

that spurred her election as the first woman, in the district's 60-year history, to chair the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board, serving from 1989 to 1993.

MWD imports water from the Colorado River and northern California, to supplement the local supplies within southern California, and provides it safely and reliably to the public. Western Municipal Water District is one of the 27 member agencies to make up MWD and provides water, waste water disposal and water resources management to the communities within a 510 square mile area of western Riverside County.

In addition to her work on the MWD's Board of Directors, Lois also served as the first woman president of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), a California statewide association of 435 public water agencies responsible for the delivery of most of the water in the state. In that capacity, Krieger considers Water for All Californians, the governing policy of ACWA, as her chief accomplishment while President. Additionally, Lois has served as: a member on boards of directors of the Water Education Foundation, the California Water Resources Association, the Colorado River Resources Coalition; a western delegate to the municipal caucus of the National Water Resources Association; and a member of the University of California at Riverside Chancellor's agricultural advisory council and Women's Hall of Fame.

Lois Krieger's leadership has led to numerous awards and recognitions. The highlights include: the Los Angeles YWCA's Silver Achievement Award for public service in 1990; the Riverside YMCA's Women in Achievement Award for public and community service in 1990; and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Citizen Award for her commitment to the needs of the water community in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, Lois' work to preserve and strengthen southern California's water resources has been critical to the future viability of our communities, region and state. I know that all of the Inland Empire is grateful for her contributions to the betterment of the community and salute Lois as she retires from the Municipal Water District's Board of Directors. I look forward to continuing to work with her for the good of the Inland Empire and southern California in the future.

HONORING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

America is a country of many faces and we take pride in our nation's diversity. America is known as the "great melting pot" because it has welcomed many people from all over the world to share in living the American dream. Unfortunately, reality is often different than the dream for many Americans.

The reality has often been ugly. Segregation was a blight on our nation that deprived millions of people equality in this country and

was often used as a tool to oppress people and keep them from living up to their full potential. The system kept many people in the shackles of poverty. America needed a bold leader who, despite hardships and violent attacks, would continue to fight for justice.

In 1955 frustration at the system of segregation boiled over in Montgomery, Alabama when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white passenger. She was consequently arrested. Her act sparked a citywide boycott of the bus system by African-Americans that lasted more than a year. The boycott elevated an unknown clergyman named Martin Luther King, Jr., to national prominence and resulted in the end to segregation on city buses. Dr. King continued to promote peaceful protest and inspired a generation of Americans to work to end segregation and to fight for equality. His dedication to the cause of ending a broken system and bringing America's reality closer to the dream won him the Nobel Peace Prize and empowered many Americans.

But his work is not done. Barriers to racial equality must still be torn down and many hearts still need to be healed. We cannot let Martin Luther King's work go unfinished; we have not reached the mountaintop yet. Even today, ethnic minorities, women, gays and lesbians, the disabled and others are often treated as if they are second class citizens. This must not stand. There is no reason why our nation, which prides itself in being the home of the free, should continue to treat people unequally. It is time to make the dream fully real. We must challenge ourselves to reach across divides and embrace and celebrate our nation's diversity. We as a country and as a people will be stronger because of it.

CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE PAYS TRIBUTE TO WOMEN FROM UGANDA AND THE UNITED STATES AS THEY GATHER TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE "CALLING THE CIRCLE FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM"

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of extraordinary women leaders from Uganda, who, as part of a globally-focused program entitled CALLING THE CIRCLE, are currently on a 12-day visit to the great state of California.

These women leaders, who come from various regions of Uganda, represent two of the largest Ugandan NGOs that are focused on women's issues and leadership building: Action for Women in Development (or ACFODE) and the Forum for Women in Democracy (or FOWODE). In collaboration with ACFODE and FOWODE and other community organizations in Uganda, the Women's Intercultural Network, a Northern California-based NGO, is CALLING THE CIRCLE between women of Uganda and the U.S. to strengthen democratic values throughout civil society. The goal of this collaboration is to develop mechanisms and mod-

els for joint advocacy, leadership development, and democracy building across cultural and digital divides. Their vision is to build a "virtual grassroots network" between Ugandan and U.S. women for on-going discussion, information exchange, and worldwide collaboration.

There are already some important highlights from this trip, not the least of which was a welcome tea that was hosted by the Japanese Consul-General at his official residence. At this truly multi-cultural and international gathering, the women from Uganda were able to meet and talk with Japanese and Japanese-American women who represented a wide range of organizations, professions, and experiences. Consul-General Tanaka, gave a gracious welcome to the women and expressed his country's commitment and interest in the continent of Africa. Along with Mr. Tanaka's welcome, Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr., of San Francisco, proclaimed Sunday, January 21 as "Uganda Women's Day" in the city and county of San Francisco.

Furthermore, while here in the United States, the Uganda women will join their American sisters at issue forums, roundtable meetings and social gatherings to discuss and deliberate on issues that impact women across the globe. Some of these topics included health, mentoring women for leadership, democracy building, as well as economic and environmental justice.

In closing Mr. Speaker, let me say how proud I am that one of the Bay Area's own NGOs, the Women's Intercultural Network, has been the force behind this global effort to link grassroots women leaders and organizations across digital and cultural divides. We often think of the Bay Area and Silicon Valley as the world's leader in producing technology, but now we must also recognize that the Bay Area is playing an important role in producing the next generation of women leaders throughout the world.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLISH AMERICAN RADIO PROGRAM OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize an important milestone honoring a valuable service to the Polish American community in Philadelphia, PA and its surrounding region. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Polish American Radio Program of the Philadelphia area. This radio broadcast has served as an invaluable communication tool for the Polish American community. It serves as an important medium in which to share common views and ethnic pride.

