

forces large enough to disrupt these enormous operations and send a message that such criminal activity will not be tolerated. They have let the cartels know with certainty that they will pay dearly if they operate in our back yard.

To challenge such a formidable criminal enterprise, it takes intelligence, bravery, and an unselfish sense of purpose. I have witnessed all of those characteristics displayed in exemplary fashion in southern Oregon and northern California. In the past few weeks, a task force of over 175 people and 19 agencies, led by Jackson County Sheriff Mike Winters and Siskiyou County Sheriff Rick Riggins, dealt a telling blow on the cartels' illicit activities on our public lands.

In a series of well-timed and meticulously executed raids on both sides of the Oregon/California border, this amazing group of dedicated individuals eradicated 27.6 tons of marijuana from our public lands in a matter of a few days! They removed well over \$320,000,000 from the drug trade and forcefully sent the message to the cartels that they will not be able to do business as usual in southern Oregon and northern California.

Mr. Speaker, it is not hard to imagine the work and commitment involved in assembling so many able and dedicated people from municipal, county, state, and federal agencies. With no single law enforcement agency large enough to handle the task, these dedicated law enforcement professionals and volunteers formed to combat a common enemy that was dealing massive amounts of drugs and creating mayhem on our forest landscape. Driven by sense of duty, respect for the law, and a commitment to protect the public, they got the job done.

Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, I am very proud and appreciative of what these outstanding people have done for us. I know that all of my colleagues join me today in saluting their stellar performance. We are honored to extend to them the gratitude of our entire nation.

Please join me in congratulating these agencies and individuals for a job well done. We owe them so much for their sacrifice and dedication.

Jackson County Sheriffs Office, Jackson County Search and Rescue, Jackson County Narcotics Enforcement Team (JACNET), Siskiyou County Sheriffs Office S.W.A.T., Douglas County Sheriffs Office D.I.N.T., Klamath Falls Police Department S.W.A.T., Josephine County Sheriffs Office, Shady Cove Police Department, Bureau of Land Management, Law Enforcement Section, United States Forest Service, Law Enforcement Section, Oregon State Police, SWAT and MRT Units, US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.), Drug Enforcement Agency, Medford Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, S.W.A.T., Portland Police Bureau, S.W.A.T., Jackson County Fire District #3, and Oregon Department of Forestry.

PERRY PARKS

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I rise today to announce the passing of my very good friend and colleague, Perry Conrade Parks, Jr.

Perry Parks was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1908, to Professors Perry C. Parks, Sr. and Sophia Parker Parks on the campus of Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. The family moved to East Chicago, Indiana, where Perry attended school.

Perry Parks later attended Tennessee State College and transferred to Wiley College in Marshall, Texas where he lettered in four sports (football, basketball, track, and tennis) and graduated in 1934.

After graduation he joined his family in Los Angeles and took a job as a social worker for the California State Relief Administration. Soon after establishing himself in California, he married his college sweetheart, Artemisia Stilwell.

Perry Parks later worked for the Federal Postal Service, from 1936 to 1971. He was a founding member of the United Public Workers CIO, as well as an organizer of the National Alliance of Postal Workers. He was in the forefront of the struggle to implement a merit system in employee evaluations and promotions. He was also a champion of equal opportunity for women.

He filed the first successful anti-discrimination claim against the Los Angeles Post Master for failure to promote him to Supervisor. His discrimination claim paved the way for equal employment opportunities for people of color, leading to the appointment of the first African-American Post Master in Los Angeles.

Perry was an ardent warrior in the pursuit of fairness, inclusion, and representation in the civic process. He stood on the front line of the civil rights movement in the 1960s as an early organizer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Southern California. Mr. Parks served as Vice President of the Barrio Defense Committee, President of the South Central Welfare Planning Council, and a board member of the Los Angeles Urban League and United Civil Rights Committee. He was a founding member of the Brotherhood Crusade.

After his retirement, Perry Parks continued to serve his community as Field Representative for Congresswoman Yvonne B. Burke and Assemblywoman Teresa Hughes.

Perry Parks was a proud army veteran of World War II and a devoted member of Holman United Methodist Church. He is survived by his two sons, Perry C. Parks III and Henry Stilwell Parks; his two sisters, Lucy Hamilton and Carrie Jones, all of Los Angeles; his grandsons, Perry C. Parks IV of Atlanta, Georgia, and Oren Callan Jeffries of Los Angeles; nieces Patricia Parks White, Frances Jones Taylor, Muriel Jones Parker of Los Angeles and a host of other devoted relatives and friends.

