

I Can! Foundation is to encourage, enhance, and empower children with disabilities, as well as young individuals with special gifts or talents, in the pursuit of their individual goals and dreams.

For the past 31 years, the Foundation's mission has been to design and implement programs that help to improve the quality of life of children with disabilities. Yes I Can!, through the administration of several national programs, has been dedicated to building interdependent communities that value and support these children.

The Foundation recognizes the accomplishments of extraordinary children and youth, widely sharing stories of their successes, and activating a supportive network of strategic partners and activities.

It is my honor to recognize Miss Rosalie Platt for her exceptional contributions to the community and for having great confidence in herself to overcome adversity. In addition, I commend the Yes I Can! Foundation for its commitment to giving those who are challenged the hope and means to overcome those challenges.

CONGRATULATING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE SOMERVILLE CENTRAL HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 27, 2005*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Somerville Central Hook & Ladder Company, in the Borough of Somerville, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent! On August 27, 2005, the good citizens of Somerville will celebrate the Hook & Ladder Company's One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Anniversary with special festivities.

For one hundred and twenty-five years, the Somerville Central Hook & Ladder Company has been protecting and serving the residents of their community. In celebration of their anniversary, festivities will include an apparatus judging contest during which invited neighboring fire companies will show off their rigs for a trophy prize. They will also introduce a new truck, the newest addition to their company.

The Hook & Ladder Company was created when, in the summer of 1880, several members of the Somerville Engine Company #1 recognized the need for a hook and ladder truck. They resigned from the Engine Company, and with several other volunteers created the Central Hook & Ladder Company. Funds for the purchase of their three-story brick building were raised by using their team, who refer to themselves as "Hooks," and a dump truck to collect garbage in town at the cost of 25¢ a week per customer. The Division Street Building was built in 1902, to house the hand-drawn "Wonder" fire truck. In 1909, the company upgraded to a horse-drawn Seagrave truck.

Currently the Central Hook & Ladder Company is led by Deputy Chief Todd Starner and has about 50 members of which about a dozen are second generation or more Central Hook & Ladder families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Somerville Central Hook & Ladder Company on the celebration of 125 years of a rich history in the protection of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities!

INTRODUCTION OF THE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 27, 2005*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, in introducing an earlier version of this bill into the 108th Congress (2003–2004), I remarked that I was grateful for being able to take an action both long overdue and truly needed. I still feel that way as I reintroduce the Coral Reef Conservation and Protection Act of 2005, except that this proposal is now far longer overdue and far more needed.

As I said last Congress, my childhood was spent among the rich diversity of the coral reef ecosystems of my native Island of Hawaii. It was a time of budding wonder at what nature had wrought, the living corals and other reef life existing in mutual dependency and sustainability. But just weeks ago, when I returned, as I often do, now with my children, to those same reefs, they're not what they were. Still beautiful, yes; still wondrous. But there is not the same diversity of coral nor the same luster; the fish and other marine life not as plentiful nor diverse; the presence of new, alien species is apparent.

Of course, there are simply more of us in those marine environments than there were, and so our cumulative impact over my fifty years in those waters has become apparent, even at the level of recreational and subsistence use. But it's more, for these reefs have become a significant business, their coral exoskeletons, their living creators, and the shells and fish that live in and among them valuable collectors' items for the aquariums and curio shops of the world. And the purposeful and accidental introduction of marine invasives in isolated instances over the last decades have magnified into a critical mass of statewide presence and threat.

In relevant terms, though, we in Hawaii are among the lucky ones, for at least we still have living, albeit threatened, coral reefs, with declining but at least remaining marine life. At least we have marginally protective state laws, and a culture of arguable sustainability.

But in much of the rest of the marine world, especially throughout the temperate zones of the Pacific and beyond, the world of the coral reef is past endangered and into destroyed, wiped out by a wave of commercial overfishing, overcollecting, dynamiting, cyanide poisoning, and other forms of ecological pillage. In these worlds, laws do not exist to provide even minimum protections or, if they do, they are spurned.

Some say that that's their business; what do we care if they wreck their marine ecosystems? First, of course, in today's interdependent world, our global environment is everyone's business. But beyond that, we can't turn our backs because we are the chief facilitator; ours is the largest market for the

products of this stripping of the world's coral reefs.

None of this is new: we've known all of this for decades. We've even set out to do something about it. In 1973, we became a party to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which sought to clamp down on endangered species trafficking. But although some of our world's coral reef life has been designated as covered under it, the enforcement mechanisms are frankly ineffective.

More recently, in 1998 President Clinton issued the Coral Reef Protection Executive Order (No. 13098) establishing the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. That entity was directed to strengthen our stewardship and conservation of our country's reef ecosystems, and to assess our role in the international coral reef products trade with the goal of taking actions to promote conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs worldwide.

The Task Force conducted its evaluations, made its reports, and outlined what was needed. That was in large part comprehensive legislation to institute common protective standards for our nation's coral reefs, but, equally important, rules to discourage international coral reef abuse and encourage sustainable practices by allowing imports only of non-endangered products collected by sustainable practices and pursuant to integrated management plans.

The Coral Reef Conservation and Protection Act of 2005 I gratefully reintroduce today embodies the principal directions of the Task Force and more. It establishes a comprehensive scheme for the domestic and international protection of our world's coral reef ecosystems. The regime's key ingredients are the disallow of any domestic taking, transport in interstate commerce, or import of the endangered marine life of our coral reefs, unless that life is collected in non-destructive ways or subject to sustainable management plans or otherwise exempted from coverage by administrative actions.

Mr. Speaker, we have to start somewhere; our world's coral reefs are crying out for our help. This bill is that start, and I urge its prompt deliberation and passage.

Mahalo, and aloha!

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSE CITY

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 27, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in my district that is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a city. On September 3rd, 2005 the residents of Rose City, Michigan will partake in their annual end-of-summer ox roast and pay tribute to its citizens and their city's history that consists of the All-American boom town tales as well as those more tragic stories.

The first settlers to the area worked their way from Saginaw Bay along the Rifle River to what would become Ogemaw County in the 1870s. Ogemaw County, named after local Chippewa Chief Ogemaw-Ke-Ke-To, was home to several family names including Beck, Rose, Zettle, Rau and many others still residing in the region. Among those original settlers