The first broadcast took place in April 1925 on Broad Street in Philadelphia on 860 AM Radio. Since that time there have been many daily and weekly hosts of the program who offered various types of entertainment to Polonia. Many in Philadelphia remember the long time daily radio program host Theodore

Przybyla, who passed away in 1982 at the time martial law was imposed in Poland and the Solidarity Union was crushed.

Following Mr. Przybyla's death, Michael Blichasz and Barbara Ilnicka worked tirelessly with radio management at WTEL 860 AM Radio to maintain the daily radio program. They gathered the support and hard work of the Polish religious community, the Polish American organizations, fraternal organizations, veterans groups, local businesses and individual supporters who recognized the valuable service provided to the Polish American community. After 72 years of programming at WTEL 860 AM, a programming change shifted broadcast of the Polish American Radio program to its current home on station WNWR 1540 AM, where it proudly serves as the only Polish American broadcast program heard 7 days a week.

The program can also be heard live over the Internet during regular broadcast times at www.WNWR.COM.

Sustaining a radio program for 75 years is a wonderful achievement marked by strong dedication to purpose. Longtime hosts Michael Blichasz and Barbara Ilnicka, are to be commended for their expertise in hosting a radio program that fulfills its mission to inform, unite, entertain and present news and information about activities taking place in the Polish American community and in Poland.

Mr. Speaker, as a Polish American, I too have felt personal pride in the struggles of Poles who have fought oppression and witnessed democracy return to their native land. For the thousands of Polish Americans who live in Philadelphia, this Polish American broadcast has been a wonderful resource to follow developments in the homeland and share in the ethnic pride of strong people who fought communism and won.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Polish American Radio Program of Philadelphia for its 75 years of outstanding service to the community.

LEGISLATION REGARDING THE DIRECTOR OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. Companion legislation is also being introduced today in the other body by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is the lead agency in providing health care to the more than 550 Indian tribes in the United States. Services ranging from facility construction to pediatrics assist approximately 1.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives each year. The IHS currently falls under the authority of the Public Health Service within the De-

partment of Health and Human Services (HHS). The IHS Director is the top administrative official charged with carrying out the federal trust responsibility for IHS, but he does not report to the HHS Secretary.

Designating the IHS Director as an Assistant Secretary of Indian Health would afford IHS a stronger advocacy function within HHS, and allow for increased representation during the budget process. Currently the ability of the IHS to affect budgetary policy is limited, in part by the Director's inability to directly participate in budget negotiations. It is also important to note that an Assistant Secretary leads the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) although the IHS budget exceeds that of BIA.

This legislation has the strong support of the American Indian and Alaska Native community. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN DENVER, OUTGOING PRESIDENT, PERRIS VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of the City of Perris is exceptional. The City of Perris has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. John Denver is one of these individuals.

On January 26, 2001, John Denver was honored as the outgoing 1999-2000 President of the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce. Most significantly, John's leadership over the past two years as President of the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce led to tremendous strides in reunifying the Chamber. Additionally, Mr. Denver put enumerable hours into the Perris community's re-development, Student of the Month and Wake Up Perris programs.

John Denver's dedication to promoting the businesses, schools and community organizations of the Perris Valley make me proud to call him a community member and fellow American. I know that all of Perris Valley are grateful for his contribution to the betterment of the community and salute him as he departs the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce after two years of service. I look forward to continuing to work with him for the good of our community in the future.

REVIEW BY CONGRESS OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF COURT FACILITIES, H.R. 254

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide for the review by

Congress of proposed construction of court facilities.

I am introducing this measure in response to my frustrating experience with a proposed Federal courthouse project for Orange County, New York.

In April of this year, the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit voted to rescind its prior 1992 approval for construction of a Federal courthouse in Orange County, New York.

This project began in 1991, when then chief judge of the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York, the Honorable Charles L. Brient, requested the Board of Judges to study future planning for court facilities west of the Hudson River. Subsequently, in June 1992, the Board of Judges of the Southern District found that there was a need for a courthouse to meet the growing demands in the mid-Hudson valley region of New York, and voted unanimously to authorize the chief judge to apply to the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit for approval of a Federal district courthouse west of the Hudson.

Following approval of the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit on July 28, 1992, the matter was referred to the Court Administration and Case Management Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. The committee reported favorably and voted unanimously in a March 1993 session of the Judicial Conference of the United States to "seek legislation on the court's behalf to amend title 28 of the U.S. Code, section 112(B) to establish a place for holding court in the Middletown/Walkkill Area of Orange County or such nearby location as may be deemed appropriate."

Accordingly, during the 104th Congress, Public Law 104-317 was approved designating that "Court for the Southern District shall be held at New York, White Plains, and in Middletown-Walkkill area of Orange County or such nearby location as may be appropriate."

In an attempt to proceed forward in an expeditious manner the Administrative Office of the Courts and the U.S. General Services Administration, both concurring with the need for a courthouse in Orange County, determined that a facility could and should be constructed and paid through GSA's current funding.

This project had and still has clear evidence denoting the growth population and economic activity in Dutchess, Orange, and Sullivan Counties in New York State, as well as steady increases in caseload from the Mid-Hudson Valley Region. In fact, current statistics suggests that the need is even greater now than previously ascertained by Congress in 1996. The number of cases in 1999 that could have gone to an Orange County Courthouse, based on the location of the litigants or the attorney's residence, increased to 312, up from 290 in 1996. Moreover, the population for the region has increased to 671,767, up from 656,740 in 1996 and the total labor force has risen to 309,100, up from 301,800 in 1996.

Furthermore, it should be noted that while Congress may have acquiesced in the closure of some courthouses which have become redundant, based on considerations of economy and efficiency, I know of no situation where a court has refused to provide judicial services at a location designated by statute, where