from me and my community, as I learned so much from them. Perhaps the greatest thing I learned was the importance of our goals and dreams for our country, 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 for use to preserve and conserve 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 slush funds within Fish and Wildlife used for authorized expenses. They had at least separate slush funds within Fish and Wildlife used for authorized expenses. They had at least separate slush funds within Fish and Wildlife used for authorized expenses. They had at least separate slush funds within Fish and Wildlife used for authorized expenses.

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, and there are still problems with Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Fish and Wildlife no one seems to know where it was spent. At the final hearing, I asked for the resignation of Ms. Clark and Mr. Barry if they could not find out where this money was going and stop the waste and illegal spending. Rather than spending $3 million per duck in a remote island, Fish and Wildlife Service should let the people of Colorado use this money toward something that actually helps conservation and wildlife.
Art Galleries in New York, Great Lakes Regional Art Exhibition, the Salmagundi Club in New York, and many others. As well, Ben has received numerous awards and recognitions from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Watercolor Society, U.S. Lighthouse Society, Ohio Division of Travel and Tourism, and the Decor Magazine Award of Excellence.

Ben Richmond has also been called upon to showcase his work in the interest of public service. By request of the Governor of the state of Ohio, Ben designed the Ohio light- house license plate. Through the sale of the license plate, more than five million dollars has been generated to help clean and maintain the Lake Erie coastline. Not only are Ben Rich mond and his wife, Wendy, outstanding entre- preneurs, they are always more than willing to assist their community. Over the years, the Richmonds have graciously and unselfishly given to others. Their generous efforts, scholarships, and other donations, many hospitals, schools, and senior centers have benefited from their generosity. Although they seek no recognition, we applaud their unwavering dedication to their community.

Mr. Speaker, Ben Richmond has inspired many with his work and has been named the Featured Artist for the state of Ohio Bicentennial Celebration in 2003. Ben Richmond will commemorate this historic event with a limited edition print, minted coin, and sculpture of the Ohio Capitol building. I can think of no better way to recognize the hallmark event of Ohio’s 200th Anniversary than with the works of Ben Richmond. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying very special tribute to Ben Richmond for his outstanding contribu- tions to the world of art.

HONORING JOHN HIGHTOWER
ON RETIREMENT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise before you today to pay tribute to Mr. John Hightower of Flint, Michigan. On November 27, local officials, friends, and family will gather to honor this longtime activist and community leader.

John Hightower moved to Flint in 1952, where he began a long tenure with the Buick Motor Company. He also joined the UAW and rose through its ranks, serving as a committee member, as well as on the executive boards for Local 599 and Local 659. John also worked as chair of his Local’s civil rights com- mittee, working tirelessly to ensure that his fel- low employees were treated with equity and respect.

John’s sense of civil rights extended into his entrepreneurial activities as well. As the owner of Hightower Construction and Hightower Electric Company, John helped build many prominent churches and other buildings in the Flint area. He provided training for other Afri- can Americans who wished to join the busi- ness world, helping them receive opportunities that normally would have been denied them in the America of the 1950’s and 60’s. When local banks refused to hire qualified African-Americans for jobs, it was John High- tower who organized rallies and marches to protest and ultimately eliminate these injustices. In later years, John furthered his busi- ness experience with another business, Montego Travel Office, later known as the Travel Centre of Flint.

Our Flint community owes much to John for his dedication and generosity. Over the years, he has helped citizens gain self-sufficiency and self-respect. He has promoted strong fam- ilies with strong foundations, and provided food and shelter for the needy.

Mr. Speaker, the celebration to honor John Hightower has a theme entitled “Visions.” Truly John has been a visionary, as he has given much of himself to make our community a better place in which to live. I ask my col- league in the 106th Congress to join me in saluting John Hightower. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

HONORING CARLOS BELTRAN ON WINNING THE 1999 AMERICAN LEAGUE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the new 1999 American League Rookie of the Year, Carlos Beltran of the Kansas City Royals. Carlos was the nearly unanimous choice for the prestigious award after an exceptional season in which he averaged .293 at the plate with 22 homers, 108 RBI, 112 runs, and 25 steals in 35 attempts.

Carlos is one of those rare players who has been able to put together power with speed, skill with enthusiasm, and an obvious love for the game. He is widely recognized as one of the brightest and most talented players to come into the game in years, fielding impres- sive performances both at the plate and on his centerfield beat. Carlos joins a distinguished group of only eight players in baseball history to begin a promising career by surpassing the 100 benchmark in both RBIs and runs. His distinguished colleagues in that group include such baseball greats as Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, and another great Kansas City Royal, Fred Lynn, the last outstanding fresh- man to win the award in 1975. Carlos be- comes the third Kansas City Royal to win the Rookie of the Year, joining Lou Pinella in 1969 and Bob Hamelin in 1994.

Carlos has another, even more important reason to celebrate, and further cause for con- gratulation. Carlos was recently married, and is presently enjoying his honeymoon in the Caribbean with his new bride, Jessica.

At a young 22 years of age, Carlos has begun an auspicious career both on the base- ball diamond and as a cherished member of his new and adopted community. Kansas City has warmly welcomed Carlos and encouraged him on his personal and professional quest for excellence. As a fellow Kansas Citian and longtime fan of the Kansas City Royals, I thank Carlos for all his contributions to our team, our city, and to the people of Kan- sas City.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratu- lating Carlos on his marriage, and saluting the 1999 American League Rookie of the Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

HON. TONY P. HALL
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as we ap- proach the new millennium, our focus has been, more or less, with Y2K issues rather than the fact that, for Christians around the world, it represents the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus.

To those and many others, the new millen- nium provides a rare opportunity for new begin-nings and renewed hope which will chal- lenge all people of goodwill to reddenate themselves to the principles of justice, mercy, forgiveness and peace—precepts made more fundamental by the conflict, turmoil and suf- fering sadly evident in the lands of the Bible and throughout the world.

In this spirit, church families of the Middle East, both ancient and modern, are inviting peace-loving people to join them in celebrating this opportunity and this anniversary com- memoration. Sponsored by the Holy Land Trust, part of the commemoration will be a his- toric reenactment of the Journey of the Magi, the original pilgrimage of the three wise men over 1,000 miles to Bethlehem to witness and honor the birth of Jesus.

This historic undertaking will have pilgrims from many nations traveling for 99 days by foot, horse and camel along ancient caravan routes through six countries that make up the holy lands of the Bible, commencing in mid-September of next year and ending on De- cember 25th in Bethlehem.

Like the three wise men who brought offer- ings of peace to Bethlehem, the participants in the Journey of the Magi 2000 will also bear modern day offerings. During each day of the 99 days of the trip, humanitarian assistance will be given to the needy people of the coun- try through which the travelers pass.

This pilgrimage of peace is being coordi- nated by the Holy Land Trust and the Middle East Council of Churches, as an expression of the deep-seated desire of church families of the Middle East to seek peace and peace- makers. We appreciate the spirit and purpose of this event, as well as the incredible chal- lenge it represents, and believe it deserves our support.

We trust that all people of goodwill will en- courage and support the Journey of the Magi 2000 and other efforts to relieve suffering and promote peace as a fitting entry into the new millennium.

HONORING BOWLING GREEN MAYOR WES HOFFMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional elder statesman in my...