Believing that donors are more likely to remain committed to the program if they participate in a thorough education program prior to joining the NMDP Registry, Brandi submitted a proposal for a pilot program that will include two-hour seminars covering the process of becoming a bone marrow donor.

I am proud to say that Brandi has received word that her Bone Marrow Donor Pilot Program proposal has been funded. The funding will allow for a donor pilot program in San Luis Obispo County and for four donor drives beginning in January 2000. The goal of this pilot program is to encourage and educate the public about the need for bone marrow donors and to assist in retaining donors on the registry.

And so I salute Brandi Dias today. She has shown courage in her fight against leukemia and transformed this experience into community activism that will benefit patients across San Luis Obispo County. I am proud to represent her in Congress.

HONORING BRANDI DIAS

HON. LOIS CAPPS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a very brave young woman, Brandi Dias. Ms. Dias suffers from acute myeloid leukemia and recently had a stem cell transplant, using her own marrow to fight the cancer. I am happy to say that she is doing well.

After her own experience with trying unsuccessfully to find a bone marrow donor match, Brandi became interested in attracting volunteers to the National Marrow Donor Program. The National Marrow Donor Program facilitates transplants from volunteers and unrelated donors for patients of all racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. Brandi has focused on attracting and retaining volunteers to participate in the NMDP Registry, where people can search for matching donors.

RECOGNIZING OF A VISIT BY A RUSSIAN DELEGATION TO THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks I have read many news articles and heard many interviews which paint a very grim picture of the political and financial situation in Russia. I have seen economic analysts and political pundits shake their heads and ask in very solemn tones, "Who lost Russia?" If I were to believe the most outspoken American leaders and experts, it seems we should just give up on democratic development in Russia and allow the worst-case scenarios to become self-fulfilling prophecies.

But while gloomy forecasts cloud this country's media-based perception of Russia's future, I have good reason to hold out hope for a prosperous Russia and for a strong U.S.-Russian relationship. In September, I hosted a delegation of Russians through the auspices of the Library of Congress and the American Foreign Policy Council. After spending an exceptionally enlightening week with these individuals, I believe the real question facing the West is not who lost Russia—as if it were the West's to lose or even whether Russia is lost. Rather, the question is how can we help enterprising and industrious Russians, like those I met, work to rebuild their nation.

The delegation that spent a week in my Congressional district in western Wisconsin came from different regions of Russia and different walks of life. As politicians, scientists and financial advisors, these men and women represented their nation well. They looked like Americans and came from different regions of Russia and different walks of life. As politicians, scientists and financial advisors, the citizens of the world, to help our Russian friends at this critical time in their history. Let us extend a hand both in friendship and assistance. Mortimer B. Zuckerman, Editor-in-Chief of U.S. News & World Report recently wrote: "Russia is not lost. It is still a much better friend of the West than it was under Communism." Mr. Zuckerman went on to say, "The Russians have, in fact, demonstrated an extraordinary resilience . . . The United States and the West will have to appreciate that Russia can, in fact, resolve its own problems on its own way." He concluded, "Humility will serve us well. Not everybody needs to be like us." I couldn't agree more. Russia does have a bright future, and the United States has the opportunity to be a friend and partner in that future.

We will, of course, continue to encourage democracy and openness not only in Russia, but in all nations of the world. In the aftermath of the Cold War, such participation remains vital to our national interest. America must be the most active in offering help to guide the many newly independent nations in their democratic development.

Mr. Speaker, I made new friends in September; friends I hope learned at least a little
from me and my community, as I learned so much from them. Perhaps the greatest thing I learned was that each of us has our own goals and dreams for our countries, our communities, and our families. I applaud the members of the Russian delegation that visited my district for their dedication and loyalty to their nation, and I wish them well in their efforts to build stronger communities and homes for their families.

FEDERAL WILDLIFE AID

HON. BOB SCHAFFER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, this legislative session, the House Resources Committee, of which I am a member, held three lengthy hearings on how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has managed the Pittman-Robertson (PR) and Dingell-Johnson (DJ) funds. These funds are paid for through excise taxes collected on all fishing and hunting supplies and outdoor gear. Coloradans pay a disproportionate share of these taxes because of the number of sportsmen and women who live here. In addition, businesses in Colorado collect a large share of the taxes for the federal government because visitors come from all over and spend money to hunt and fish in our great state.

