

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2000 "SPIRIT OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" WINNERS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of my 2000 Spirit of Achievement Award program. In 1982, when the current citizens of the 3rd District of Illinois elected me to represent them in the United States Congress, I introduced this very successful program. Since then, every middle school in the 23rd Ward of Chicago annually selects a graduating 8th grade boy and girl who they feel represents overall outstanding academic achievement, community service and extracurricular activities. Today, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the hard work of 28 young achievers and future leaders from the 23rd Ward of Chicago.

St. Jane De Chantal School: Nora Krause and Christopher Paluch; Our Lady of Snows School: Amanda Hartman and Jeffrey Mikula; St. Camillus School: Amanda Kurmpel and Kevin Jasionowski; St. Bruno School: David Sz wajnos; St. Rene Elementary School: Anthony Garcia and Catherine O'Connell; St. Daniel the Prophet School: Deanna Maida and Paul Bruton; and St. Richards School: Monika Dlugopolski and Christopher Dyrdak.

Gloria Dei School: Faith Krasowski and Jeremiah Jurevis; Hale Elementary School: Emily Fisher and Xavier Hernandez; Peck Elementary School: Maribel Pantoja and Anthony Naranjo; Dore Elementary School: Robert Bradel and Jennifer Collins; Kinzie Elementary School: Victoria Okrzesik and Patrick Forbes; Byrne Elementary School: Jennifer Turner and Ryan Nabor; and Twain Elementary School: Sebastian Gawenda.

TAKE YOUR KIDS TO VOTE DAY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a piece of legislation that will designate November 7, 2000 as National Take Your Kids to Vote Day.

Since 1972, voter participation in national elections has dropped dramatically. In 1972, nearly two-thirds of eligible adults cast their ballots. In 1996, the last Presidential election, less than half of all eligible voters (43 percent) exercised their right to vote. Even more disturbing, however, is the drop-off in voter participation rates among younger adults, ages 18-24. Since the 1972 election there has been nearly a 20-percentage point decline, with only 32 percent going to the polls in 1996.

If we are going to turn this trend around, we have to start with our children. Parents need to talk to their children about the importance of voting. In fact, parents, if they have the opportunity, should take their children to the polls on Election Day.

Studies indicate that young people whose parents vote in every election are twice as likely to vote as those whose parents vote infrequently or not at all. And it's even more important for parents to talk to their children about the value of voting and democracy. Children whose parents talk to them about government and politics are far more likely to vote when they become adults. Kids Voting USA, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has been working to involve youth in the election process for nearly a decade now says that "Taking your child to the polls is one of the most important things you can do as a citizen and parent."

This is something that all of us—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—should agree upon. Democracy is too important to waste. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and help make voting a family tradition.

SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 3676, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act.

Congress has an opportunity to enact legislation which was originated by the constituents of California's 44th Congressional District. When these residents came to see me and suggested that I introduce legislation to designate our local mountains a National Monument, I decided it was an idea worth pursuing.

For years, my family has enjoyed these scenic wonders and recreational opportunities that are abundant in this remarkable range. I have often hiked the canyons and hills above our home in Palm Springs, sharing with my children, Chianna and Chesare, the beauty of an ecosystem that continues to thrive despite its close proximity to a highly urbanized community. I have developed a profound respect for the people who, over the past century, have served as stewards of these lands. They have done a remarkable job in balancing the preservation of these mountains with the inevitable development that has occurred in Southern California.

It is appropriate that we also recall the original caretakers of this land, the Cahuilla people. For centuries, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians made the canyons and hills above Palm Springs their home. And the Cahuilla people roamed throughout the desert and mountains of this entire region living in harmony with this unique environment. Their culture and heritage is an integral part of the history of this region. And even today, the Indian Canyons near Palm Springs offer a welcome respite from the hectic pace of the urban areas of the Coachella Valley.

One of the tangible benefits that will be derived from this Monument designation is the preservation of tribal lands and historic arti-

facts. The Agua Caliente Tribe has been a partner in this process from the start, and I want to thank the Tribal Council and all the Cahuilla people for their support of this legislation.

In crafting this bill, I was confronted with a challenge to balance traditional uses and private property rights that the people of the region enjoy with the need to preserve these mountain vistas.

The intention of H.R. 3676 is not to diminish the decisionmaking authority of Local Government (City, County, Water District, School District, etc.) over land use decisions on private property located next to or inside the boundary of the proposed Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument.

The bill provides that "nothing in the legislation shall be construed as affecting any private property rights within the boundaries of the National Monument". Therefore, if a local City or County has a General Plan designation on property within the Monument boundary, for urban land uses such as hotel, resort, golf course or residential uses, then the legislative intent of Local Government shall not be changed, modified or impeded solely by this Federal Law.

H.R. 3676 has eliminated the concept of buffer zones or protective perimeters around the boundary of the proposed National Monument. This elimination of buffer zones is designed to protect private lands located both on the outside and inside of Monument boundaries. The intent is to protect private land nearby and within the boundary from any form of Federal Monument regulation by this Congress or the Federal Administration. The right to use private land by private land owners is paramount in H.R. 3676.

This bill's intent would not allow any federal administrative agency the existence of this proposed Monument to exact mitigation, money or other land use restrictions on private lands, directly or indirectly. The regulation of land use and authority over private lands inside or near to the Monument boundaries is solely vested in Local Government and is totally outside the purview of this bill.

In addition, I would like to emphasize that no existing Federal law or Federal Agency governing air quality, water quality or any other regulated resource shall seek to regulate or affect local land use control over private land near to or inside the Monument with any reference to a negative impact on this proposed National Monument by virtue of impacts on the above mentioned regulated resources.

So, we returned to the fundamental concept of how our system of government should work. I went directly to the people of the 44th district and sought their participation and input on how best to draft legislation that would reflect their commitment to both environmental preservation and private property rights protection. The result of their efforts is contained in the bill before you today.

Mr. Speaker, the best way our constituents can be heard on matters such as these is if Congress, not the Administration, takes this action. With all due respect to those who serve in Washington, the people who live in this area know better than any federal worker how to resolve these issues. Therefore, it was encouraging that early on, the Secretary of the