

makes the Council an independent entity within the Executive Branch, to be chaired on a rotating basis by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Commerce. This is a change from the Executive Order, which called for the Council to be housed within the Department of the Interior and chaired by that agency. If the Council is to be a truly independent entity that can work with all federal agencies, this change is necessary.

Third, the legislation retains the duties of the Council as described by the Executive Order (including development of an updated National Management Plan), but it adds some new duties in order to give the Council more tools to use in coordinating federal programs. In particular, the Council must submit an annual list of the top priorities in several different areas related to addressing the threat posed by invasive species. The legislation also specifically calls upon the Council to work with federal agencies during the budget development and submission process in order to ensure that budget priorities reflect the priorities of the National Management Plan. The legislation also calls on the Office of Management and Budget to develop a crosscut budget of all invasive species efforts in the federal government. This is a necessary tool for the Council to coordinate efforts among the various federal agencies.

Finally, the legislation retains the existing Invasive Species Advisory Council to serve as an important contributor to the ongoing dialogue between the federal government and stakeholders to ensure that the federal government acts in the most effective way.

This legislation will help further the federal government's efforts to combat invasive species, and I urge all of my colleagues to co-sponsor this important legislation.

HONORING PETALUMA BRANCH OF
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Petaluma Branch of the American Association of University Women for 50 years of community service. AAUW Petaluma has tirelessly advocated for equity for women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. With over 200 members, AAUW Petaluma has developed a variety of successful methods to promote their agenda.

In recent years, the AAUW Petaluma has been awarded the Silver, Gold and Platinum awards for excellence in recruitment, program content, success of their projects, and their overall positive energy by AAUW National.

Many of the programs sponsored by AAUW Petaluma are integral in bringing our community together. For example, mentoring and tutoring programs in the high schools involving adults and peers have helped build intergenerational relationships, and the All-Petaluma Schools Community Art Show and Art Train Docents have helped keep art programs alive in the community.

AAUW Petaluma's community involvement does not stop there. The group has organized

community forums on health and planning issues. They exemplify an organization truly giving back to the community. In fact, I recently had the privilege of attending a developing relationships and connections event.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the American Association of University Women, Petaluma Branch as an organization that has for the past half-century contributed to the women, girls and community of Petaluma.

THANKING MR. ART NASH FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in March of 2005, we rise to thank Mr. Art Nash for 26 years of outstanding service to the United States government, with the majority of it here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Art began his government career in 1967 as a soldier in the U.S. Army where he was trained as an electronics technician and served two years. After 10 years in the private sector he began his House career at the House Recording Studio's engineering department in 1980. For the next 24 years, Art has been an indispensable member of the television floor coverage crew, the Recording Studio tape room and maintenance shop.

Art has been described as a man of God who loves all people. His positive attitude has been his trademark and the term "detail man" best describes him. He has been an excellent teacher to his co-workers and all those around him. He has taken his time to do the job right or find an even better way. Service has been his greatest achievement. Whether it was during the long hours that the House was in session or working side by side with his co-workers, Art Nash has given his best.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Art for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF
ATASCOSA COUNTY APPRAISER
EDDIE BRIDGE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Atascosa County Appraiser Eddie Bridge.

Eddie Bridge is a hard working member of our community, helping to appraise real estate and personal property in Bee, Crane, Crockett, and Refugio Counties. He also spends his time consulting and assisting the staff members of Frio, Hall, Irion, Martin, Menard, and Starr Counties in both physical and statistical reappraisals. Starting off as a Valuation Consultant with Pritchard and Abbot in 1993, Mr. Bridge has many years of experience in his special line of work.

Mr. Bridge is a model of energy and commitment, often working from eight in the morning till nine in the evening. Despite his demanding schedule, Mr. Bridge still finds time for ranching and running cattle.

Eddie Bridge lives in Pettus with his wife of 24 years and his two children. Both of his children are Valedictorians and his son Edward II serves at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Our Nation is built upon the hard work and dedication of citizens like Eddie Bridge, and it is important to recognize the value of their daily contributions to both town and country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Atascosa County Appraiser Eddie Bridge.

HONORING OUR NATION'S YOUTH
ON THE 10TH ANNUAL KICK
BUTTS DAY, AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION
OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TOBACCO

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our nation's youth today on the 10th annual Kick Butts Day, an annual celebration of youth leadership and activism in the fight against tobacco use.

Over the past 10 years, our nation has made significant progress in reducing youth smoking rates. Young people themselves have played a major role in this success. We should be proud that we've reduced smoking rates among high school students by 40 percent since 1997, when smoking rates among youths peaked at an alarming 36.4 percent.

But we have more work to do. About 22 percent of high school students still smoke. Tobacco is still the leading preventable cause of death in our country, killing more than 400,000 people every year. On Kick Butts Day, we should commit to finishing the job of protecting our kids from tobacco addiction by supporting science-based tobacco prevention measures, strong deterrents to youth smoking, well-funded tobacco prevention and cessation programs, smoke-free air laws, and FDA authority over tobacco products and marketing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert in the RECORD the attached report by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids entitled "Ten Years of Kicking Butts: Reducing Youth Smoking in the United States." It is a valuable summary of the progress we have made in reducing youth smoking, the evidence that common sense solutions work, and the need still to redouble our efforts.

TEN YEARS OF KICKING BUTTS: REDUCING
YOUTH SMOKING IN THE UNITED STATES—
KICK BUTTS DAY 10TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT

On May 7, 1996, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids held the first annual Kick Butts Day to focus the nation's attention on the serious and growing problem of youth tobacco use in our country. At that time, youth smoking rates had been rising alarmingly for several years, fueled by cigarette marketing campaigns such as Joe Camel and the Marlboro Man that appealed to youth and deep price cuts that made cigarettes more affordable to kids. In 1997, smoking