

fact that a majority of Hmong adults are unable to speak English. The result is that many Hmong adults are unable to hold higher paying jobs.

Hmong youth are constantly challenged due to the difficulties of social assimilation, lost opportunities and juvenile crime temptations. The Hmong Youth Foundation seeks to give every child the opportunity to succeed and overcome negative obstacles. The Foundation pursues every avenue available through collaboration with other Hmong and Southeast refugee self-help organizations, as well as non-Asian agencies. The response has been very positive, as the Foundation does not duplicate any existing service provider's intent.

Hmong students in Fresno County have excelled in academic excellence and thus, have received many accolades. Among them are annual Hmong valedictorians in the Fresno and Clovis Unified School Districts. The Hmong Youth Foundation's intent is to help as many students as possible so that even greater success will follow.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Hmong Youth Foundation for its service to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the foundation many more years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
EXPANSION OF CALPINE

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the people of California's 3rd Congressional district to support the expansion of the Calpine Sutter Power Plant, a long-standing business in Sutter County.

Sutter County, situated just north of Sacramento between the Sacramento and Feather Rivers, has access to three state universities, a major metropolitan airport, the State Capitol, and recreational areas of the Sierra Mountain Range. However, with double-digit unemployment, a local economy almost solely dependent on agriculture, the lack of adequate power, and the annual danger of flooding in the upper Sacramento Valley, Sutter County also faces many challenges.

Today, Sutter County is celebrating the groundbreaking of Calpine's new plant site, which will increase its property tax base by at least \$300 million. The new plant will provide clean, low-cost power for economic development, employ up to 250 construction workers for twenty months, create at least twenty new family-wage, full-time jobs, and provide significant revenues to local businesses.

Additionally, Calpine has proposed a 10-year, \$2.5 million private funding program for improving levees and storm drainage facilities in Sutter County. The funds will be distributed directly to the Sutter County Water Agency and the County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, which will have final authority over how the funds are spent.

I commend Calpine and people of Sutter County for their commitment and investment in their community through new jobs, increased

tax revenue, clean, reliable, low-cost electricity, and willingness to work together toward local flood control solutions. This another example of businesses and communities working together to define a vision and successfully achieve common goals.

SERBS DESERVE PROTECTION IN
KOSOVO

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged by the killing of 14 Serbs last Friday near the town of Gracko in Kosovo. The culprits of this crime are, in my view, prime candidates for the next indictments for crimes against humanity by the International Tribunal which is located in The Hague. I certainly hope that the efforts of KFOR, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and Tribunal investigators will help identify and immediately apprehend those responsible for this crime.

The killings, however, are no isolated incident. Since NATO air strikes ended, the Serb forces have retreated, and the Kosovar refugees have begun to return to their homes, those Serb civilians who chose to remain in the region have repeatedly been subjected to violent retribution. Certainly a Kosovo which is ethnically cleansed of Serbs—and, according to reports, cleansed of Roma as well—is not the kind of Kosovo for which the international community undertook such a risky and costly intervention. Kosovo must pursue the path of rule by law not by lawlessness, and respect for and protection of basic human freedoms—including life itself.

A related disturbing trend is the attempt by leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army—the KLA—to fill the political vacuum created now that Serbian authorities have departed Kosovo. The KLA has yet to prove its democratic credentials; in many instances, its tactics have sent the opposite message. Mr. Speaker, before the KLA is granted any role in Kosovo's interim administration, it must prove itself. Helping to find those responsible for this latest atrocity would be a good place to start. Nationalist Kosovar Albanians can not hide behind the past victimization of their people by Milosevic and his forces, those responsible for these actions taken against Serbs and their property in Kosovo must be held accountable. Neither can they relegate responsibility for stopping these incidents to the international community alone.

The international community must make clear to all Kosovar Albanian leaders that their actions now will go a long way in determining what kind of support they will find for their own aspirations down the road. The benefits of enhanced political status for Kosovo cannot be enjoyed without also undertaking the responsibilities of democratic governance.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL WILDLIFE AND FISH REFUGE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is very important to the heritage and environmental conservation efforts of the Midwest. The refuge's mission is to provide public benefits associated with fish, wildlife, and wild areas by reserving the Upper Mississippi flood plain ecosystem for the enjoyment and use of this and future generations. For the past 75 years the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge has provided essential habitat for a wide variety of plants, fish, migratory birds, and other animals.

As a boy growing up on the north side of LaCrosse near the Mississippi River, I developed a special connection to the river. My fond memories of past camping trips on the river's sand bars and fishing with my friends have helped me to see first hand the importance of responsible stewardship. These boyhood impressions of the river have inspired me to work to protect the Great Mississippi from environmental damage.

As one of the four co-chairmen of the Upper Mississippi River Congressional Task Force (UMRTF), I have had an opportunity to effectively address stewardship issues pertinent to the Upper Mississippi River and adjacent lands. With the help of the UMRTF, attention has successfully been focused on the importance of refugees in the Upper Mississippi River Basin and their need for funding.

In recent years, the refuges have been asked to do more and more with less and less funding. Although the refuges have received added responsibilities, funding for maintenance, habitat restoration and outreach have all faced budget shortfalls. The Upper Mississippi Refuge currently lacks a full-time refuge manager. Although the master plan for the refuge calls for 60 staff members, only 28 staff are currently employed. With the aid of the Task Force, I am working to address this problem.

As a direct result of UMRTF efforts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will increase refuge maintenance funding for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, and the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge by \$1 million in fiscal year 1999. In the future, the Task Force will continue to focus attention on these refuges and the key roles they fill in providing essential habitat for a wide variety of plants, fish migratory birds and other animals.

The Mississippi River is truly an environmental treasure. The Upper Mississippi refuge system plays a crucial role in protecting this national treasure so that current and future generations can enjoy the same environmental, recreational and economic benefits that we have enjoyed in the past.