

November 28, 2001

CONGRATULATIONS TO SIX ALUMNI RECIPIENTS OF 2001 GEORGE ESTABROOK DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased to rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to the six alumni recipients of the 2001 George M. Estabrook Distinguished Service Award. These six individuals are receiving Hofstra University's most prestigious alumni award for all of their excellence in the categories of career and service to society.

Thomas J. McAteer, Honorable John Pessala, Edward P. Mangano, Mindy Dragovich, Lauren Hanley and Steven B. Aptheker all represent an extremely impressive group and truly deserve their award tonight, December 1, 2001 at the Hofstra Annual Alumni Award Dinner.

Congratulations again to this fine and outstanding group of candidates.

SAVE-A-FRIEND NATIONAL HOTLINE PROGRAM

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today concerning the Save-A-Friend national hotline program. The need for a national school violence hotline to help prevent tragedies in our nation's schools is extremely pressing. These senseless acts of violence against children must be stopped. While hotlines at the state and local level are useful, a national hotline must be implemented in order to better combat the problem of school violence.

I am pleased that the concept of Save-A-Friend has been supported by so many and I plan on making a request to the United States Department of Justice recommending a total of \$500,000 in grant funding for the study and preliminary design of a Save-A-Friend National Hotline Program. This hotline should be staffed by trained professionals, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and ensure timely interaction between schools, local police organizations, the FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies. My request will ask the Department of Justice to report back its plan and budget to implement such a program on a national basis next year. This report will be submitted before the Fiscal Year 2003 budget process.

TRIBUTE TO THE HILL VIEW TREE FARM

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share some exciting news from my district. I

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

am delighted to report that the official White House Christmas tree is coming from a farm in my district. Specifically, the White House Christmas tree has been chosen from the Hill View Tree Farm in Middlecreek, PA, which is owned and operated by Janice Bowersox and her son and daughter-in-law, Darryl and Aimee Bowersox.

In order to achieve the honor of being designated the farm to supply the White House Christmas trees, the Bowersox family entered the national Christmas Tree contest, an event sponsored by the National Christmas Tree Association. The Bowersox family won the contest at the national convention in August 2000, where they were named Grand Champions. As the winner, Hill View Tree Farm became the chosen supplier of two Christmas trees for the White House.

One tree will be set up in the Yellow Oval Room to serve as the tree for the Bush family. This is the tree under which members of the first family are likely to put their presents. This tree, from the Hill View Farm, is about 8 feet tall and has been growing in the field since 1989. The larger tree, which will be placed in the Blue Room, must be at least 18½ feet high. This larger tree will be the official White House Christmas tree. It is being supplied for Hill View Farm by Donald Craul of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

The two trees will be cut and delivered to the White House the week after Thanksgiving. Janice, Darryl and Aimee Bowersox will present the official White House Christmas tree to first lady Laura Bush at the White House on the morning of November 28.

Hill View Tree Farm was founded in 1954. The farm has about 150,000 Christmas trees growing on 120 acres. The Bowersox family grows Douglas fir, Colorado spruce, white pine, and concolor fir trees. According to Janice Bowersox, winning the White House Christmas tree contest has long been a family goal. Janice Bowersox said she and her family are honored to be presenting this year's tree and thrilled to have received the top honor in the Christmas tree industry.

I am delighted that a farm from my district was chosen to be a part of the White House Christmas tree tradition. I am happy for the Bowersox family, and I hope that the Christmas tree chosen for the White House will bring joy to the President and Mrs. Bush and their family.

THE TRANSPORTED AIR POLLUTION MITIGATION ACT OF 2001

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce "The Transported Air Pollution Mitigation Act of 2001." This bill holds upwind air districts responsible to neighboring downwind air districts for the impacts of transported air pollution.

The Clean Air Act requires States to address the impact of air pollution that is transported between States. It is silent, however, about addressing transported air pollution within a State or what mitigation measures are

23303

imposed when transported pollution occurs between States. This oversight allows upwind air districts—because of prevailing wind patterns—to transport locally generated emissions to neighboring downwind air districts and only requires them to address the emissions that remain in the upwind district.

Transported pollution impacts the environment, public health, and economies in the downwind air districts. Pollution knows no political boundaries. A case in point is the San Francisco Bay Area. The California Air Resources Board has classified the San Francisco Bay Area as an "overwhelming" ozone contributor to each of the four neighboring air districts surrounding it—Sacramento, the San Joaquin Valley, Southern Sonoma, and the Monterey Bay-Central Coast region. This classification means that air quality monitoring data has shown there are days in which the downwind air district is in violation of quality standards because of emissions generated by the upwind air district.

This bill is a matter of fairness and equity. It requires those areas that are responsible to be accountable for the public health, environmental and economic impacts to their downwind neighbors.

CLEAN DIAMOND TRADE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for the "Clean Diamond Trade Act," and, additionally, to express my support for those diamond-producing nations like Botswana that have served as a positive example during the development of this important legislation.

The move to prevent so-called conflict diamonds from reaching U.S. markets has never been so important. Illegal diamond smuggling has helped prolong conflicts in which millions have been displaced, and millions more have been killed in brutal conflicts that have ravaged sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, recent reports in the Washington Post by editor Steve Coll and other news services that rebel warlords in nations such as Sierra Leone are mining diamonds for sale to the al Qaeda terrorist network have highlighted the need for this important legislation. Thus, efforts restricting this source of funding to blood-thirsty factions that are running roughshod over the inalienable human rights due to the citizens of these war-torn nations are both highly commendable and exceedingly necessary. They serve to protect the lives of innocent African civilians, cut the funding sources of terrorist organizations, and thereby serve to protect the lives of innocent Americans.

My only concern is that in this drive to cut war-mongering factions off from the funding that sustains them, Congress ensures that law-abiding nations whose diamond industries support stable democracies not be a casualty of this very important and honorable piece of legislation.

In April, some of my colleagues and I had the opportunity to visit Botswana, a country