

attends in-station training on a regular basis. During the pilot Fire Fighter I & II certification class, Fire Fighter Brilliant not only served as an instructor, but was also responsible for arranging volunteer coverage for career on-duty instructors. She continues in this role with our current certification class. Additionally, Fire Fighter Brilliant serves as a contributing member of the Department's Quality Council and the Training Committee.

Valor Award: Bruce Suslowitz: Fire Medic Suslowitz is being honored today with an Honorable Mention of Valor for his life-saving actions at the three-alarm fire at 3939 Persimmon Drive on January 7, 2000. As a member of the first-arriving unit on the scene, and after giving the appropriate situation report, Fire Medic Suslowitz approached the building to ensure all tenants were exiting safely. Upon opening the stairway door, Fire Medic Suslowitz heard someone yelling for assistance. Without regard for his own safety, Fire Medic Suslowitz rapidly ascended three floors to find an 80-year-old wheelchair-bound man being assisted by his 17-year-old neighbor. Ultimately, without the assistance of anyone, Fire Medic Suslowitz valiantly rescued the gentleman from the smoke-filled building, who was then treated and taken to the hospital for smoke inhalation.

Police Officer of the Year: Detective Michael D. Boone: Detective Michael Boone is being honored today for his consistently high level of dedication in the performance of his law enforcement duties. An example of his dedication to upholding the law was demonstrated on a peeping-Tom case involving a sexual offender with prior convictions of burglary, rape, and abduction. Over the course of several months, Detective Boone's initiative and excellent investigative techniques triggered a probation violation hearing. As a result, the judge imposed the entirety of a 10-year sentence in the State Penitentiary on the probation violation. Detective Boone's actions successfully removed a violent sex offender from the community.

Life Saving Award: Officer Craig M. Buckley and Officer Martin Nachtman: On July 7, 1999, Officer Nachtman responded to a call in the Fairfax Circle area for an individual panhandling and bothering customers of a business. When he arrived on scene, the individual was not at the building. Upon checking the area for the individual, he was found behind the building. The man, using the belt, had hanged himself from a handrail on the steps to the rear of the building. Officer Buckley then arrived on the scene. The officers immediately lifted the man and removed the belt from around his neck. The individual was non-responsive and not breathing. At this point the officers began to administer CPR to the subject. Their efforts were successful in restoring the man's breathing. City of Fairfax Fire and Rescue units arrived and continued to care for this individual and transported him to the hospital. He was originally listed in critical condition, but has since improved and is expected to make a full recovery.

Several factors stand out in the performance of these officers: the quick response to a seemingly minor call; the diligence in checking for the subject when he was not present at the location; and finally, the teamwork and life-

saving action that each of them took. These fine police officers should be commended for the exemplary role they played in saving a man's life.

Due to the dedicated efforts of public service providers, like Technician Jim Jeckell, Fire Fighter Hana Brilliant, Fire Medic Bruce Suslowitz, Detective Michael Boone, Officer Martin Nachtman, and Officer Craig Buckley, who place the safety and well-being of others above their own, the city of Fairfax is a better place to live. They have rightfully earned the highest appreciation and respect from myself, the members of the Fairfax Central Chamber of Commerce, and from all the people of our community whose lives they have touched. I know my colleagues will join me in thanking these heroes for a job well done.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 1749

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the benefit of the Members a copy of the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office for H.R. 1749, a bill to designate Wilson Creek in Avery and Caldwell Counties, North Carolina, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

U.S. CONGRESS,

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,

Washington, DC, February 29, 2000.

HON. DON YOUNG,

Chairman, Committee on Resources,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1749, a bill to designate Wilson Creek in Avery and Caldwell counties, North Carolina, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis.

Sincerely,

DAN L. CRIPPEN,

Director.

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST
ESTIMATE—H.R. 1749

H.R. 1749 would designate a 23-mile segment of Wilson Creek in North Carolina as a component of the Wild and Scenic River System, to be administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Based on information provided by the Forest Service, administering the Wilson Creek segment would have no significant impact on federal spending. The river segment would remain undeveloped.

Because H.R. 1749 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

A CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF
CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONER,
DR. OSCAR ELIAS BISSET

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, a great Cuban patriot, the physician Oscar Elias Biscet, has been sentenced to 3 years in prison by the Cuban dictatorship for peacefully demanding free elections and human rights for the Cuban people.

Dr. Biscet forms part of a new generation of leadership that has risen in the Cuban pro-democracy movement and that will play a key role in the free and democratic Cuba that is near.

Dr. Biscet's imprisonment must be condemned and his immediate and unconditional release demanded by all freedom-loving people.

A number of us here in Congress have written the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights, urging that she add her voice to the call for Dr. Biscet's immediate release. We will not cease our efforts until he and all of the other Cuban political prisoners are free.

I hereby submit for the record, Mr. Speaker, the letter sent by 13 Members of this House to U.N. High Commissioner Robinson, as well as a translation of a letter by Dr. Biscet that was written on a handkerchief and secretly taken out of Dr. Biscet's prison cell approximately 6 weeks ago. The letter was delivered to Cuban independent journalist Angel Pablo Polanco, who revealed its contents via telephone.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, February 25, 2000.

Ms. MARY ROBINSON,

Office of High Commissioner For Human Rights,
United Nations Headquarters, New York,
NY.

DEAR Ms. ROBINSON: This is to request your urgent assistance on behalf of the Cuban human rights activist Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, who is scheduled to stand trial on February 25th, 2000 at the Municipal Tribunal "10 de Octubre" in Havana, Cuba. The Cuban dictatorship apparently plans years of incarceration for Dr. Biscet for so called crimes of "dishonoring national symbols", "public disorder" and "inciting delinquent behavior".

On October 28, 1999 Dr. Biscet held a press conference, prior to the Ibero-American Summit held in Havana in early November. During the press conference, Dr. Biscet along with other members of the peaceful opposition movement announced a march calling for the release of all political prisoners and respect of human rights for the Cuban people. During the press conference two Cuban flags were displayed in an inverted position as a sign of protest for the countless human rights violations that occur on the island. Subsequently, on November 3, 1999, Dr. Biscet was detained and taken to "Cien y Aldabo", where he was placed in a damp cell without sunlight with three common criminals.

Dr. Biscet represents the noblest of aspirations of democracy in Cuba. His efforts as the founder of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, a humanitarian organization which promotes the respect for human rights