

sent the classified portions of the report and the comments to Congress. The subjects' rebuttals to the allegations in Mr. Walsh's report were, in fact, twice as long as the report itself.

Second, when the Speaker was charged with filing inaccurate and misleading information that resulted in his paying a fine of \$300,000, he received an advance copy of the statement of allegations. In addition, the Speaker was quoted as saying that Investigator Cole's report should be made public only after the Speaker had time to review it.

Also, in 1985, during the Judiciary Committee's investigation into the Justice Department's withholding of EPA agency documents from Congress, the Committee permitted the persons whose conduct was being investigated to review the draft and submit rebuttal information.

Even in Watergate the Judiciary Committee received grand jury evidence in closed-door hearings for seven weeks with the President's lawyer in the same room. The materials received by the Committee were not released to the public until the conclusion of this evidentiary presentation, well after the White House had full knowledge of the material being considered by the Committee.

Three of the examples above concerned matters of a magnitude far less than an impeachment inquiry. Even in those instances, the subjects were given the opportunity to include their comments in the report before the report went to Congress. I find it highly objectionable that the President would not be given rights that were given to other targets in less historic investigations. I urge my colleagues to be fundamentally fair to all of the parties involved in this matter, including the target.

REMARKS ON THE NOISE PROBLEM AT DIA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a persistent problem that has plagued many of my constituents, namely, the 24-hour a day noise from Denver International Airport (DIA). Since the airport opened in 1995, the hard-working people of Colorado's Eastern Plains have been subjected to daily intrusions by the noise of arriving and departing aircraft. Compounding this problem is the fact that Denver city officials, and bureaucrats at Federal Aviation Administration, have failed to adequately address the noise problem. My constituents have been caught in a bureaucratic catch-22. The city of Denver claims only the FAA has the power to adjust take-off and landing patterns, while the FAA maintains any changes must be done at the behest of the city and airport officials. Sadly, my constituents are the ones caught in the middle.

Beginning in 1996, Congress placed a prohibition on federal funds for the construction of a sixth runway at DIA. This prohibition was the direct result of the city of Denver's and the FAA's unwillingness to address the noise issue. The hope was withholding funds would compel serious solutions for those affected by airport operations. It is unfortunate this step

was necessary, and I would have preferred an amiable discussion, but after trying to work with the FAA and Denver officials, it became clear a confrontational approach was the only way to secure results.

Last spring, a study was released on the noise from aircraft operations at DIA, Buckley Air National Guard Base, and Centennial Airport. This study was commissioned by several front range counties, and relied on computer modeling to predict the possible impact of various air routes, and the possible addition of a sixth runway. While some have argued this justifies the lifting of the funding ban on the sixth runway, the report itself makes it clear further work is needed. Quoting from the report, "This study should be viewed as but a first step in analysis of possible aircraft-route modifications in the Denver area."

Lifting the ban on funding the sixth runway took off of the table the one tool that has proven effective in forcing the city of Denver to straightforwardly face the noise issue. This problem has lingered for too long, and the only positive strides that have been made are the direct result of the funding prohibition on the sixth runway. Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Congress, the FAA and the city of Denver to vigorously pursue solutions to DIA noise suitable to the residents of Colorado's Eastern Plains.

HONORING THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS' COMMIT- MENT TO TRIBAL SELF-GOVERN- ANCE AND PROSPEROUS TRIBAL ECONOMIES

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the extraordinary leadership of Chief Philip Martin and commending the successes of the Choctaw Tribe.

As a member of both the Congressional Native American Caucus and the Resources Committee, I have dedicated many hours to the promotion of tribal sovereignty and have met with numerous tribal leaders across the country to determine ways to jump start tribal economies. The Choctaw achievements and record in these two areas is truly exceptional.

Chief Martin's commitment to tribal self-determination, tribal sovereignty and the development of tribal economies has brought about enormous positive change to the Choctaw Reservation and the surrounding communities in Southeastern Mississippi.

By rebuilding the tribal government, educating its tribal members and constructing the basic infrastructure to maintain a very modest manufacture-based economy, the Choctaws were able to carve out a place for the tribe in the mainstream economy in the late 1970's. Over the last twenty years, Chief Martin has been able to expand the economy and create manufacturing jobs for members and the surrounding communities. This progress has allowed the tribe to improve the reservation infrastructure, construct single family homes for tribal members, and strengthen education and training among Choctaw citizens.

