

Whitney, the highest mountain peak in the continental United States at 14,494 feet, located in California's Inyo County. Having climbed Mt. Whitney in 1986 with my dear friend, Hulda Crooks, I wanted to share some of the storied history of this majestic mountain with my colleagues.

In the early 1870's, as the Owens Valley community first began to attract settlers, local residents often visited nearby Soda Springs to fish, hunt, and to escape the summer heat. In August 1873, a large group of Lone Pine locals were camping in this area when three of them decided to take a hike up to the summit. Previous attempts to climb this mountain had been made by Clarence King, in party with a California Geological Survey expedition sponsored by Josiah Whitney. King identified the mountain and named it "Mount Whitney" in 1864. He claimed to have reached the summit in 1871, but it was soon discovered that he missed the mark and accidentally climbed another peak.

The "Three Fishermen" (locals Charley Begole, Johnny Lucas and Al Johnson) credited with Whitney's first ascent made the hike from Soda Springs to the summit and back in one day on August 18, 1873. They christened the mountain "Fishermen's Peak," which touched off a controversy that lasted several years. The Lone Pine residents were not in favor of the name "Mount Whitney," since they did not share a high opinion of Mr. Whitney. Local residents petitioned in favor of the names "Fishermen's Peak," "Fowler's Peak," or "Dome of Inyo," anything but "Mount Whitney," which is the name that stands today.

Undaunted by the unwanted name, local residents raised funds and built a trail to the summit in 1904. Mr. Gustave F. Marsh of Lone Pine, was the engineer who led this effort. He also served as contractor and supervisor for the Smithsonian Institute in 1909 when the trail was repaired and the summit shelter was built. Local residents again pitched in to raise funds for this effort. As one ponders this sequence of events, the baffling question is, "What motivated these early settlers to build a trail?" There was not a large tourist industry in the area at that time; there were no automobiles; and the only people interested in mountaineering were college professors or researchers—people of science and letters. The summit hut was originally financed by the Smithsonian for astronomical and atmospheric research purposes.

In contrast, the early residents were largely farmers and miners. And yet, as the trail and hut stand today, no one really knows how many hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life and from all countries of the world have climbed to the summit of Mount Whitney. Without the efforts of the first settlers, would this have been the reality today? Also, very little has ever been mentioned of the Native Americans, who knew of the peak and in their world, called it "The Old One," or "The High One."

On August 18, 1998, as a tribute to these early settlers, another group of local residents climbed Mount Whitney to pay honor to the contribution that these pioneers made, and to bring recognition to their efforts. Several descendants of the original group still live in the Lone Pine area.

I can well remember donning a backpack and sleeping bag and hitting the trail with Hulda Crooks, better known on the mountain

as Grandma Whitney, in August 1986. A friendship was born over those days that has been among the most special and enduring of my life. Because of her legacy, Congress passed legislation and Hulda returned to Mt. Whitney in 1991 for the announcement that Crooks Peak, adjacent to the Whitney summit, would forever bear her name. Hulda was a mentor and teacher to me, personally, and remained one of my dearest friends over the years until her passing last November.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in paying tribute to the men and women who have provided Mt. Whitney with its rich and textured history. Without any question, for every person who has ever climbed or tried to climb this magnificent peak, Mt. Whitney holds its own special memories, and its own meaningful place in their life.

#### RECOGNIZING SYRIA'S LIBERAL POLICY OF JEWISH EMIGRATION

**HON. TOM CAMPBELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 12, 1998*

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize with commendation that the country of Syria followed through on its promises regarding Jewish emigration over the past six years.

Beginning in 1992, without fanfare, Syria eased its strict travel and emigration policies on its Jewish community. Numbering around 100,000 at the turn of the century, the Syrian Jewish community numbered only approximately 5,000 by 1992. Up until 1992, Syrian Jews could only travel outside of the country individually, and only if family members remained behind. Between April and October of 1992, however, approximately 2,600 of this 5,000 were allowed to emigrate from Syria.

In October of 1992, Syria temporarily suspended this eased emigration policy. However, in December of 1993, Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited the country, and in a goodwill gesture during this visit, President Assad informed Secretary Christopher that all remaining Jewish families were free to leave Syria. The liberal Jewish emigration procedures soon resumed, and the Department of State informs me that all but 118 Jewish individuals have been granted exit visas and left Syria. The majority of these families decided to resettle in the United States, specifically in Brooklyn, where a thriving Syrian Jewish community of about 35,000 exists. The State Department reports none of these remaining Syrian Jews have reported Syrian government persecution, and that many plan to emigrate soon.

