

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE PROMOTION OF
FBI SPECIAL-AGENT-IN-CHARGE
VAN A. HARP

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize FBI Special Agent in Charge Van A. Harp of Cleveland for his promotion to the Washington Field Office as Assistant Director.

Born May 29, 1945 in Toledo Ohio, Van A. Harp has had a long and distinguished record with the FBI. Upon graduation from the University of Toledo, Harp served as a Special Agent and was soon assigned to the Little Rock, Arkansas Office on January 5, 1970. His achievements and hard-work were noticed, for he soon was transferred to Texarkana, Arkansas, and then again to Detroit, Michigan. He served in Lansing, Michigan in February 1972 until he received an assignment as an SSRA to the Charleston, West Virginia, RA of the Pittsburgh Division.

His distinguished service continued with posts at the FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and then again in Buffalo, New York where he served as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Field Division.

In December 1995, Mr. Harp was relocated to Cleveland where he was promoted to the Special Agent in Charge of the Field Office. It was indeed an honor to have Mr. Harp serve in the Cleveland area and his services, time, and dedication will truly be missed. We are all very proud of his promotion to the Washington Field Office.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you join me in recognition for the outstanding effort and service of Mr. Van A. Harp and wish him luck in his new promoted position.

THE VIEQUES FOUR: THE
AMERICAN WAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Al Sharpton has been sitting in jail now for over two weeks alongside his activist colleagues Roberto Ramirez, Assemblyman Jose Rivera, and Councilman Adolfo Carrion Jr. For committing the uniquely American crime of peacefully protesting the United States military's training activity on Vieques. One of the great joys of being an American is knowing that it is your right to express your opinion regardless of whether or not your government agrees with it. In this instance we have a situation in which the "Vieques Four"—as they have

come to be known—were arrested simply because they happened to be standing on Navy property.

The basic issue here is that the United States should stop military training on the island of Vieques and leave the island to the citizens of Puerto Rico. While I support the United States military, I do not believe that military readiness will suffer in any way if training activities are moved to another location where local residents do not have to live in fear of misguided ordnance, noise from training activities or the environmental and health problems which have occurred as a result of the training activities. I urge the administration to take very seriously the concerns of those who oppose the U.S. military training activities on Vieques. While the previous administration tried very hard to achieve a balanced compromise which might ultimately result in the U.S. military leaving Vieques, that solution was not an answer. The only answer is for the U.S. military to leave the island of Vieques and pay for a comprehensive clean up of the site the military has used for training exercises for over the past sixty years.

Hundreds of protesters, who have previously been arrested, were simply punished with a summons and a fine. This would seem to be a reasonable approach. However, the one difference between previous punishments and this one is that the administration has changed hands. The current administration has decided that peaceful protesters, especially those with political notoriety, should be singled out and used as examples of what will happen if one dares to oppose the government's policies. This is an outrageous abuse of prosecutorial powers. I have joined several of my colleagues, led by my good friend and colleague Congressman ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILA, in pressing the U.S. Attorney General to review these unduly harsh sentences being given by federal judges in San Juan and to request that prosecutors in Puerto Rico seek appropriate sentences for similar offenses in the future. Although we have not yet received a response, the administration has actively opposed the appeal filed by these defendants in federal court illustrating their apparent decision to "stay the course". Why is this case being pursued with such vigor? Should a non-violent activist really receive a 90-day jail sentence when his or her actions can only be reasonably characterized as minor. The sentencing of the "Vieques Four" is not reasonable, not fair, and should not stand.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES BEDFORD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Coloradan and

a dedicated public servant. This summer, Charles Bedford will be leaving as the director of the Colorado State Land Board. For the last four years Charles has successfully directed the Land Board through a period of major and significant reform. It was a period of transition that was ushered in by our state's rapid population growth and corresponding increase in the awareness of the importance of preserving our state open lands for their beauty and contribution to our public schools.

The Colorado State Land Board oversees the over 3 million acres of state school trust lands that were given to the state at statehood for the generation of revenue for public schools, among other things. Over the years, the Land Board has managed the state trust lands in order to secure the highest return to our public schools. Although this history has been commendable, the other public and environmental values that these lands can provide to the people of Colorado were in some cases being overlooked.