This diversified economy has also enabled the tribe to become entirely self-governing.

Revenues from the Choctaw enterprises are used to operate their own courts, fire departments, police force, reservation school system, housing authority, utility commission and health care system.

The resurrection of the Choctaw Tribe is a remarkable story. It is a model from which our Nation's Indian tribes can learn from and try to replicate. It is also a story lawmakers should look toward when considering legislation that affects native Americans. The Choctaws are indeed a tribe worth emulating, and their experiences exemplify what strong tribal governments can achieve.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVER- SARY OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, from universities to elementary schools, I am proud of the educational excellence that is represented in my home state of Michigan. The citizens of Michigan have a long history of defending quality schools and programs. On September 19, 1998, the residents of St. Clair County will celebrate the founding of St. Clair County Community College.

In the early 1920's, Michigan state law stated that only cities with a population of at least 30,000 people were permitted to have Junior Colleges. According to the 1920 census, the City of Port Huron only had 25,000 people. But thanks to the commitment of local officials, the Port Huron Parent-Teacher Association, Superintendent H.A. Davis and State Senator John Smith, the law was changed and in 1923 Port Huron Junior College became a reality.

Since 1923, Port Huron Junior College has grown from thirty-four students into St. Clair County Community College serving 9,200 students annually. For seventy-five years, the College has been a place where students have had the opportunity to pursue a career and extracurricular activities. Drama, music, art and sports are just a few of the areas where students have enhanced their educational experience.

Throughout the past seven and a half decades, St. Clair Community College has been a stepping stone for students throughout St. Clair County. It has been a place where students have the opportunity to enrich and improve their lives through education. I applaud the staff and faculty of St. Clair County Community College for their seventy-five years of dedicated service to the education of their students.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT L. "LARRY" DAVIS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Colonel Robert L. "Larry" Davis who is leaving the Los Angeles District of the Army Corps of Engineers, and will be taking

on the Chief of Staff position at Fort Leonard Wood, U.S. Army Engineer School in Southern Missouri.

Colonel Davis has held various positions in the Army Corps of Engineers, including serving as an exchange officer to the Australian School of Military Engineering and participating in Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia. Colonel Davis also participated in Operation Desert Shield in Kuwait and Operations Restore Hope and Continue Hope in Somalia. In the United States, Colonel Davis took part in the Hurricane Andrew Relief Operations in the Miami area.

Colonel Davis has had an extraordinary career. His long list of awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three campaign stars. He has also earned the Parachutist and the Air Assault Badges. Last, but certainly not least in Larry Davis' long list of accomplishments, is his dedication as a husband and father of two children, Kimberly Anne and John.

I have enjoyed working with Colonel Davis over the years in addressing various Army Corps issues in my district. I will surely miss his attention, and that of his staff, to matters of importance to me.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Larry for his hard work and dedication. I would also like to wish him and his wife Barbara continued success and happiness in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to return to the House floor because I was unavoidably detained and missed the following rollcall votes:

- (1) Rollcall vote No. 426, S. 2206. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."
- (2) Rollcall vote No. 427, H. Con. Res. 304. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."
- (3) Rollcall vote No. 428, H. Con. Res. 254. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."
- (4) Rollcall vote No. 429, H. Con. Res. 185. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

THE OMNIBUS NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS BILL OF 1998

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I introduce today the National Parks and Public Lands Omnibus Bill of 1998. This is a very good and necessary bill that addresses a variety of important concerns and issues dealing with National Parks, wild and scenic rivers, heritage areas, National Forests, and many other public lands. This bill is a compilation of a number of resource related bills, most of which have gone through individual hearings and followed the legislative process. Numerous Members of Congress are to be commended and congratulated for their

hard work on the single parts of this bill which, together, make this a landmark piece of legislation. The far-reaching Omnibus National Parks and Public Lands Bill accomplishes many goals and addresses a multitude of public lands concerns to assure that our cherished parks and public lands, many of them national treasures, are protected, expanded, and improved. It also creates new and important historic sites, heritage areas, and wilderness areas so that the American public can enjoy, benefit, and use these extraordinary natural and historic resources.

