

Kindergarten Departments, a Vice-President of the Courtesy Committee, and a Program Chairperson for the California Baptist State Secretaries and Treasurers of the Los Angeles Area.

In 1987, Ms. Wilson, her husband, and their children, Carolyn Rence Wilson-Bowles and Keith Lamont Wilson, joined the Zoe Christian Fellowship of Los Angeles. Ms. Wilson is also a member of Alpha Christian Women Ministry. She has received several awards, including "Honored Mother of the Year" in 1983 and the "God's Woman Award" in 1994.

Rosa Wilson is also the founder of the Community To Service Ministries at Southwest Administration. The group meets once a week to pray for the growth and success of the company and for healing. In addition, Ms. Wilson spends time visiting sick relative of co-workers and praying for their health.

I congratulate Ms. Wilson on her time with Southwest Administration and extend to her my best wishes as she begins an exciting new chapter in her life.

HONORING THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION OF CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 1999*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of our men and women of the U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement division in the Cleveland National Forest in San Diego county's back country.

During the year 1996, twenty-two illegal immigrants died from exposure in the Cleveland National Forest. In 1997 nineteen died. Since 1996, Mr. Tommy LaNier, the Special Agent-in-Charge, of law enforcement for the forest and his team of dedicated officers have apprehended over 20,000 illegal aliens in the Cleveland Forest, potentially saving many immigrant's lives who could well have perished in hostile conditions.

The apprehension of illegals in the forest is also serving to prevent further ecological degradation to the forest. In addition, the strong law enforcement in the forest precludes portions of public lands from having to be closed to U.S. taxpaying families who want to visit our natural areas.

Foot trails in once pristine natural habitat have now been pounded into the forest floor by as many as 300 illegal entrants in a given day passing through the Cleveland National Forest. These illegal trails grow deeper and deeper by the day causing erosion and irreparable damage to the forest. Contamination of streams is a major concern and in 1997 over eleven tons of trash left by illegal aliens passing through the forest had to be collected.

It is interesting to note that the U.S. Forest Service, nationwide, has more acreage and more visitors per year than the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service combined. The U.S. Forest Service has twice the number of violations to respond to with

less than than half the enforcement officers of the two previously mentioned agencies.

The Cleveland National Forest is unique in its locality; it lays contiguous to the Southwest U.S.A./Mexico border. The enhanced efforts of the U.S. Border Patrol in the San Diego area have pushed thousands of illegal aliens, heading North into the interior cities of the U.S., into this forest. Our defense against this invasion is a dedicated group of five U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The rate of incidence of illegal aliens campfires rose from 855 fires in 1996 to 1,044 in 1997. Law Enforcement officers have the dual burden of apprehending these illegal aliens so as to prevent their camp fires from breaking loose and endangering not only the forest, but also the illegals hiding in the forest. Fire damage is not the illegal's only threat to the forest. Degradation of the forest from the uncontrolled massive gathering of firewood for cooking and nighttime warming fires by thousands of trespassers in devastating and will take centuries to mend.

Mr. Speaker, Tommy LaNier and the Law Enforcement officers of the U.S. Forest Service have set a standard to which all law enforcement specifically, and public servants in general, can aspire. The efforts of these dedicated officers make it possible for taxpaying American citizens, from all walks of life, to safely enjoy some of the most beautiful forest area in our great nation. I invite all Members to stand with me in saluting the law enforcement efforts in the Cleveland National Forest by Tommy LaNier and his team.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 1999*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 424, the DOD Authorization Conference Report, I was held up in a traffic accident. Had I been present I would have voted "yes".

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE W. "WILL" GAHAGAN

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 1999*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to note the passing of a prominent American citizen, George W. "Will" Gahagan, who died in Carmel, California on December 8, 1998 at the age of 86.

Will was a man of broad interests, and notable achievements. He was well-educated, graduating in 1949 from Dartmouth, and worked as a newspaper reporter, federal public relations officer and foreign press liaison officer at the 1945 inaugural United Nations conference in San Francisco. Will attended Harvard during his graduate years, and in 1957

received his master's degree from Stanford University. During his Dartmouth years he met the poet Robert Frost, who was on the faculty, and later founded the California Friends of Robert Frost, a non-profit organization that helped establish Frost Plaza in San Francisco, Mr. Frost's birthplace.

Will was an educator as much as he was a student. He taught English for 15 years at high schools, including Tularcitos, Junipero Serra High School and Santa Catalina School in Monterey. He also taught at an international school in Rome. His students benefited greatly from his tutelage and enthusiasm for learning.

Will's contributions to Monterey County were as far-reaching as his range of interests. He wrote a column "Word Wise" for the Monterey Herald, produced and hosted a foreign affairs television program in Salinas, and wrote a guidebook about the Monterey Peninsula. He worked with many local organizations including the Carmel Foundation, the World Affairs Council, the Carmel City Planning Commission and the Carmel Library. Will helped create the Dennis the Menace Playground in Monterey, and helped raise \$250,000 for the Robinson Jeffers Tor House in Carmel. He was a member of the senior and super-senior national tennis teams, successfully competing in tournaments in Canada and Europe. Will has been inducted into the Dartmouth College Athletic Hall of Fame.

No list of accomplishments can represent the generosity of spirit, the vitality, and the intelligence that Will demonstrated every day. Will is to be remembered as an exemplary human being. He is survived by his wife Lorna; his sons Michael and Mark; his daughters Tappy and Lissa; his brother John; and, seven grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

TRIBUTE TO EARL REEDER

**HON. DAVID D. PHELPS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 1999*

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Earl Reeder who is celebrating his 90th birthday this week. Earl was born on September 20, 1909, in Edgewood, IL., the son of Merrill and Myrtle (Hackney) Reeder. Earl is a lifelong Democrat and has dedicated over forty years of his life to public service. In celebration of his 90th birthday, a card shower was thrown for Earl and he has received well over a hundred birthday greetings; a testament to his popularity among his friends and neighbors.

Earl's career in public service has spanned over forty years and is a "public servant" in the true meaning of the term. He was made County Assessor in 1941 and resigned as Supervisor effective September 9, 1982. Earl was on the Board of Review in 1961 and again in 1972. Earl also served as a precinct committeeman from around 1963 till his retirement in 1982. Throughout his career, Earl was always committed to the people he served and the Democratic Party he supported.

Mr. Speaker, Earl's dedication to public service is evident and I am commending him