

the United States, hardly enough to build an effective energy policy around.

What worries me, Mr. Speaker, is not the exploration into a new energy policy. Clearly our country needs to look into new ways of creating energy. I support looking into new possibilities for creating energy. But I do not support the exploration of new energy opportunities at the cost of the environment. If we begin drilling in the ANWR today, who is to say that we will not begin off-shore drilling in South Florida tomorrow? I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Florida have no desire to see off-shore oil rigs popping up in the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico anytime soon. We saw the dangers involved in such practices when an off-shore oil rig in Brazil collapsed just this week spilling oil for miles into the Atlantic.

In the past two weeks, President Bush reaffirmed to the American public that he is not serious about leading an environmentally conscious Administration. Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting that President Bush become a devout environmentalist. After all, you do not have to be an environmentalist to care about the environment. So far though, this Administration has yet to take any steps to show that it recognizes the basic needs of our environment. In a time that the environment has taken center stage as a national concern, the people of America demand and deserve more from this Administration.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN

##### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc, New Jersey Chapter (NCBW-NJ).

Founded in 1971, NCBW is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to community service, leadership development, and the enhancement of career opportunities for African-American women. NCBW is dedicated to the empowerment of African-American women by increasing their access to and participation in America's economic and political arenas. In addition, NCBW addresses the challenges African-American families face today, and promotes African-American culture.

The Coalition did not become the National Coalition until 1981, a decade after the first group of women met in New York City. Today, NCBW includes more than 7,000 members from 62 chapters representing 23 states and the District of Columbia.

The 20th Anniversary of NCBW celebrates and commemorates the great progress that African-American women have made in the United States over the past 30 years. This progress was made possible through the hard work, dedication, and compassion of the founding members of NCBW, as well as many others, who understood and continue to recognize the adversity that minority women face each and every day on the road to realizing economic and political empowerment.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their important contributions to NCBW—NJ:—the late Wynona Lipman; Barbara L. James; Betye Ingram; the Honorable Janet E. Haynes; Dolores Buchanan; Lynn M. Stradford; Karen Lee Stradford; Carol A. Collins; Cherre E. Ogden; Karyn Stewart; Gessie Barnes; Brenda J. Murphy, Henrietta D. Ward, Marion Rhim Fowler; Katherine Daugherty Brown; Natalie Cole; Jeri Warrick Crisman; Redenia C. Gilliam-Mosee; Coretta Scott King; Constance Woodruff; and Larrie West Stalks.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the National Coalition of 100 Black Women—New Jersey for all it has done to empower African-American women.

#### IN HONOR OF GINA PENNESTRI

##### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Ms. PELOSI. Ms. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Gina Pennestri, a fighter without equal who recently passed away in San Francisco. Gina was known and loved in San Francisco for her sharp mind and soft heart. She was forceful, dedicated, and absolutely committed to the constituents and elected officials she served.

Gina was always fighting for a cause. After her graduation from George Washington University, she worked to secure the right to vote for the residents of Washington, D.C. Soon after, she joined the War effort as Chief of Employee Relations for all civilian employees stationed from England to North Africa during World War II. She then helped coordinate the Berlin Airlift, working to ensure that humanitarian assistance was delivered to those who needed it.

By 1951, Gina had settled in San Francisco and started a family. Raising her son, Marc, Gina became involved with political issues and in the community. She fought a planned highway through Golden Gate Park, she worked in the conservation movement to protect areas from development, and she volunteered in public schools and libraries to help educate San Francisco's children. Along with many San Franciscans, she joined the civil rights movement and opposed the Vietnam War.

In 1967, she became an aide to then-Assessingman, and current State Senate President Pro Tempore, John Burton. She soon rose to be the Chief of Staff of his San Francisco office and remained in the position when Mr. Burton was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974. When Mr. Burton retired from the U.S. House, Gina worked on the campaign for his successor, BARBARA BOXER, and then became her chief of staff. When Congresswoman BOXER became Senator BOXER, she again turned to Gina to run her San Francisco office.

In her career with State Senator Burton and Senator BOXER, Gina became widely respected for her ability, her tenacity, and her fidelity to her principles. Utterly dedicated to helping those in need, she was a fearsome opponent and a trusted friend. She will be

greatly missed by those who knew her and by everyone for whom she fought.

My thoughts and prayers are with her son and daughter-in-law, Marc and Nancy Zimmerman, and her grandchildren, Laura and Daniel, to whom she was devoted.

#### FEDERAL LANDS IMPROVEMENT ACT

##### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has 264 million acres that it manages for the federal government. None of this land is national park or national forest land. The BLM has identified three million acres that it would like to sell, because it is not environmentally significant, surrounded by private land, difficult to manage, or isolated.

Today, I have introduced the Federal Lands Improvement Act which will allow the sale of this land, with proceeds to go; one-third to the counties where the land is located for schools and other needs; one-third to the national debt; and one-third back to the BLM for environmental restoration projects on its remaining land.

As I have already stated, this bill would not sell any national parks or wilderness areas. It only proposed to sell lands that have already been identified for disposal by the BLM.

Currently, the federal government owns 30 percent of all the land in the United States. This is roughly 650 million acres. In comparison, the State of Tennessee is only 26 million acres total.

It only makes sense that the federal government consolidate its holdings so that it can better manage those areas which are truly environmentally sensitive.

I hope my Colleagues will join me by co-sponsoring this legislation so that we can take a step forward in protecting our federal lands.

#### RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREES

##### HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor local citizens from the 9th District of Texas who were chosen during Black History Month for their work. While the dedication of African-American leaders is well-known throughout the United States, local citizens, right here in the Southeast Gulf Coast region, are just as important to ensuring equal rights for all Texans. Last month I asked members of the communities in the 9th District to nominate individuals for my "Unsung Heroes" award that gives special recognition to those unsung heroes, willing workers, and individuals who are so much a part of our nation's rich history. Recipients were chosen because they embodied a giving and sharing spirit, and had made a contribution to our nation.