

considered a treasure to all that are fortunate enough to meet her," Ms. Tenbroeck said. "Her kindness and compassion have caused all of her employees to consider her family and she will be missed terribly."

Mrs. Gilstrap has touched so many lives during her lifetime of service. One such person is Alida Langley, who views Mrs. Gilstrap as a role model. "From the time the Governor appointed Ms. Gilstrap to office, she has been professional, respected and appreciated by all," Mrs. Langley said. "She is the ideal woman." Norine Gilstrap is the epitome of grace and goodness.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Norine S. Gilstrap, a woman who stands for excellence, integrity and honor. We are all so grateful for her devoted service to Citrus County.

REMEMBERING BROTHER JAMES
L. ROMOND

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to remember Brother James L. Romond, who passed away at the age of 56 on October 9, 2000. Brother James dedicated his entire life to educating and guiding America's youth. He served as Principal at La Salle Institute in Upstate New York since 1982.

Brother James was born on September 9, 1944 in Queens, New York and graduated from St. Joseph's Juniorate High School in Barrytown, New York in 1962. He entered the Brothers of the Christian Schools in 1963 and began a life long career of helping others. Brother James earned a bachelors degree in education from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. in 1967. He received his masters degree from Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York in 1971 and Certification in School Administration and Supervision from Fordham University in 1973.

Brother James believed that every child could achieve and provided the spark required to ignite their creativity, imagination and interest. He was known for teaching his students the value of community service, especially for the poor and needy. Annually from 1991-98, under the leadership of Brother James, La Salle's students contributed more food to an Upstate New York food drive than any other local school. Additionally, he brought the La Salle students together during Christmas for the annual Toy Drive in which they donated over 500 toys each year for the past 15 years. Brother James cared deeply for the disadvantaged and took steps to help them whenever he could.

Brother James was a friend and role model to thousands of youngsters. His presence will be missed in the halls, at the bus stop, and at the school's sporting events. You see, Mr. Speaker, Brother James made it a point to go out to the buses at the end of each school day to give students a few encouraging words and ensure they were safely on their way home. He cheered his students' accomplishments at every sporting event held at the campus. He

arrived in his office by 6:00 am each day—ready to guide students through the days activities. Most importantly, he always made himself available to his students—twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. He created a friendly, kind, and compassionate atmosphere in which students could learn and grow.

La Salle Institute in Troy, New York was twice selected as a National School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education during his tenure as principal for grades 6 through 12. Brother James previously served in several capacities at the Good Shepherd School in New York City. He taught grades 6 through 8, served as assistant principal, and fulfilled the role of principal for grades 5 through 8. He was an extraordinary educator who touched his student's hearts and minds and allowed them to believe in themselves.

Brother James was also a major force in the planning and development of several major construction projects at La Salle. His innovative planning made it possible for the school to add on a new wing of classrooms, a state-of-the-art library and fully equipped computer room. He also laid the groundwork for construction of a new gymnasium, cafeteria, and modern kitchen facility. Brother James was particularly excited about the plans for the kitchen. He enjoyed cooking very much, and prepared meals at all the senior picnics and faculty and staff occasions. I am sure his students will fondly remember his skills in the kitchen whenever they dine in the new facility.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the significant contributions of Brother James L. Romond. Brother James' dedication to religion and education were admirable, as was his desire to see his students succeed. He was a confidante to many young people and will be remembered as an educational icon whose life mission was to instill moral values and a sense of faith in students.

HONORING THE LATE DR. ALICE
SMOTHERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a daughter of Texas, Dr. Alice Smothers. She passed away on Saturday, October 14, 2000, at the age of 104.

The state of Texas, the nation and the world have lost not only a good friend for those in need, but also an outstanding educator and leader. Dr. Smothers, a well-known pioneer to many, provided a place in this world for orphaned Black children. Alongside her husband, the late J.W. Smothers, she founded St. Paul Industrial Training School. Like Dr. Smothers, the school served countless young Texans in providing training in the agricultural, industrial and technical arts for over 60 years throughout the Henderson County community. Dr. Smothers' vision and leadership allowed the St. Paul Industrial Training School to become an entity that awarded educational scholarships to needy college-bound students.

To this day, the scholarship program of the St. Paul Industrial Training School has assisted over 530 students to help them realize their dreams of pursuing a college education.

I am deeply saddened that Texas, the nation and the world have lost such an exceptional and tireless trailblazer of the educational community like Dr. Smothers. I ask the House to join me in remembrance of Dr. Alice Smothers—a true champion for men, women and children everywhere.

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAMS
IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CEN-
TENNIAL ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I supported this bill when the House first considered it, but I did have some concerns about it.

Now, as it comes back to us from the Senate, it is considerably improved and I will support it without the same reservations.

The bill was prompted by the Resources Committee's oversight of the implementation of several important programs under which the federal government assists the state wildlife agencies.

As a result of our committee's review, it became clear that we should revisit the underlying statutes. At the same time, though, it's clear that some of the charges about the actions of the current Administration were exaggerated and that some of the people making those charges failed to point out similar actions that occurred during prior Administrations.

The programs of assistance to state wildlife agencies addressed by this bill are very valuable for Colorado and many other states. And I certainly agree with the bill's sponsors that it would be good to tighten the current law that allows the Interior Department an unusually large degree of discretion in the administration of these programs. However, as originally passed by the House, I was concerned that the bill went overboard in responding to the ways the Interior Department has used that discretion.

I certainly understand the purpose of limiting the amount of money that can be spent on administration, because obviously what's spent that way won't be available for the substantive purposes of the programs. But we need to recognize that administration is necessary, and adequate administration is essential to avoid the risk of misuse of taxpayer funds, either by the Department of the Interior or by other parties.

The Senate amendments would authorize more realistic funding levels for administration, and would allow some additional flexibility for unexpected administrative costs. I think those are definite improvements, and so are some other changes that reduce the extent to which the bill imposes micro-management requirements. Accountability is essential, but excessive paperwork for its own sake can eat up resources that could be put to more productive purposes.