restrict the ability of land managers and local governments to best manage these lands. However, there are certain areas where we recognize is the best way to ensure the preservation of the land's natural beauty and the unique historical and geological nature of these lands. One of those areas in Utah is the Pilot Range in the west desert of Box Elder County. With that in mind, I am proud to introduce a bill which would classify certain areas in the Pilot Range as wilderness.

Mr. Speaker, when one hears the great conservationists of our day speak of the natural treasures of this nation, one could very well be hearing a description of the Pilot Range. The top of the range provides a majestic view of the sun rising over the Rocky Mountains and Great Salt Lake in the East as well as the spectacular view of sunsets across the flats of Nevada. Elk and deer roam the valleys and canyons of the range, and threatened cutthroat trout makes its home in the Bettridge Creek, the largest in the range.

This is land rugged enough to test the mettle of any hearty adventurer. These mountains served as a guide to the Donner Party as they crossed the northern end of the Great Basin. Its streams and springs provided refreshment to these young men and their quest to travel these lands.

When standing on these peaks, as I have done many times, one can sense the solitude that very few places in this country can match. As wilderness, this land will continue to offer those willing to challenge its rugged terrain a breathtaking view of nature's glory, as well as multiple recreational opportunities, such as hiking, camping and horseback riding.

Given the fact that these lands are adjacent to the Utah Test and Training Range, we have gone to great lengths to ensure that wilderness designation and the role and mission of the UTTR remains compatible. We have worked to ensure that valid existing rights and the traditional and historical use of these lands is protected while removing any remaining obstacles to wilderness designation.

I was proud to introduce the Utah Wilderness Act in 1984. In my 21 years in Congress, I have had the opportunity to designate and protect more wilderness across the country than almost any member of Congress. I believe strongly in wilderness designation when it is compatible, when the lands fit the criteria according to the definitions of the 1964 Act and wilderness the highest and best use of the public lands. The bill I am introducing today reflects my belief that wilderness designation is the best way to protect the Pilot Range and I hope my colleagues will support me in that effort.

Boy Scout Troop 201 has a long and distinguished history of molding young men in Olmsted Falls into productive individuals in our society. The troop originated in 1926 and consisted of 12 scouts that met regularly and attended summer camps together. Over the years the troop grew and flourished, gaining respect both in the International Scouting Association and the local Cleveland community. As years turned into decades, Troop 201 began graduating Eagle Scouts, scouting's highest honor. Less than 2 percent of all Scouts attain this highest honor. Not only are scouts required to fulfill a minimum leadership requirement to attain the coveted Eagle Scout, but every young man must plan, develop, and implement an extensive community service project. Over the years Troop 201 has dedicated a great deal of time and energy to serving in the community, and scouts have selflessly given of their time and effort. The rank of Eagle is an achievement that requires years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work, and the community. Since 1926, Troop 201 has seen over 70 Eagle Scouts.

Olmsted Falls Troop 201 has always stood tall for the causes of righteousness and equity in our society. The original purpose of the Boy Scouts of America, chartered by Congress in 1916, is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults, to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness. The International Scouting Association strives to instill values to develop leadership in young men and teach them the benefits of a strong character. Scouts are taught to follow and uphold the 12 pillars of the Scout Law in their daily life and treat all people with respect and dignity. At the start of every meeting, scouts hold high their right hand and recite the scout oath, a pledge to remain physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. These three guiding principles instill strong values in young leaders and teach them of respect, dignity, and equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and celebrating Boy Scout Troop 201 on their 75th Anniversary. This special Diamond Anniversary marks a milestone in this troop's distinguished career and celebrates the countless young men affected by this organization. Troop 201 has continually strived to develop young leaders in the Olmsted Falls community, and has earned the respect and admiration of the entire Olmsted Falls community.

HONORING JESSICA L. WRIGHT UPON PROMOTION TO GENERAL

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS OF PENNSYLVANIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, July 12, 2001

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, a wise person once said, “All glory comes from daring to begin.” This is certainly true of the person I rise today to honor. Jessica Wright is a constituent from my state. She has recently achieved the rank of Brigadier General. This is an honor and a first. For you see, the newly appointed general is the first woman to achieve this rank in the Pennsylvania National Guard. This achievement is the result of twenty-six years of dedication and duty.

General Wright has been a pilot and aviator. Through her career in the National Guard she was daring enough to be the first to blaze trails where there were none. She was the first female aviator in the Army National Guard when she completed the officer’s rotary wing aviator course at Fort Rucker in Alabama.

General Wright was also the first female to become a combat commander in the rank of colonel in the Army. She achieved this prestigious honor when she took command of the 28th Infantry Division stationed at Fort Indiantown Gap in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, General Wright has served her country with distinction. I ask that you join me in honoring this fine soldier for her service to the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE HOMELESS AND HUNGRY

HON. TOM LANTOS OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, July 12, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on June 1st, at the annual awards ceremony of the St. Albans School, 17 year old James Fisher was recognized and honored for his innovative project to feed the homeless of Washington, D.C. I am pleased to share his story, with the hopes that his example might inspire other teenagers throughout the nation.

Homelessness is one of America’s most complicated and important social issues. In an effort to combat this complex problem, Congress continues to appropriate funds each year to the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Act which provides funds to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer programs which assist homeless children and adults. In addition, there are also countless acts of compassion each day among private citizens in their communities to help stem hopelessness and hunger among our homeless population. James Fisher’s is but one story among thousands in which Americans across the nation are working to help the homeless.

