

Congratulations are also in order for the Board of Directors under the guidance and leadership of President James Denney for their significant contribution to the Guam community, most especially to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families enabling them to become active and contributing members of the community.

TRIBUTE TO LAURIE MATTHEWS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Laurie Matthews. For the past decade Laurie has directed the Colorado State Parks through a period of transition that has resulted in the system becoming a "national model." Overseeing forty state parks with an annual budget of \$40 million, Laurie has become one of the most valued leaders in outdoor recreation in the nation.

When Laurie took charge of the state parks system, it consisted of 190,000 acres with a maintenance backlog that experts said would take over forty years to clear up. Under her leadership the state park system in Colorado expanded by 25,000 acres worth \$54 million and completely erased the maintenance backlog. Her dedication to the outdoors showed in her bolstering of environmental education and interpretation by adding 19 new visitor centers and 30 new seasonal interpreters to better assist the public.

Laurie also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Park Directors, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and Leave No Trace. She has been highly praised for her dedicated service to the State of Colorado by Gov. Bill Owens and the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, Greg Walcher. Today I would like to add my voice to this praise. Laurie's service to the people and the lands of Colorado has been outstanding. The quality of life in our State has been enhanced by her commitment.

She leaves Colorado to join her husband in the Himalayan Dental Relief Project in Nepal. During my travels and mountain climbing experiences in that country, I have come to know and appreciate the people of Nepal and I know that Laurie will be of tremendous service to them. I wish Laurie and her husband the best possible luck there. If she has even a fraction of the amount of success there that she has had in Colorado then the people of Nepal will indeed be extremely fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I am attaching a recent article and editorial from the Denver Post, and want to personally thank Laurie Matthews for her years of dedicated service.

[From the Denver Post]

HEAD OF COLORADO STATE PARKS TO STEP DOWN

(By Theo Stein)

Tuesday, April 17, 2001.—Ten years ago, Laurie Matthews inherited a Colorado State Parks system that had 190,000 acres, a \$6 million annual budget and a maintenance program so far behind that officials said it would take 44 years to catch up.

On Monday, Matthews announced she is leaving her position as director after a decade that saw park officials erase the maintenance backlog and add 25,000 acres of new holdings to a system that now counts 11 million visitors a year.

Under her tenure, sought-after lands were added under the park system's "crown jewel" initiative, and acquisitions around three urban-area parks, Castlewood, Roxborough and Barr Lake, provided important buffers.

"State parks have flourished under her leadership, and we will miss her greatly," said Edward Callaway, parks board chairman. "I have absolutely the highest regard for that woman." Matthews said she's resigning effective June 20 to spend several months in Nepal helping her husband, dentist Andrew Holeck, with the nonprofit Himalayan Dental Relief project they cofounded. "For five years, we've gone over to Nepal and gradually have done more and more of the clinics," she said.

While she's excited about the challenge, Matthews also said she has mixed feelings about leaving. "It's been a wonderful 10 years, the system is positioned beautifully, but, yeah, it's difficult," said Matthews. "What I'll miss most are the wonderful people who work for Colorado State Parks."

Matthews said three developments provided the footing necessary to make the gains of the past 10 years. First came the legislation enabling Great Outdoors Colorado, which earmarked state lottery money to help parks and recreation.

Second was a bill championed by the state's congressional delegation that allowed federal agencies to join cost sharing partnerships with states to renovate aging parks.

Finally, the state legislature approved park fee increases.

Matthews also focused on environmental education in the parks, adding 19 new visitor centers and 30 seasonal interpreters to assist the public.

CONTINUE PARKS LEADERSHIP

(By Denver Post Editorial Board)

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2001.—In the past decade, Colorado's state parks have truly blossomed—and just at the right time. As our state's population grows, more people need more places for outdoor recreation. And our 40 state parks (with more slated to open in the next few years) offer just such opportunities to 11 million visitors each year.

Such a diverse system demands the excellence in leadership it has enjoyed for the past 10 years under state parks Director Laurie Matthews.

Now, however, the 48-year-old Matthews is leaving to help her husband run a new, nonprofit group that will provide free dentistry to Nepal's impoverished children.

Matthews' contribution to Colorado conservation cannot be overstated. She has been a tireless advocate for public recreation, environmental education, wildlife habitat preservation and open-space preservation. She has created good will between her agency and the state legislature—no easy task, given lawmakers' skepticism toward bureaucracies—and fostered cooperation among local, state and federal public-land managers. She has also lent her energy to numerous outdoor organizations, building community ties even as she helped build trails.

There's no replacing Matthews, but the state now must find a successor.

Whether Gov. Bill Owens' administration chooses someone inside or out of the state system, the next parks director must possess certain key qualities.

Foremost is solid leadership, including the ability to think strategically and envision what the state parks system should be five to 10 years hence. Indeed, protecting the parks from development pressures, while respecting the rights of surrounding property owners, is one of the toughest juggling acts the new director will face.

The director also must work collegially with other state agencies, while having the gumption to stand up for the best, long-term interests of the parks system.

Matthews certainly brought such admirable traits to her job. The Owens administration should search for a successor with equal attributes.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAKEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as a former president of the Key Club in my hometown of Addison, Michigan, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor the members of the Lakeview/Urbanale Kiwanis Club in Battle Creek, Michigan and the over 40 students from Lakeview High School who will gather on May 22, 2001 to celebrate the chartering of the community's first Key Club.

Key Club is an international service club for high school students which operates under the sponsorship of a local Kiwanis Club, and is designed to aid students in developing leadership skills, initiative and good citizenship through interaction with business and professional leaders in the community.

The Key Club constitution promotes daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships; the adoption and application of higher standards in scholarship, sportsmanship, and social contacts and providing a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render unselfish service, and to build better communities.

The history of Key Club dates to May 1925 with the chartering of the first chapter at Sacramento High School in California by the Kiwanis Club of Sacramento. The club was originally formed to provide vocational guidance to young, high school males and to serve as an alternative to high school fraternities and secret organizations. Today, Key Club is the largest high school service organization in the country, with more than 200,000 members in over 4,500 clubs throughout North America, Europe and the Caribbean.

The impeccable reputation of Kiwanis International is well documented and well deserved. Countless individuals worldwide have been assisted through the organization's commitment to community service and helping those in need. I am honored to recognize the members of the Lakeview/Urbanale Kiwanis Club for tireless efforts on behalf of the greater Battle Creek area and for their willingness to serve as mentors and role models to area youth. I congratulate the Lakeview High School Key Club on the receipt of its charter and wish the group much success in its inaugural year.