That awareness led to the passage of a Constitutional Amendment that made some significant changes in the way that state trust lands were to be managed and administered. One of the more significant reforms was the establishment of a "stewardship trust" which required that ten percent of the state trust lands be set aside and withheld from development to preserve their important open space, natural and community values.

Charles became the director of the Land Board shortly after the passage of this Constitutional Amendment. Such dramatic change was not without difficulty and conflict. Yet Charles ably helped steer the Land Board through these changes and controversies and helped achieve a successful transition to a new era.

As with many other Coloradans, Charles realized the important role these state lands could play in providing the scenic open space that we have all come to enjoy while at the same time contributing to the long-term financing for our public schools. While many in the state were skeptical concerning the new direction the Land Board was embarking on, Charles was able to successfully bring the different sides together. Among many of his and the Land Board's accomplishments has been the designation of 300,000 acres in the Stewardship Trust. These great lands are now protected for all Coloradans to enjoy while continuing to make important contributions for the financial benefit of our schools.

Charles has also initiated new partnerships with local communities to utilize state lands to benefit the communities as well as raise money. These partnerships have enabled communities to acquire additional tracts of open space for the continued use and enjoyment of their citizens.

Charles Bedford is leaving the Land Board to take the position of Associate Director of Nature Conservancy Colorado. In this new

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

role, which his dedicated years of public service have prepared him well for, he will continue to work toward protecting valuable land for the enjoyment of future generations. I wish Charles the very best of luck in his new endeavor and look forward to continuing to work in partnership with him for the benefit of all Coloradans. I very sincerely thank him for his service to the people of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I am attaching a recent column from the Denver Post that further acknowledges Charles's accomplishments at the Land Board. I want to personally thank Charles Bedford for his years of dedicated service.

UNCOVERING HIDDEN LANDS
(By Joanne Ditmer)

Sunday, April 22, 2001.—When Colorado became a state in 1876, the federal government gave land to the new state to raise funds for eight trusts, the largest being K-12 education.

The state Land Board owns 3 million acres and manages an additional 1.5 million acres of mineral rights. These are "hidden lands," for few of us know how they or the money they generate are managed. Many have grazing leases, giving us the "country" look we value while they bring in dollars.

Charles Bedford, a fourth-generation Coloradan, is resigning after four years as Land Board director. A highly capable and competent administrator, he's given considerable thought to what changes could improve the management and benefits of those state lands.

The past decade, Colorado's citizens have become aware that state lands have additional value beyond their revenue; they are even more precious when development covers other landscapes. Decisions on state lands made solely for money, for one-time gain, frequently are disasters.

With this new perception, in November 1997 voters passed Amendment 16, which provided that a portion of those state lands must be put into permanent stewardship. Generally, the sites were chosen for their value as natural resources and open space, and were not to be sold for development. In 1998, 200,000 acres were designated for the Stewardship Trust; another 100,000 acres were added in 2000.

Bedford recalled that implementing the Stewardship Trust meant overcoming much suspicion; ranchers and farmers thought it was an attack on agricultural lands; school systems feared a cut in income; and environmentalists charged it wasn't what was promised.

Other accomplishments since then, Bedford said, included the partnerships forged with local communities to utilize state lands in ways that benefit the communities as well as raise money. These include the purchase by Routt County and Steamboat Springs of Emerald Mountain; the 400 acres sold to Larimer County Open Space; convening neighboring ranchers and natural-resource experts to help design a plan for the 85,000-acre Chico Basin Ranch in Pueblo and El Paso counties; and other innovative ideas that address the public's desire for open space while raising money for education.

Bedford recommends his successor continue to work to achieve local government priorities, perhaps by pushing legislation that would allow the Land Board to sell property directly to local governments or other state agencies for its appraised value, instead of pitting them in a bidding war against developers.

The Land Board produces between \$30 million and \$40 million per year, or less than one-half of one percent of the total state school appropriation for education (and that appropriation is itself about half the total expenditures on education, with local funding making up the balance).