The Fish and Wildlife Service was instructed to distribute the PR-DJ money through the Federal Aid Program to the states to use for conservation and wildlife management. Coloradans pay these taxes without complaint because they are playing a part in improving wildlife and conservation in our state. This fund has helped target money to recover species in Colorado that would have otherwise been endangered without PR-DJ funds. The problem comes when Fish and Wildlife was allowed to use up to 6 percent of one fund and 8 percent of the other to cover administrative costs related to distributing money to the states. Whatever Fish and Wildlife did not use at the end of the year is supposed to go back to the states for more recovery programs.

In the hearings, we heard from the General Accounting Office (GAO), a non-partisan federal auditing agency that the Federal Aid Program within Fish and Wildlife is “one of the worst managed programs we've ever encountered.” Fish and Wildlife has been caught red-handed spending funds Congress specifically designated to support conservation and wildlife management. We learned from GAO that rather than returning money to the States, over $30 million was spent on trips to Japan, expensive hotels and dinners, and other unauthorized expenses. They had at least separate accounts, some of these projects were specifically designated to support conservation and wildlife management. We learned that money was also used to fund bonuses for employees who weren’t even working for Fish and Wildlife, and, in some cases, to people who weren’t even working for the federal government. In addition, employees who have no authority were signing off travel well above the federal limits, on trips in excess of $75,000. Believe it or not, it gets worse. They tried to use these administrative funds, meant to pay a phone bill or buy a desk, to buy an island near Hawaii. The cost of this remote island was $30 million. Fish and Wildlife said it was important to ducks that the Island be preserved. When Congress looked into the island further we found a total of 10 ducks on the Island.

Unfortunately, this is just one program in one agency within the Department of Interior. There are still others in the Wildlife Service where this is happening. In my district, there are still several million dollars within the Fish and Wildlife Service that haven’t been accounted for, for a total of $120 million. Unfortunately, this is just one program in one agency within the Department of Interior. There are still others in the Wildlife Service where this is happening. In my district, there are still several million dollars within the Fish and Wildlife Service that haven’t been accounted for, for a total of $120 million. I believe that it is time for the Congress to step in and solve this problem.

Unfortunately, the People of Colorado used this money to fund the restoration of a remote island. Fish and Wildlife Service should let the people of Colorado use this money to improve wildlife management, to build roads, to buy an island near Hawaii. The cost of this remote island was $30 million. Fish and Wildlife said it was important to ducks that the Island be preserved. When Congress looked into the island further we found a total of 10 ducks on the Island.

Unfortunately, this is just one program in one agency within the Department of Interior. There are still others in the Wildlife Service where this is happening. In my district, there are still several million dollars within the Fish and Wildlife Service that haven’t been accounted for, for a total of $120 million. I believe that it is time for the Congress to step in and solve this problem.

Mr. Speaker, after honing his skills as an artist, Ben Richmond embarked upon a remarkable career as an artist. His work has been well-received and has brought attention to the beauty and diversity of the Lake Erie region. In 1981, the Richmond Galleries was established in Toledo, Ohio. It has since become one of the most successful art galleries in the country, and is now the home of Ben Richmond’s extensive collection of sculptures, paintings, and other works of art.

Ben Richmond’s accomplishments are not limited to his artwork. He has also been actively involved in the community, serving as a member of the Toledo Art Association and the Board of Directors for the Toledo Museum of Art. He has also been a supporter of local charities and has donated money to various causes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to the arts and to the community. Ben Richmond is a true artist who has made a significant contribution to the world of art and to the people of our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio. We are fortunate that Ben Richmond makes his home in our area and is able to share his artistic talents with us.

Ben Richmond is without question one of Ohio’s premier artists. Concentrating on the rich heritage and natural surroundings of the Great Lakes, Ben Richmond seeks to combine feeling, personality, and clear relationships in each of his paintings. While his paintings and artistic creations are produced in wondrous fashion today, in his youth, art class was not the top of Ben’s priority list. However, with some guidance from his parents and one of his college professors, Ben embarked upon a remarkable career as an artist.

Mr. Speaker, after honing his skills as an artist, Ben Richmond graduated from college and went to work in the business world. But, business simply did not capture Ben’s imagination and talents the way painting did. So, one weekend, while traveling through Marblehead with his wife, Wendy, they noticed the picturesque beauty of the Lake Erie region. In 1981, the Richmonds purchased a building in the village of Marblehead and turned it into an art gallery. Thus began the artistry of Ben Richmond.

Ben Richmond’s myriad collection of works of art seems to have no end. From his signature painting of the Marblehead Lighthouse to the other limited edition paintings, posters, sculptures, and collectibles, the Richmond Galleries has become known as The Collectors’ Choice for custom artwork and framing. For his accomplishments, Ben Richmond’s work has been featured at the Grand Central