I was first made aware of Syria's emigration policy towards its Jewish community when I met with President Assad this past June in Damascus. In discussion, President Assad referenced this emigration policy as an example of Syria's continuing good faith effort to propel forward the Middle-East peace process. He did not, but some in the Syrian government did, observe that no statement of acknowledgment of Syria's following through on its emigration commitment had ever been entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I wish to correct that oversight now.

Emigration is a basic human right that all responsible nations respect and allow. I com-

mend President Assad for joining the community of nations that seek to guarantee this human right. In an attempt to create a conducive atmosphere toward fostering the peace process, President Assad allowed Syrian Jews to emigrate. Six years have passed since this policy began. It is time that recognition and approbation be properly given.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD LEE LARGE

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 12, 1998*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Donald Lee Large, a great Alabamian. Don Large recently retired from the Falk Corporation in Auburn after more than 23 years of loyal and dedicated service.

Don Large directed the Falk Corporation through numerous changes over his tenure and has left behind an impressive legacy. The most notable of these is the changeover from batch manufacturing to cellular manufacturing. This change required all new equipment, new processes, and was made possible by the culture established years before. Don worked extremely hard in recruiting quality people, setting up training programs, and establishing a culture based on the fundamental ideas of "mutual trust and respect". During this three year project finishing in 1995, Falk did not miss a single shipment.

Don has spent tireless hours dedicating his time and energy to better the community in which he lives, and the entire state of Alabama. Don has been on the Board of Directors for the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, and Chairman of the Industrial Relations Committee.

In addition to his community service, Don and his wife Barbara taught Ballroom dancing to over 1000 people, including many dignitaries and ranking public officials.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to recognize Mr. Large for his outstanding service to his industry and community. He truly leads by example and hard work, and is a model for all of us.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION AGAINST HUMAN TELLER FEES ACT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 12, 1998*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I have learned that some financial institutions are charging teller fees to customers who want or need to see a bank teller. In effect, they will be fined for not using an automatic teller machine. This is patently wrong, and today I am introducing the "The Depository Institution Customer Protection Act" that would prohibit financial institutions from charging these fees.

Customers should be able to converse with bank and credit union representatives without being charged to access their own money or to make a deposit. Some customers may be unable to use ATMs, especially if they are

blind or using wheelchairs. And no ATM or automated phone system can answer every question about an account. Seniors on fixed incomes, families living on today's pitifully low minimum wage, and blind or disabled customers—including veterans—will be penalized for the "privilege" of making a deposit or taking funds out of their account. Even the most sophisticated customers sometimes need to speak with a teller. Now banks will punish individuals who are simply asking for assistance.

My own mother is 85 years old and is still an active public servant. Yet I recognize the difficulty she has interacting with today's technology. I am confident that many of my colleague's parents—and perhaps some of my colleagues themselves—have difficulty using automatic teller machines.

Like many of my colleagues, I have been hearing from constituents who feel bombarded with automatic teller machine user fees. Now, customers will be charged for discussing a transaction with a human teller too. Financial institutions are squeezing money out of customers and other consumers—money that should be used to improve our economy, not line the pockets of our wealthiest institutions.

This user fee hurts the customers with limited means the most. These consumers may not be able to access electronic commerce, yet they'll be punished by the institution that holds—and makes money off—their assets.

The bill I am introducing today will prohibit banks and credit unions from charging these onerous fees.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for consumers, and protect our most vulnerable citizens from unfair human teller fees. Please join me in this effort by cosponsoring the "The Depository Institution Customer Protection Act."

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE CENTER FOR MILITARY AND PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES

#### **HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 12, 1998*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, while the end of the Cold War eased international tensions, it led to a significant downsizing of the U.S. armed forces. Nearly one tenth of our country's population, or 26 million people, have served in uniform. Over two million have left military service since the end of the Gulf War. Approximately 275,000 veterans of military service are being discharged each year, projected well into the next century. Once again, as in previous post-war periods, American employers have the opportunity to access men and women returning to civilian life in large numbers.

