

from me and my community, as I learned so much from them. Perhaps the greatest thing I learned is how similar are our 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 re-handling 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 pet projects never approved by Congress. In fact, some of these projects were specifically forbidden. Money was spent on "International Affairs, the Peoples Republic of China," "International Affairs, NAFTA," and other mysterious items unrelated to conservation. When the committee asked, Assistant Interior Secretary Donald Barry, and Director of Fish and Wildlife Service Jamie Clark could not provide

an explanation on how this money was helping with conservation and wildlife management in the United States.

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 several million dollars within 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.

TRIBUTE TO LORRAINE CLAIR

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lorraine Clair, of Delta, OH. Lorraine passed from this life on October 12, 1999. Lorraine had been an elected official in Fulton County, Ohio since 1983, serving first on the village council, then as Vice Mayor, and was elected Mayor beginning in 1986 through her retirement in 1998.

Lorraine Clair graduated from Liberty Center High School in 1959, went on to study cosmetology at the Toledo Academy of Beauty Culture, and worked as a beautician for many years, eventually leaving her profession to be a wife and mother. Tapped to run for Delta Village Council in 1983, Lorraine entered the political area, a career she clearly enjoyed. As her daughter noted, "After she was named Vice Mayor and then became the Mayor, she just ran from there." At many Fulton County events, Mayor Clair could be found trying to meet with everyone in the room, charming and gracious, chatting amiably or discussing farming, business, families, or issues of the day with ease.

Delta grew and prospered throughout Lorraine's tenure as Mayor. Under her administration a wastewater treatment plant was built, streets were resurfaced and rebuilt, three new housing subdivisions were built, and the village park was developed, including a new shelterhouse. She led the local effort to bring new industry to Delta, which now features two steel mills and the industries which contribute

to the mills. Before she had to retire due to declining health, Mayor Clair had begun planning for a new 50,000 gallon water tower. Lorraine's drive as Mayor was summed up by her successor who stated, "She cared quite a bit about the community and the overall quality of life. She was particularly concerned with youth activities and about things for our seniors to do." This summation is an honorable legacy for a woman who remained a lifelong resident of Fulton County, rising to lead one of its communities, and working with fellow elected officials to keep the county a viable community.

In addition to her public legacy, Lorraine Clair leaves an even greater personal one: her children Kirk, Michelle, and Melissa and six grandchildren. We express our heartfelt condolences to them, to her mother Rennetta, brothers Calvin and Tim, and sisters Lorrinda and Leann, and leave them with these words from poet Haydn Marshall, ". . . for every joy that passes something beautiful remains."

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BEN RICHMOND ON HIS SELECTION AS FEATURED ARTIST FOR THE STATE OF OHIO BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. 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 at 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 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

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 Décor 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 Richmond and his wife, Wendy, outstanding entrepreneurs, they are always more than willing to assist their community. Over the years, the Richmonds have graciously and unselfishly given to others. Through grants, 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 contributions to the world of art.

HONORING JOHN HIGHTOWER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

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 committeeman, as well as on the executive boards for Local 599 and Local 659. John also worked as chair of his Local's civil rights committee, working tirelessly to ensure that his fellow 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 African Americans who wished to join the business 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 Hightower

who organized rallies and marches to protest and ultimately eliminate these injustices. In later years, John furthered his business 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 families 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 colleagues 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

Thursday, November 18, 1999

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 impressive 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 freshman to win the award in 1975. Carlos becomes 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 congratulation. 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 baseball 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, to baseball, and to the people of Kansas City.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating 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

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as we approach 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 millennium provides a rare opportunity for new beginnings and renewed hope which will challenge all people of goodwill to rededicate themselves to the principles of justice, mercy, forgiveness and peace—precepts made more fundamental by the conflict, turmoil and suffering 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 commemoration. Sponsored by the Holy Land Trust, part of the commemoration will be a historic 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 December 25th in Bethlehem.

Like the three wise men who brought offerings 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 country through which the travelers pass.

This pilgrimage of peace is being coordinated 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 peacemakers. We appreciate the spirit and purpose of this event, as well as the incredible challenge it represents, and believe it deserves our support.

We trust that all people of goodwill will encourage 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

Thursday, November 18, 1999

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