interested in learning to play. Yet, unlike most music teachers, Ed did not learn to play music through the traditional route of lessons and formal training. He learned to play the bagpipes, as he would say, "by ear" and "by heart."

Mr. Speaker, there are many families in western Massachusetts who have never met Ed Casey, but perhaps it is their lives that have been most directly impacted by his generosity. For years, in lieu of accepting any fee for performing at internments, Ed Casey has directed families to instead make donations to the Open Pantry, a food collection and distribution center in Springfield that feeds the hungry in western Massachusetts. In doing so, thousands of dollars have been collected to provide food for the poor and the needy.

It is my pleasure to honor Ed Casey today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as someone whose selflessness and talent should be recognized and emulated by those around him. Congratulations Ed upon receiving this honor. Your good work has not gone unnoticed.

HONORING BENSON'S BATTALION

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to praise a valuable organization based within the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania which has made a significant improvement in the lives of western Pennsylvanians. I am proud to represent the congressional district which is the headquarters for Benson's Battalion, a charitable organization created to fight terror and provide financial support to Pennsylvania police, fire and other related public safety groups.

Kris Benson, a pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates, along with his wife Anna founded Benson's Battalion in October 2001 following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Since the creation of the organization, Kris and his wife have donated a significant amount of time and money to benefit local firefighters and police agencies. Benson's Battalion has provided