Amendment 16 mandated that money generated by the Land Board be "in addition to" funds appropriated to education through the School Finance Act, but the Legislature has not changed the method through which board funds are distributed. Bedford believes legislation should be supported that more clearly channels funds directly to schools and implements the "in addition to" language of Amendment 16. Finally, Bedford said the Land Board is "unconscionably" understaffed, with the lowest staff-to-acreage ratio of any comparable land board in the West. That means there can't possibly be adequate and thoughtful management of these valuable and irreplaceable lands.

"We own about 4 percent of the surface area of the state," Bedford concluded. "It's a huge asset, worth a lot of money, worth a lot of thinking. It's been on the back burner for much too long."

Bedford served Gov. Roy Romer as Natural Resources Policy analyst for two years and as legal counsel for one year. On June 1, he becomes associate director of the Nature Conservancy of Colorado, where his dedication and expertise will continue to benefit the state.

The international non-profit conservation organization preserves ecologically significant landscapes for future generations. In Colorado, it protects more than 425,000 acres of the state's Last Great Places.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLEMINGTON BOY SCOUT TROOP 194

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Flemington, New Jersey-based Boy Scout Troop 194's twenty-fifth anniversary.

Troop 194 was originally chartered with St. Magdalen's R.C. as its sponsor. In 1988, the troop was re-chartered at the Flemington Baptist Church. Currently, Troop 194 enrolls approximately 100 scouts, as participation in its summer camp program continues to increase.

Throughout its existence, Troop 194 has boasted a number of accomplishments. These include a dramatic increase in the troop's size, as well as the honoring of some twenty-two young men with the rank of Eagle Scout since 1981. Troop 194 has also undertaken various projects, which include cleaning up nearby Morales Park, working at local churches, and volunteering with the local Food Pantry. The troop continues to thrive as it continues to welcome new scouts and to contribute to the health of the surrounding community.

Once again, I congratulate Boy Scout Troop 194 on its accomplishments, and I ask my colleagues to join me in praising the scouts' record of achievement.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT WENTWORTH MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege to give the commencement address at Wentworth Military Academy on May 19, 2001. As a graduate of Wentworth and a lifelong resident of Lexington, Missouri, Wentworth's home, it was a distinct honor. Accompanying me was General John Abrams, Commanding General at United States Army TRADOC, who commissioned 14 Second Lieutenants. My speech to that group is set forth as follows:

First, let me thank General John Abrams for being with us today. His participation in this event marks this as an historic moment for Wentworth, but more importantly honors the 14 new Army second lieutenants. This day will be a treasured memory for all of us for years to come, and we are truly grateful for General and Mrs. Abrams' presence this morning. Thank you.

Whenever I come to the Wentworth campus, my alma mater, memories of yesteryear flood my mind—rounding the far corner of the cinder track, the staccato history lectures of Captain Bob Heppler, standing in formation with my fellow cadets, and reading the inscription on the Administration Building—"Achieve the Honorable"—and wondering what in the world it meant.

But as Kipling wrote, that was "long ago and far away."

I am honored to have the opportunity to speak at today's ceremonies, but I have to confess that a graduation speech is a difficult assignment. With all of the excitement, and with the pride of individual and class-wide achievement that surrounds graduation day, few can be expected to remember what the speaker had to say. But I am not going to let that prevent me from sharing a few words of wisdom that have meant something to me and I hope will give you something to think about as you leave here and move into the next adventure of your lives.

Graduation day celebrates the steps each of you have completed to prepare for the future. It is a day to look forward. I can remember when I was in school, a guest speaker at an assembly told the students, "you are the leaders of tomorrow." At that point in my life, it was very easy to shrug off that statement. It's hard to imagine your buddies grown up and raising families, operating their own businesses, participating in civic life, leading a platoon of soldiers, or running for political office. But somehow it happens. Today, with your degree, you are on the brink of that tomorrow, and people will be looking to you for leadership.

Some time ago, I hosted a small breakfast for the famous historian and author Stephen Ambrose. You will recall that he wrote the books, *D-Day*, *Citizen Soldier*, and a book entitled *Undaunted Courage*, which details the saga of Lewis and Clark, who traversed the continent from 1804 to 1806.

That morning, I asked Professor Ambrose what it was that made America so great and so different. I was expecting his answer to be something along the lines of America's frontier westward movement, or our abundance of natural resources, or our great diversity of people. But this was his answer.

"Look at Russia. Russia has more natural resources than all of North America. Russia