HONORING MR. GERALD (JERRY) BELANGER

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an educator in my district who has done laudable work to ignite a new sense of patriotism among his students.

Mr. Gerald (Jerry) Belanger serves as the principal of Gaylord Middle School. He has led a distinguished career in education. Mr. Belanger's first job in the field was as a school teacher in a preschool classroom. While his stint as a preschool teacher was short lived—lasting only 3 weeks—he was at least admired by his students for his guitar-playing ability.

Mr. Belanger then moved into a direction better suited to his abilities. He taught 6th grade for 5 years at Pearson Elementary School in inner city Flint before becoming the assistant principal and ultimately the principal of Gaylord Middle School.

It was at Gaylord Middle School that he began the current middle school Veteran's Day program. For the past 10 years, on every Veteran's Day, the Gaylord Middle School and its student council have organized a tribute to America's veterans. The day begins with a morning reception in the school cafeteria, followed by a program in the school gymnasium where students and faculty honor the sacrifices of America's veterans. Mr. Belanger has worked hard to ensure that veterans in the community attend the event so that his students have an in person opportunity to demonstrate their appreciation for veterans' sacrifice. When the tribute began 10 years ago, 20 veterans participated. Today, as many as 200 veterans attend the Veteran's Day event. By encouraging his students to host this tribute, Mr. Belanger has helped draw the Gaylord community together, while also helping to inspire patriotism in each class of students that passes through Gaylord Middle School.

Mr. Belanger also makes patriotism a daily priority at Gaylord Middle School. Through the daily Pledge of Allegiance, playing of the national anthem and events throughout the year, Mr. Belanger has worked to instill respect, love and loyalty to our country among the young people attending his school.

Mr. Belanger is a fine example of how ordinary citizens can demonstrate exceptional patriotism in their community. Although Jerry never served in the armed forces, his father, Frank, served in the National Guard during the Cuban Missile Crisis and two of his uncles were in the Army Reserve during that difficult part of our Nation's history. Another of Mr. Belanger's uncles served with U.S. Marine Corps for 4 years. These family members instilled in him a deep love of history and government and a profound sense of pride and respect for all of our nation's military men and women.

Now that he is married with a 3-year-old son, you will often see Jerry with his son Patrick at local Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations, seeking to pass on to his own son the same pride and deep respect for the armed forces and the same love of country.

Mr. Speaker, as our brave men and women serve abroad in today's conflicts, all of us are reminded of the importance of recognizing, honoring and remembering the sacrifices of the heroes of the past. Mr. Jerry Belanger has found a way to ensure that in his corner of the world, young people are introduced to these important values early on. For that, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting him.

TRIBUTE TO PICTURED ROCKS
NATIONAL LAKESHORE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, which celebrates its 40th anniversary as a National Lakeshore this year. This pristine part of my district was the first unit of the national park system authorized as a National Lakeshore.

Pictured Rocks derives its name from the 15 miles of colorful sandstone cliffs northeast of Munising, Michigan. These cliffs, some approaching 200 feet in height, have been naturally sculptured into shallow caves, arches and formations that resemble castle turrets, and human profiles. Anyone who has visited the splendorous 42 miles of the Lakeshore knows that the park offers spectacular scenery of the hilly shoreline speckled with natural archways, waterfalls, and sand dunes.

Congress wisely designated Pictured Rocks a National Lakeshore to preserve for future generations' enjoyment a significant portion of the diminishing shoreline of the United States. Today, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore continues to provide inspiration and recreational enjoyment for residents of northern Michigan, as well as for the hundreds of thousands of visitors who come to enjoy the area's natural splendor every year. The refreshing waters in summer, the beautiful palette of fall, the serene atmosphere of winter and the renewal of life in spring are all unique at Pictured Rocks.

As Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore celebrates this anniversary, it is also appropriate to mention former Congressman Raymond F. Clevenger. His hard work and dedication to the conservation and economic improvement of this area played a major role in the creation of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

Before his election to Congress, Mr. Clevenger made establishing a National Lakeshore on Lake Superior a top priority of his campaign. Once elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, he introduced legislation, H.R. 8678, to establish a National Lakeshore. On October 15, 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed Public Law 89-668, creating the nation's first National Lakeshore at Pictured Rocks.

