

RANGER IN THE BANKHEAD  
NATIONAL FOREST RETIRING

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 14, 1999*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James Ramey, District Ranger, Bankhead National Forest, Bankhead Ranger District, National Forests in Alabama.

Mr. Ramey has worked 34 years caring for the land and serving the public. He started his journey while attending school at Oklahoma State University, earning a degree in forestry while working on the Ouachita National Forest, Poteau Ranger District in 1965 and will end this journey on June 3, 1999. He served three years in the U.S. Army, earned the rank of 1st Lieutenant and served one year in Vietnam.

In April 1986, Mr. Ramey began working on the Bankhead National Forest as the District Ranger. During this time period he achieved a number of important accomplishments such as the success of using \$700,000 provided by former Congressman Beville to build a horse trail, multiple-use trail and hiking trail. He helped to manage stream side management zone practices that led to the protection of mussels and other aquatic species; he was instrumental in the design and layout of Clear Creek and Corinth Recreation Areas and also in trying to help operate additional recreational facilities during a time of increased use and decreased budgets. In April 1991, his leadership efforts led to the Bankhead Ranger District being recognized by the Southern Region of the National Forest Service as the best unit within the southeast.

As someone who grew up around the forest, I know how much his efforts have been appreciated and how he will be missed by everyone who cares about the Bankhead National Forest. I extend to Mr. Ramey, his wife Zondra, and his family best wishes for a job well done and hope he will have many years ahead to enjoy a well deserved retirement.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 14, 1999*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, this week America is celebrating the work of some of our finest citizens. This is National Hospital Week and I would like to express my gratitude to those whose daily job it is to save lives.

Seventy-seven years ago, National Hospital Week began as a way to honor our hospitals and the dedicated staff who save lives and keep our hospitals functioning. This week we extend our gratitude and thanks to the thousands of Americans nationwide whose job it is to care.

America's hospitals and their staffs work tirelessly to serve the communities in which they are based. Many of these dedicated men and women are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, caring for one and all.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the many men and women of our nation's hospitals. Their devo-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

tion is what keeps America strong and healthy.

IN MEMORIAM OF JOSEPH F.  
SMITH, FORMER MEMBER OF  
CONGRESS

**HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 14, 1999*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of loss that I rise today to inform the House of the passing of former Member of Congress Joseph Smith. The people of Philadelphia will sorely miss this great statesman who understood and related to his fellow citizens so well.

Born and raised in St. Anne's Parish, Philadelphia, Joe Smith remained supremely dedicated to serving his constituents; he was a man devoted to his roots. He started his career of service to this Nation as a sergeant in the United States Army, receiving a Purple Heart for his actions during World War II, and then as an assistant to U.S. Congressman James A. Byrne of Pennsylvania. He eventually served in the Pennsylvania State Senate from 1970 to 1981, and was elected to the Ninety-seventh Congress in 1981. Joe also worked at the forefront of the Democratic party as the Democratic City chairman in Philadelphia from 1983 to 1986.

Throughout his career the people of Philadelphia looked to him for leadership, and he immersed himself in understanding their needs. Joe understood that public service is most effective when one understands and closely reflects the convictions and beliefs of one's constituents. No matter what body he was serving in, his heart was always with Fishtown and the people who resided in its communities. After his retirement, Joe could still be found sharing wisdom and insight from his stoop to those who sought advice and kinship.

I am deeply saddened at the loss of an outstanding legislator, a great human being, and a distinguished American. My deepest sympathies are extended to his wife Regina, his daughter Gi and her family. He left a special mark on me, and I deeply mourn his passing. Joe will be profoundly missed.

THE WORKING UNINSURED TAX  
EQUITY ACT

**HON. JAMES E. ROGAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 14, 1999*

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of important legislation my colleague Congressman JIM McDERMOTT and I introduced today, the Working Uninsured Tax Equity Act. Many of the estimated 43 million Americans without health insurance are employed. The current Tax Code, however, discriminates against those workers if they choose to buy health insurance on their own.

Currently, employees with employer-sponsored health benefits enjoy those benefits tax

free. This simple, straightforward proposal seeks to equalize the tax treatment between workers whose employer covers the cost of health care insurance premiums and those workers who must pay for their health insurance entirely from their own paychecks. The Tax Code should not punish these employees because their employer does not offer health benefits.

Our bill provides those workers paying for the entire cost of their health insurance a 30-percent partially refundable income tax credit to help defray the cost of those insurance premiums. The 30-percent credit approximately equals the tax benefit enjoyed by workers with employer-provided tax benefits. The credit would be available to individuals with incomes to \$30,000 and married couples, filing jointly with incomes to \$50,000.

Our bill will not solve the crisis associated with the number of Americans who do not have health insurance. It does, however, provide a starting point for liberals and conservatives, state governments, insurance companies, and others to begin addressing health policy issues relating to uninsured Americans.

I encourage our colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join us in supporting the Working Uninsured Tax Equity Act.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1555) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise to strike the last word. I rise in support of the gentlewoman of California's amendment to H.R. 1555. This Amendment prohibits the CIA and other intelligence agencies from participating in the manufacture, purchase, sale, transport, or distribution of illegal drugs. Let us not forget the history of the CIA and the suggestion that they have been involved in this behavior in the past. We must take action to rid the CIA and other intelligence agencies of any suggestion or taint of wrong doing and address the primary issue of drugs in America.

Drugs, in America, take a huge toll year in and year out. They move like a thief in the night and steal our children, our fathers, our mothers, and destroy families and lives. This problem plays itself out every day in my Congressional District. I walk the streets of Chicago's Westside and see the devastation and destruction that drugs leave in their wake. I see children with no parents and parents who mourn the loss of their children, all too soon, and no one can forget a visit to Cook County Hospital and seeing the torturous pain of seeing a baby born addicted to drugs. With these