

Comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation services are provided to individuals with orthopedic, neurological and other medical conditions of recent onset or regression. These patients have experienced a loss of function in activities of daily living, mobility, cognition or communication. Types of patients admitted into the Brazosport RehabCare Center may include those with a diagnosis of stroke, spinal cord injury or dysfunction, brain injury, amputation, multiple trauma, hip fracture or joint replacement, arthritis, congenial deformity, burns or other progressive neuralgic syndromes such as Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis and Gullian Barre.

The services Brazosport RehabCare Center provides include rehabilitation medicine, rehabilitation nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language pathology, social work, psychology and recreational activities. In addition, prosthetics/orthotics, vocational rehabilitation, audiology and driver education are provided when necessary through affiliate agreements with external organizations. The goal of each service is to maximize the individual's potential in the restoration of function or adjustment by intergrating with other services.

By addressing the multiple effects that disability has on the patient and family and by integrating the combined resources of patient, family and interdisciplinary rehabilitation team, comprehensive rehabilitation programming can maximize the abilities and esteem of the patient and family and foster a healthy re-integration into the community. At the Brazosport RehabCare Center, patient outcomes are exceptionally positive. Eighty-six percent of their patients are able to return home and lead an independent lifestyle.

I am proud and honored to have the Brazosport RehabCare rehabilitation facilities at Brazosport Memorial Hospital, Lake Jackson, Texas. Please join me in recognizing the Brazosport RehabCare Center for its outstanding services and remarkable accomplishments as we celebrate National Rehabilitation Awareness week.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES F.C. RUFF—  
AN OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY  
AND PUBLIC SERVANT

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Charles F.C. Ruff, who left his position as White House Counsel earlier this summer. His exemplary record merits the commendation and thanks of all Americans who admire his commitment to justice and public service.

While most Americans recognize Charles Ruff from his key role in the Senate impeachment trial earlier this year, his brilliant career in public service began over three decades ago. A graduate of Swarthmore College and Columbia University Law School, Ruff accepted a position with the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section of the Justice Department in 1967. His commitment to representing

the public interest was complemented by his solid legal skills, and during the 1970's Ruff rapidly became one of the most highly-regarded and influential attorneys in Washington. As the Special Prosecutor for the Watergate Special Prosecution Force, he effectively tried and convicted those members of President Nixon's administration who broke our nation's laws and violated the public trust.

In recognition of his numerous achievements, President Jimmy Carter appointed Charles Ruff to a senior position in the Department of Justice and later appointed him to the position of United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. In this latter post, Ruff supervised cases against two Members of Congress in the Abscam bribery case, as well as the government's prosecution of John W. Hinckley, Jr., the attempted assassin of President Ronald Reagan.

Charles Ruff turned to the private practice of law in 1982 and achieved extraordinary professional success as a partner with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Covington & Burling. Entering the private sector, however, not erode his desire to utilize his talents for the public good. In 1995 Ruff left private legal practice to accept a position at a far more modest annual salary, as Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia. His two years in this post earned him the admiration of his peers, as well as the notice of another attorney, who happened to reside at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

In early 1997, Charles Ruff accepted President Bill Clinton's invitation to serve as White House Counsel. His duties during the past two and a half years have proven as diverse as they have been complex, ranging from policing White House ethics to providing the President with sound advice on critical constitutional issues. Mr. Ruff has handled these responsibilities with unequalled skill, impressing colleagues and White House observers with this attention to duty and his unshakeable integrity.

Earlier this year, Ruff led the President's successful defense against impeachment charges in the United States Senate. An island of cool-headed statesmanship in the midst of political charges and countercharges, Ruff received plaudits from allies and opponents alike for his well reasoned and respectful arguments. As the Washington Post (June 10, 1999) noted after the trial: "Ruff was widely respected by both Democrats and Republicans in Congress as a lawyer who doggedly defended his client but didn't engage in personal attacks or media ploys."

When he appointed Charles Ruff to the position of White House Counsel, President Clinton explained his choice in very precise terms. "The job of Counsel to the President requires an individual with a rare combination of intelligence, judgement, knowledge, experience, stature and legal skill. That is a perfect description of Charles Ruff."

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Charles Ruff for his outstanding contributions to our nation and to the American people.

### WILDERNESS ACT

### HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act plays a critical role in establishing common sense values and land use ethic for the management and protection of America's most scenic and ecologically diverse lands. Wilderness, as defined by the Act, is an area "where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," where the land "appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." After 7 years of hearings and debate, and 66 rewrites, President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act and formally codified the mantle piece of United States environmental legislation into law.

The Wilderness Act established 9.1 million acres of wilderness in our National Forests, and in its 35 year legacy, Congress added an additional 95 million acres to the Wilderness Preservation System. Although I am here to celebrate and commend Congress for its role in protecting our nation's land, the Wilderness Preservation System is far from complete and the land is far from being fully protected.

Threats to the preservation of our wilderness system exist in many forms, but they all have the same effect on our wild lands—the degradation and ultimate downward spiral of entire ecosystems. These threats exist in our national forests where valuable tracts of land are sought as much for their beauty as for their timber, in our lands to the West where the water that breaths life into diverse ecosystems is being diverted away for agricultural purposes, in our deserts where the chirp of a cricket is drowned out from the scream of jet engines overhead, or where mining threatens to degrade critically important lands adjacent to Congressionally mandated wilderness preserves. These are all very real and very dangerous threats facing our wilderness system—threats that Congress has the power to stop.

Unfortunately, Congress does not have the will to put an end to these threats. In fact, since the 104th Congress, only 20,000 acres of land at Opal Creek, Oregon have been added to the Wilderness Preservation System. To put this in perspective, the Reagan Administration alone added 15 million acres to the wilderness system. In the face of growing public sentiment and outcry for more greenspace and wildlands, Congress must push forward an agenda that all of America can support—protection and expansion of America's Wilderness Preservation System.

The American public no longer sees land as an opportunity for expansion and exploitation. All too often now, people seek nature as a release and haven from the rigors and stress of everyday life. We are about to embark on a historic journey to a new millennium and a new way of thinking. It is time that Congress breath new life into Wilderness Preservation System and expand on its already diverse portfolio. America is defined as much by its melting pot of people and cultures as it is by