Thanks to the efforts of Congressman Clevenger, more than 73,000 acres of beaches, cliffs, waterfalls, and forests, as well as the wildlife that resides there, have been preserved. In recognition of former Congressman Raymond Clevenger's efforts, I will be working

to see that the Miners Castle Information Station at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore be known as the "Raymond F. Clevenger Visitor Information Center at Miners Castle."

Mr. Speaker, our nation is blessed with countless natural resources and wonders. Those of us from northern Michigan and from the Upper Peninsula take great pride in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. I would ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in observing this historic anniversary and in pledging our continued support for the preservation of this beautiful and historic park.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO,
FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES
MODERNIZATION AND REFORM
ACT OF 2006

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the "Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Modernization and Reform Act of 2006," H.R. 5029. This bill would effectively gut the ability of the ATF to shut down rogue gun dealers who ignore or undermine federal law by selling guns to criminals. It literally protects the worst of the worst.

We should be doing more to ensure that our communities are safe, by getting guns out of the hands of criminals. That is why we should make sure federal authorities have all the tools they need to go after criminal gun dealers.

Yet, this bill would substantially undermine the ATF's ability to revoke federal firearms licenses and shut down corrupt gun dealers who have repeatedly violated the law. By redefining the burden of proof for violations of existing federal gun laws, this bill would make it essentially impossible to sanction, prosecute, or revoke the federal firearms license of corrupt gun dealers.

The vast majority of gun dealers are honest hard-working business owners who play by the rules. Yet, their compliance with federal law is tarnished by the few gun dealers who are more interested in making a profit than following the law or protecting our children. Statistics show that 60 percent of guns used in crimes can be traced back to just 1% of the Nation's 80,000 gun dealers. This means that a tiny percentage of criminal gun dealers are responsible for the bulk of guns used in the crimes that terrorize our communities. Yet, this legislation makes it harder to shut down these criminal outliers.

In 2003, the ATF issued only 54 notices of license revocation to shut down rogue gun dealers. That represents .06 percent of all gun dealers. Under the proposed legislation, this small group of dealers would be allowed to stay in business, and pay only a minor fine.

This bill would also weaken the record-keeping requirements that gun dealers must follow currently. This would allow criminal dealers to hide their illegal sales and missing firearms. Rather than being required to properly maintain their gun sale records, this legislation would simply allow them to keep such

records in a box or a storage room, and would make it very difficult for the ATF to investigate and uncover dealer violations.

I oppose this flawed legislation. I believe strongly that the ATF needs the authority to prosecute and eventually revoke the licenses of corrupt and criminal gun dealers. I am not alone in this view. This legislation is also opposed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, The American Bar Association, The Major City Chiefs, the International Brotherhood of Police, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, The Violence Policy Center, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, Former Director of the ATF Rex Davis, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this dangerous bill.

RECOGNIZING CRESTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Crestwood Elementary School in Fairfax County, Virginia as it prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Since its establishment in 1956, Crestwood Elementary School has committed itself to lofty standards of academic and extracurricular excellence. Over the years, as the Springfield area has expanded and diversified, Crestwood has followed the community's example.

In 1950, the Springfield area consisted of nothing but woods and a few farms and houses. Edward Carr bought much of the land and in 1950 started to build the first planned community in northern Virginia. He gave some land to the community for the school and the first community pool was built here because of the land he donated. The area grew slowly, with few community resources. Little League was started in 1955. There were no schools here until 1956. All of the school children had to go out of the area. In those days, Springfield was the outermost edge of the Washington area.

Since its inception, Crestwood Elementary has been an integral part of the Springfield, Virginia, community. Originally costing \$595,585, when the school was constructed there was one telephone booth per street, milk and bakery items were delivered weekly to residents, and the primary mode of transportation was the train. Over the past 50 years, the Crestwood community has become a very progressive community in the heart of the Springfield area and educates hundreds of students each year. With the addition of the Family Resource Center, Crestwood is a true community school working with parents and children building a better future for the entire Crestwood community.

The mission of Crestwood Elementary School is to offer each student the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary to be