

raised nearly \$350,000 for the organizations. For the past six years, the Kansas City Securities Association, Inc. Educational Endowment Fund has given four-year scholarships to graduating high school students in honor of Negro Leagues players, one in honor of Buck O'Neil. He participates in the Negro Leagues Museum's "Night of the Harvest Moon" program on Halloween night. It provides area children a safe alternative from the traditional to door to door trick or treating. More than 14,000 children have participated in the event over the past four years.

Buck has risen to national prominence with his moving narration of the Negro Leagues as part of Ken Burns' PBS baseball documentary. Since then he has been the source of countless national interviews including appearances on "Late Night with David Letterman," and "Late, Late Show with Tom Snyder." Last week he gave an interview to Jim Rome, who has a nationally syndicated sports radio program. Mr. Rome said he could have talked to Buck for the entire three hour show because Buck had such rich experiences to share about various baseball players, and baseball in general. He ended his comments by saying that Buck was one of the most interesting interviews he had ever had on his show.

Mr. Speaker, our hero finds ways to assist deserving organizations even in celebrating his birthday. While talking about baseball, Buck mentioned that his "birthday present" would be to raise ninety thousand dollars for the programs of the Negro Leagues. Starting almost immediately after his interview ended, the staff of the Negro Leagues Museum was inundated with calls and e-mails for nearly four hours.

On his 90th birthday, the City of Kansas City, Missouri named a street in his honor one block north of 18th and Vine, the area which houses the Negro Leagues Museum as well as the Jazz Hall of Fame. The street's new name is John "Buck" O'Neil Way. In honor of his 90th birthday on November 13, I requested a flag be flown from my Capitol office window. This was presented to him at a dinner ceremony in Kansas City, Missouri on November 14. At this ceremony he was recognized for his heroic and patriotic accomplishments by the President of the United States, the House and Senate, and local and state officials. I look forward to the day in the near future when the Baseball Hall of Fame Veterans Committee recognizes our hometown hero for his accomplishments on and off the baseball field and approve his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In addition to his work in Cooperstown and at the museum in Kansas City, Buck is finding new and exciting ways to enjoy life and spread his infectious charm and warm spirit. He is a local hero whose recognition for service is recognized at home and nationally. He was given the Trumpet Award in 1999 by the Turner Broadcasting System saluting him for achievements to African Americans. The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International conferred on Buck its "Paul Harris Fellow" in appreciation of ". . . furthering better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world." Kansas State University bestowed upon him the "Lifetime Leadership Award" in "recognition for leadership, commu-

nity involvement, commitment to diversity, and life long record of contribution to the public." Buck has received numerous awards in recognition of his work in the community and assistance to various organizations. Some of these awards are: recognition by the United States Army for "outstanding support of Army recruiting in Kansas City;" the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce honored him with its "Centurion Leadership Award;" he was accorded the "Distinguished Service Award" by the State Historical Society of Missouri; and on November 10, 2001 Buck was given the "Ewing Kauffman Outstanding Achievement Award" from the Jewish Community Center. As an award winning baseball player, esteemed baseball manager and scout, decorated veteran, and humanitarian, Buck exemplifies excellence in public service and his career serves as a beacon for generations to come. He symbolizes the spirit of American patriotism and is a role model for us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil. It is an honor and a privilege to join in the 90th birthday celebration of an American hero, a national treasure, a symbol of African American pride, and one of Kansas City's favorite sons. Buck's favorite song is "The Greatest Thing in All My Life, is Loving You." Buck, I love you, salute you and your heroic accomplishments, and am delighted and privileged to know such a patriot and to call you my friend, Thank you, Buck.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL WEEDEN FOR
29 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO
FEDERAL LANDS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Paul Weeden, the Deputy Forest Supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest in my district, who recently retired after 36 years of service in the National Parks and National Forests.

Like many of the dedicated employees who work for the agencies that manage and protect our national lands, Paul Weeden began his service as a seasonal employee. Beginning in 1965, he worked summers as a fishery biologist aide, park ranger and a fire prevention technician. He became a full-time forester for the Forest Service in 1977, serving for 10 years in Arizona and Northern California.

From 1987 to 1990, Mr. Weeden was assigned to the Fire and Aviation Management Staff in Washington, D.C., coordinating the Forest Service response to natural disasters in the United States, and serving as an advisor to other nations dealing with disaster when requested by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

He became Deputy Forest Supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest in 1990, and has helped make the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountain region one of the most successful urban use forests in the nation. Located within easy driving distance of the 8 million people who live in Southern California, the forest's campgrounds, hiking trails, ski resorts

and other recreation activities attract millions of visits each year. The forest is also home to thousands of constituents in my district, who see the Forest Service as their largest neighbor and in many cases their landlord.

Although the national forest has seen a number of dramatic wildfires in the past decade, the Forest Service under Mr. Weeden has helped limit the losses of property and wildlife habitat in each case. The agency has increasingly worked with local officials to provide maximum recreation opportunities while protecting the natural beauty that attracts the visitors. As manager of a 440-person agency with a \$24 million budget, Mr. Weeden has helped guide the forest into the 21st Century as a verdant oasis in one of the largest urban areas in the world.

Even as he watched over the San Bernardino National Forest, Mr. Weeden in 1998 coordinated American aid to Mexico in response to the worst wildland fire season in that nation's history. He has since provided guidance and leadership to Mexico's fire-fighting, detection and prevention programs, as well as helping in the restoration of important natural lands.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Weeden retired last month to take a job in the private sector, although he and his wife Barbara remain residents of Highland, California, in my district. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Weeden for his three decades of service, and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

BLOCKING AID TO HAITI

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Yet the U.S. government is blocking aid to Haiti in order to expand the influence of a single political party that is supported by less than four percent of the Haitian electorate.

Meanwhile, the people of Haiti are facing a serious humanitarian crisis. Haiti's per capita income is only \$460 per year. Four percent of the population is infected with the AIDS virus, and 163,000 children have been orphaned by AIDS. The infant mortality rate is over seven percent. For every 1000 infants born in Haiti, five women die in childbirth.

Not only has the U.S. suspended development assistance, the U.S. is also blocking loans from international financial institutions. U.S. policy has effectively prevented Haiti from receiving \$146 million in loans from the Inter-American Development Bank that were already approved by that institution's Board of Directors. These loans are desperately needed by the people of Haiti.

It is time for the United States to end this political impasse and restore bilateral and multilateral assistance to this impoverished democracy.