After noticing that the breakfast period at a neighborhood McDonald's was the slowest period of the day for sales a few months ago, James Fisher approached the owner, Mrs. Neva Van Valkenburg, with an idea. Mr. Fisher proposed arranging for students at St. Albans School and its sister school, the National Cathedral School, to have breakfast at the McDonald’s every day for one week. In return for this increased business, Mr. Fisher asked for 15% of each morning’s sales, in the form of a food credit, to be set aside for low-income and homeless children. This credit would then be used to purchase meals provided by Martha’s Table in the District of Columbia. Mrs. Van Valkenburg agreed with James’ idea and the program became a stellar success. James Fisher’s arrangement with Mrs. Van Valkenburg provided for 250 additional meals
for the homeless children who are fed at Mar- th’s Table. Mr. Speaker, I commend James, Mrs. Van Valkenburg and the students who participated in this program to help homeless children in their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the many organizations and individuals in my own Congressional district who assist the homeless and the hungry. These services range from mental and physical health programs, help desks, meals and shelter, job training programs, health care, transitional housing and residential rehabilitation. These organizations are fighting the battle against homelessness and hunger everyday. Some of the organizations I would like to recognize for their work include the Daly City Community Services Center, the North Peninsula Dining Center in Daly City, the Grace Covenant Church in South San Francisco, the South San Francisco Food Pantry in South San Francisco, the Daly City Community Center, the Daly City Community Dining Center, the North Peninsula Neighborhood Services Center in South San Francisco, the St. Vincent de Paul Society Cafe, the St. Vin- cent Homeless Help Desk in South San Fran- cisco, the San Mateo Pacifica Resource Cen- ter, CALL -Primrose Center in Burlingame, the Samaritan Family Kitchen in San Mateo, and many, many others. All of these groups help to provide neces- sary services for the homeless of San Fran- cisco and San Mateo Counties and I would like to pay tribute to the individuals who work and volunteer their time to help the homeless and the hungry in our community.

Mr. Speaker, James Fisher’s experience and the efforts of many other organizations, including those on the Peninsula and in the City of San Francisco, should serve as an ex- ample to all of us on how each one of us can help our communities work to alleviate hunger and homelessness.

IN HONOR OF THE REOPENING OF THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER OF NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 12, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of New York will reopen after a two-year renovation. The Center was housed in a historic former high school in Greenwich Village. The Food and Maritime Trades High School was built in 1844 and became the spiritual home of the Gay and Lesbian community of New York in 1983.

Since its founding, the Center has served as a meeting place for those committed to im- proving the lives and assuring the rights of those who suffer because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation. The Center is an inclusive organization that recently changed its name to demonstrate a commitment to serving the Bisexual and Transgender community.

Newcomers to New York have always joined together in fraternal and social groups. Just as some organizations help immigrants adjust to life in the City, so too, the Center helps newcomers from the gay community as they adjust to a new life in New York. Quar- terly orientations and regular support groups for young people are some of the Center’s most important programs.

The Center is the “heart” of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community in New York City. Each week, more than 5,000 people visit the center to take advantage of the numerous services and programs it offers. It has also become a social center for many people in the community. The monthly sched- ule at the Center includes more than 100 polit- ical and social groups. The AA program alone provides counseling and support for several hundred people in recovery. The Center Li- brary is a valuable resource for both the gay and straight community.

The Center’s real contributions can be seen in the lives of those who have been trans- formed by the Center. The HIV positive patient who is strengthened through the AIDS support group, the counseled teen who is empowered to stand up to taunts, and the participant in a 12-step program who can face the future with friends from the Center, have all improved their quality of life through Center programs.

I am honored by many people who work so hard at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisex- ual, and Transgender Community Center of New York. The reopening of the Center is in- deed a cause for celebration.

CITIZENSHIP IMPORTANT

HON. DOUG BEREUTER
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 12, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the July 4, 2001, editorial from the Omaha World-Her-ald, which aptly titled, "Citizenship Important." Today, although immigration and natu- ralization still present some roadblocks, the process is regularized and fair. Completing it requires work. It’s not like signing up for a super- market discount card or acquiring a driv- er’s license.

The procedure usually takes about a year. There’s a standard $250 processing fee, and along the way there’s an FBI background check, an interview and a civics test. So it’s not easy, but at least it’s achievable and the process is regularized and fair. Completing it is, and ought to be, a source of pride.

Nor have we been wanting in Attentions to our British Brethren. . . . We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigra- tion and Settlement here.

As has been often noted, this is a nation of immigrants. In the Midlands, that immigra- tion has to a great degree meant Germans and Irish, and in lesser numbers Poles, English, Scandinavians, Czechs and the de- scendants of freed slaves. Today, Latinos and, to a lesser degrees, those of Asian ori- gin are changing the make up of society re- figuratively and literally.

It is, we believe, incumbent on those who got here first to extend a welcome to those who are making their own trips and taking up citizenship as the 20th century fades into the 21st. For the most part, this is happening seamlessly. For the most part, this is hap- pening seamlessly. The newest arrivals are being assimilated and recognized for their strengths. To be candid, Iowa and Nebraska