Furthermore, the wonderful natural and significant historic areas that the Omnibus National Parks and Public Lands Bill protects and creates, span the breadth of this great country of ours. In fact, it deals with resource issues and areas in over 305 States—from wild and scenic rivers in Massachusetts, to creating wilderness areas in California, to studying Midway Island, far out in the Pacific Ocean, from the Everglades of Florida to Mount St. Helens in the State of Washington.

Of equal breadth and scope is the variety of issues and areas that this bill addresses. For example, the Omnibus Bill will assure a fair and equitable land exchange dealing with hundreds of thousands of acres of school trust lands in Utah while also authorizing an innovative approach to land management in Utah's spectacular San Rafael Swell area. It will create new trails across the United States and authorize the construction of a trails interpretive center. These trails will bring years of enjoyment to those who wish to hike across the entire United States or for those who just want to take a few steps on trails that the American pioneers made on their courageous treks to settle this country.

In addition, this bill establishes new affiliated units of the National Park System, like a historic site which will honor America's most prominent landscape artist, Thomas Cole. Other affiliated areas include the unique and innovative Eastside Tenement Museum in the heart of New York City and the important Casa Malpais Indian ruins in the middle of picturesque rural Arizona.

This bill also re-authorizes and extends a number of Commissions which were established to better manage many of our park units or affiliated areas, like the Delaware Water Gap and the Illinois-Michigan Heritage Corridor. Moreover, it expands many of the existing National Park units, like the unique and beautiful Arches National Park in Utah, the Cape Cod National Seashore, the Fort Davis Historic Site in Texas, the Morristown Historic Site in New Jersey, the George Washington Boyhood Farm in Virginia, and Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace in Kentucky.

The Omnibus National Parks and Public Lands Bill of 1998 provides for many land exchanges which help Federal agencies better manage their resources, it authorizes a memorial to a great world leader, Mahatma Gandhi, it establishes a cave and karst research center. In addition, this bill makes needed technical corrections to previous laws, it establishes new heritage areas and new historic sites and even authorizes construction of a new visitor's center for the Independence Mall so that the public can better interpret and marvel at the history and people behind founding of this great country.

The paragraphs above outline just some of the many things that this bill accomplishes. In

fact, the Omnibus National Parks and Public Lands Bill of 1998 does more than any other single piece of legislation could, in order to ensure that the management and creation of America's parks and public lands remains a top priority of this Congress. It creates new National Park units, new wilderness areas, new historic sites, and new heritage areas. It expands existing National Parks, authorizes land exchanges and conveyances, and makes numerous and necessary technical changes to existing laws so that parks can operate more efficiently. In short, this bill assures that our country's magnificent historical, cultural, and natural resources and areas will be protected and managed effectively now and in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was not present due to important business in my home district and missed four rollcall votes (426, 427, 428 and 429). If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on all four votes.

SALUTE TO VIOLET THOMPSON

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Ms. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of my district and the state of New York, as well as an outstanding American: Ms. Violet Thompson. Ms. Thompson will be honored on October 20, 1998, in St. Louis, Missouri by the National Industries for the Blind as the 1998 Peter J. Salmon National Manufacturing Employee of the Year. Ms. Thompson overcame a difficult childhood punctuated by repeated stints in foster care to raise a family and pursue a career.

Ms. Thompson's birth-related blindness was not detected until she was in the sixth grade. By then, Violet had fallen far behind the other students both in her academic work and her sense of self-esteem. Through her own perseverance and hard work, the help of an attentive teacher, the encouragement of her stepfather, and large print books, Violet learned to read and write and graduated from high school at the age of 20.

Ms. Thompson married soon after and settled down to raise a family of four daughters and seven grandchildren. Seven years ago, Ms. Thompson decided to take on a new challenge and return to work. She learned about the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired-Goodwill Industries in Rochester, New York and joined the workforce on the production line. Ms. Thompson's dedication and skill allowed her to move rapidly through the various manufacturing stations and in time she reached her present position of Production Supervisor. In her position, Ms. Thompson benefits from a number of assistive technologies, including a Visual-Tek closed circuit television as well as hand held magnifiers.