Unlike previous periods, when American were drafted for service, these men and women are volunteers. Surprisingly, the harsh reality for many of them is that a successful military career is not a guarantee of gainful employment in the private sector. This is a startling phenomenon, especially considering the extensive experience, diverse talents, and strong work ethic of military professionals. Clearly, much needs to be done to uncover and address the reasons for the continued underutilization of this highly trained and motivated force.

Indeed, a comprehensive survey conducted for the Joint Chiefs of Staff by a national executive search firm, Wesley, Brown and Bartle (WB&B) reports that stereotypes and myths caused businesses and professional recruiting services to discard an alarmingly high percentage of resumes submitted by our veterans.

There are disturbing dimensions to the problem. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the jobless rate for male veterans discharged since 1994 is seven percent, considerably higher than the current national average of 4.5 percent of all Americans. The rate of unemployment for female veterans is 5.9 percent. Even more alarming is the state of underemployment of former military. Our downsizing of the Army by 60 percent since the Gulf War has thrust hundreds of thousands of early retirees from military service into the private sector. The WB&B survey showed that they are not being welcomed as they should be by civilian employers, perhaps only because only one in every 147 of them has prior active duty military service, compared with one in every ten after World War II. Indeed, retired Admiral Stanley Arthur, the Navy's top commander in the Gulf War, said that "the military is no longer an institution with which most—even many—people can identify."

A random survey of 1700 recently transitioned military personnel found most of them to be active job seekers. More than half of them sent out at least 50 resumes. Another 30 percent distributed more than 100 resumes. Three in every four of them received not one reply. Only one of about every six who heard back received even a single job offer. Among those who accepted, 80 percent were found to earn less than \$20,000.

Wesley, Brown and Bartle is to be commended for founding the Center for Military and Private Sector Initiatives which was established to help military men and women more effectively transition from active duty to civilian life. Through the Center, corporate America has a rare opportunity to forge partnerships that will positively impact the transition of military professionals and enhance America's workforce.

Mr. Speaker, the Center for Military and Private Sector Initiatives is to be commended for providing American business with the value that former military professionals bring to the workplace, making corporate America more competitive. When American businesses capitalize on the value of the military experience, America wins.

#### SALUTING THE EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

#### **HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 12, 1998*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute one of our Nation's leading public policy institutes on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. For two decades now, the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), under the outstanding leadership of its president Dallas Salisbury, has been providing trusted data and analysis on some of the most important public policy issues of our time—Social Security re-

form, health coverage and quality, and the changing world of private pensions.

As one who has made retirement and health security issues the core of my legislative agenda, I have benefited many times from EBRI's exceptional and nonpartisan research and analysis. I have relied on EBRI to provide me with the very latest findings and developments, and I have called on their stable of experts many times for objective data and analysis as I have begun work on a new legislative initiative.

I want to commend EBRI in particular for two of its most recent endeavors. One was the central role EBRI played in organizing this year's National Summit on Retirement Savings, which highlighted the critical issues of saving and planning for retirement. The second is EBRI's recent development of a highly sophisticated computer model of the Social Security system that is now the leading tool in the country for analyzing the effects of Social Security reform proposals.

Mr. Speaker, again let me congratulate the Employee Benefit Research Institute for 20 years of outstanding work. I look forward to EBRI's continued contribution to the public policy of our Nation.

#### INTERNATIONAL ANTI-BRIBERY AND FAIR COMPETITION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

#### **HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, we all have a strong interest in seeing that there is a level playing field on which U.S. business and U.S. workers can compete in world markets.

The bill are considering today, H.R. 4353, points out just how unlevel that playing field can be. In May of 1976, Congress received from the Securities and Exchange Commission an extensive "Report on Questionable and Illegal Corporate Payments and Practices" that revealed corrupt foreign payments by over 300 U.S. companies involving hundreds of millions of dollars and the falsification of accounting records and the deceit of auditors.

Since 1977, U.S. law has made it a crime from American businessmen to bribe foreign government officials to obtain business contracts. Yet, Germany and other countries do not just fail to prohibit bribery on the part of their business representatives, they make it a tax deductible expense.

Last December, 33 of our major trading partners signed the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. Under this agreement, our major trading partners commit, for the first time, to make business-related bribes to foreign officials a crime under their respective legal systems.

H.R. 4353 expands and strengthens the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) to implement U.S. obligations under the OECD convention. It expands the FCPA to include bribes to foreign public officials that are made to secure "any improper advantage." The bill also expands the FCPA to cover not only U.S. businesses and issuers of securities, but also