

And it would not affect any existing or future permit related to use of lands that are not subject to ski area permits under the 1986 law or in any way reduce or otherwise modify the extent to which the Forest Service can allow any particular use on any of those lands outside ski areas.

Madam Speaker, this is a narrowly-targeted bill that I think can be valuable regarding an important aspect of the management of the National Forests and in facilitating the provision of additional opportunities for seasonal and year-round recreational activities on the parts of those lands that are subject to permits under the 1986 law. I think it deserves the approval of our colleagues, and for their reference I attach a more detailed outline of its provisions:

OUTLINE OF THE BILL

Section 1 sets forth findings regarding the basis for the legislation, and states its purpose. The findings note that it is in the national interest to provide, and encourage Americans to take advantage of, opportunities to engage in outdoor recreational activities that can contribute to their health and well-being; that National Forests, including those areas used for skiing, can provide such opportunities during all four seasons; that increased use of ski areas for that purpose can reduce impacts on other National Forest lands; and that it is in the national interest to revise the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act. The purpose is to amend that 1986 law so as to reflect that other snowsports, in addition to nordic and alpine skiing, occur at ski areas and to clarify the Forest Service's authority to permit additional appropriate seasonal or year-round recreational uses of lands subject to permits under that law.

Section 2 would amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 in three ways:

(1) by replacing current language that refers only to "nordic and alpine skiing" with broader terminology to reflect that additional ski areas are also used for additional snowsports, such as snowboarding.

(2) by providing specific authority for the Forest Service to authorize the holder of a ski area permit under the 1986 law to provide additional recreational opportunities (and to have associated facilities) on lands covered by that permit. This authority is limited to activities and facilities that the Forest Service determines appropriate, that encourage outdoor recreation, and that harmonize to the natural environment to the extent practicable. The bill makes clear that the activities and facilities will be subject to such terms and conditions as the Forest Service determines appropriate. It also specifies that no activity or facility can be authorized if the agency determines that authorization would result in the primary recreational purpose of lands covered by a permit under the 1986 law would not be skiing or other snowsports.

(3) Finally, the bill would delete from the 1986 law obsolete language related to a deadline for conversion of previously-issued ski-area permits to permits under the 1986 law, while retaining the requirement that regulations be promulgated to implement that law—a requirement that will apply to the law as it would be amended by the bill.

Section 3 specifies that the bill will not affect any authority the Forest Service now has under laws other than the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986, including authority

with respect to recreational activities or facilities.

OP-ED SUPPORTING EDUCATION
ON CORONARY HEART DISEASE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an Opinion Editorial from the Washington Afro-American News that reflects support for educating people of color on the symptoms and prevention of coronary heart disease.

The editorial which was published on July 5, 2008 is entitled; "Taking on the Attack: Lessons from Tim Russert's Death." The author of the Op-Ed, Honorable ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, recognizes the devastating reality of the disease. The fact is that heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women, killing more than 700,000 people a year.

The sudden death of NBC-TV's Tim Russert brings to light the importance of heart health. In the editorial, Congressman CUMMINGS states that "African-American adults are less likely to be diagnosed with coronary heart disease; however, we are more likely to die from it," emphasizing the disparities that exist among people of color. He advises to quit smoking, engage in regular exercise, reduce alcohol consumption, reduce stress and make healthy choices about the food that you eat in order to reduce the risk of heart disease.

Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS encourages everyone to attack the number one killer in the U.S. by living heart-healthy lives and to acknowledge that "everyday we wait to adopt a better lifestyle is another day we put ourselves at needless risk."

[From the Washington Afro-American News,
July 5, 2008]

TAKING ON THE ATTACK: LESSONS FROM TIM
RUSSERT'S DEATH

(By Elijah E. Cummings)

Shocked. Even this word fails to describe the reactions of people when they heard about the sudden and premature death of legendary NBC newsman Tim Russert.

On the day of his wake, hundreds of people lined up at St. Albans School in Washington, DC, to pay respect to a man whom they had never met, but whose death had caused a deep sense of loss in their lives. Because of Tim Russert, Sunday was not simply a day of worship and rest. As he would say, "If it's Sunday, it's 'Meet the Press.'"

He was a top television journalist, a best-selling author, a statesman in the world of politics and, more importantly to him, a proud husband, father and son.

By all accounts, Tim was as famous as one could get and, yet, he was an everyday man—someone to whom we all could relate. So, when the news spread of his death from a heart attack at age 58, middle-aged men across the country got scared. They hit the gym and passed up dessert.

Women grabbed measuring tape to wrap around their loved-one's waists while vowing to create healthier household diet and fitness regimes to bring those waist circumferences down to below 40 inches. (According to the American Heart Association, a waistline of more than 40 inches places a man at a high risk for heart disease.)

The fact is heart disease is the country's leading cause of death for men and women, killing more than 700,000 people a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In the African-American community, the outlook is even more troubling. African-American adults are less likely to be diagnosed with coronary heart disease; however, we are more likely to die from it.

We also develop high blood pressure at an earlier age and, on average, our blood pressure readings are higher than those of other groups. In fact, the prevalence of hypertension in our communities is among the highest in the world.

Compared to White Americans, ages 45–65, the premature death rate from heart disease for Black men is twice as high. For Black women, it is three times as high.

The statistics are no better in Maryland, where African Americans make up less than 28 percent of the population, but we experience the highest rates of heart disease deaths in the state. According to the CDC, from 1996 to 2000, African Americans in Maryland had a heart disease death rate of 620 per 100,000, compared with 500 per 100,000 for Whites. In Baltimore City, African Americans are 15 percent more likely to die from heart disease than Whites.

There is good news. Although there are risk factors for heart disease beyond our control such as increasing age, gender and heredity, there are steps we can take to reduce the dangers of heart disease.

We must take better care of ourselves. We can quit smoking, engage in regular exercise, reduce our consumption of alcohol, reduce the stress in our lives and make healthy choices about the food that we eat.

We must educate ourselves. In the case of a heart attack, every second counts and we have done an excellent job of informing men of the signs and symptoms they may have when experiencing a heart attack (including chest pain, shortness of breath and discomfort in the arms).

We have neglected to similarly inform women of the symptoms that they are more likely to experience. Shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting and back or jaw pain are all common symptoms of heart attack in women, and far too many lives are lost because women—and, sadly, their health care providers—are unaware of these symptoms.

We must continue to challenge the disparities in health care that disproportionately threaten our communities. People of color have limited access to affordable, high-quality health care. When heart disease occurs, we are less likely to receive life-saving medical interventions like coronary angiography and coronary revascularization.

We continue to face the reality that too little research funding is being focused upon the health risks that threaten minority communities. These harsh facts of life are now publicly acknowledged by leaders in every political party. The critical test will be our willingness to allocate the public funding that is needed to eliminate race as a mortality factor in this country.

Last year, I was proud to join Mayor Sheila Dixon, Del. Shirley Nathan Pulliam and Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Joshua Sharfstein in announcing an initiative to reduce cardiovascular disease and unacceptable health disparities in the Baltimore region.

This effort relies heavily on community input to help develop strategies to prevent suffering and save lives through public health efforts. The proposed strategies include launching a task force on reducing sodium intake; expanding community health worker programs; and developing partnerships with faith-based institutions.

We already have an effective smoking cessation program in place that offers free counseling and free nicotine patches and gum while supplies last. All you need to do is call 1-800-QUITNOW (1-800-784-8669) to get started. You can also find more information about the initiative and how you can become involved by visiting <http://www.baltimorehealth.org/disparities.htm>.

We all have the power to attack the number one killer in the United States and live heart-healthy lives. But everyday that we wait to adopt a better lifestyle is another day we put ourselves at needless risk.

HONORING NELSON MANDELA ON
HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1090 honoring Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela as he celebrates 90 years of life.

Mr. Mandela was born on July 18, 1918, in Transkei, South Africa, where he was given the name Rolihlahla, meaning "troublemaker," which would later seem so fitting. Throughout his early adulthood, he developed his own ideas about the oppression he had experienced which led him to join the African National Congress. His work with the ANC led him to be tried for treason. He was acquitted of the charges, but his strong opposition to South African apartheid continued.

His fight against racial segregation came to a sudden halt when he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for allegedly plotting to overthrow the South African government.

However, 27 years in prison could not diminish the spirit of a great leader. Once released from prison, Mr. Mandela wasted no time in becoming involved with the ANC once again. It was no surprise that this revolutionary man would become the next President of the ANC in 1990, continuing to devote himself to a multi-racial democracy for his country.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mandela embodies the dignity, strength, and leadership that all of us should strive for. Our country was founded on the values of freedom and liberty for all, personified undoubtedly by Mr. Mandela. He grasped these ideals and fought to make them a reality for South Africa through commitment unsurpassed by others. The dedication Mr. Mandela displayed, despite the many challenges he encountered, is deserving of our highest respect.

Mr. Mandela has undisputedly contributed to tremendous change with his efforts to peacefully resolve conflicts throughout the world. It is with great pleasure that I commend Mr. Mandela for his lifetime commitment to promoting the vision of freedom and equality for the people of South Africa.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LIONEL VAN DEERLIN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor our former colleague, and my good friend, the Honorable Lionel Van Deerlin of California. He passed away on May 17th in his San Diego home at the age of 93.

Everybody referred to him as "Van." He served in this House from 1963 until 1981, and was a friend and colleague of mine on the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Throughout his career he maintained a marvelous wit and a generous spirit. He was a warm and gentle man.

After his defeat, Van went back to the newspaper business he loved, writing columns for the San Diego Tribune and then the Union-Tribune. In one recent column he decried the bitter partisanship of today's Congress, saying "Twenty-five years ago in Congress you not only trusted the opposing party, you enjoyed their company. Today, they hardly even speak."

During his last 4 years of service, from 1976–80, he was the Chairman of the Communications Subcommittee. It was a tumultuous time to preside over that important panel. The Justice Department had filed an antitrust suit against the then-integrated AT&T, and sought to divest the company of its manufacturing subsidiary, known then as Western Electric. In response to the Justice Department's lawsuit, AT&T's supporters in the Congress introduced the "Consumer Communications Reform Act," which would have ratified AT&T's status as a monopoly.

All of this fell into Van's lap when he became Chairman of the Subcommittee. At the time, competition in communications was in its infancy. Competitive suppliers of telephone equipment were beginning to spring up. But competition in long distance was still a novelty. Van knew that if the Congress ratified AT&T's monopoly, consumers would have lost an opportunity to shop around and obtain equipment and service for less. So he came up with a plan to forestall the legislation (which was extremely popular) to educate his Subcommittee while giving the competitors an opportunity to gain a foothold in the marketplace.

Van announced his intention to draft a "basement to attic" re-write of the Communications Act of 1934. And he proceeded to do just that. In 1978 he introduced H.R. 13015, the "Communications Act of 1978." Although the bill was never approved by the Subcommittee, he compiled an impressive hearing record and began to build the consensus that competition in communications was good for consumers.

The following year he introduced H.R. 3333, another attempt to re-write the Communications Act. Again, the bill was not reported by the Subcommittee; however Van's untiring efforts expanded both the record and the emerging consensus. And in 1980, the year of his defeat, he introduced H.R. 6121, which was approved by both the Subcommittee and the full Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

In 1980, Van was defeated for re-election. In his concession speech he again dem-

onstrated his wry wit and sage perspective, saying "Having been elected by the people in this district for nine consecutive elections, it would hardly be appropriate to say that they've taken leave of their senses this time." And so ended the career of a remarkable public servant.

But the efforts that he put in motion did not end there. Building on the hearing record that Van compiled, and the growing consensus that competition should govern the delivery of communications products and services, Congress continued its effort to update the Communications Act of 1934. In 1982 those efforts were interrupted by the Justice Department's announcement that it had settled the AT&T litigation. That settlement resulted in the 1984 divestiture of the Bell Operating Companies, and established the industry structure that persisted for the next 15 years.

In 1993 the House revived its efforts to update the 1934 Act, and in June of 1994, by a vote of 423–5, passed H.R. 3626. While the Senate did not complete action on its bill, efforts to update the law commenced anew in 1995. The result was the enactment of the landmark "Telecommunications Act of 1996" the following year.

Those of us who had been involved in these efforts from the beginning recognized that we were building upon the foundation that Van had laid back in 1977 and 1978. He was the visionary that realized that the days of AT&T's monopoly had to end, and he was the one who began the effort to build a consensus in favor of competition.

Early in 1996, the White House contacted my office to see who should be invited to attend the signing ceremony for the "Telecommunications Act of 1996." I suggested that they invite Lionel Van Deerlin, the man who got the ball rolling nearly 20 years before. And so in February, 1996, I entered the Library of Congress to witness the President signing this important new law. And there was Van, my old friend and colleague; smiling as always.

That was the last time that I saw Van. After his defeat I missed his cool-headed leadership and ready wit. It was great to see him that day, and I was glad that he lived to see his efforts come to fruition with the enactment of the new statute. This body has lost a good and decent colleague, who made valuable contributions that extended well beyond his years of service. And I have lost an old and dear friend, whom I will miss. We were better for his presence.

I am inserting for the RECORD the eulogy of former Representative Lynn Schenk.

The following is the text of the Eulogy for Rep. Lionel Van Deerlin, delivered by his friend of 30 years, the Hon. Lynn Schenk, on the occasion of his Memorial and Celebration of Life at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, San Diego, California, at noon, on Saturday, June 14, 2008:

I have been given the high honor of speaking to you today about a most extraordinary man—Lionel Van Deerlin—our dear Van. I thank the Van Deerlin family, his children and grandchildren for this special privilege.

Van's "life journey" was marked by so much accomplishment that it would take hours to recount—I will do my best to touch on the highlights.

This man, with a giant heart, who looked at life through the softening lens of humor, has brought us together today, but he would not want us to mourn him. Instead he would