

only bearable, but also enjoyable for both parents and family members.

A recent story in a local Montgomery County, Maryland newspaper told the story of a mother of a terminally ill child who was a resident at The Children's Inn on various occasions. Speaking of the positive influence the Children's Inn has had on her family, she said, "The Inn was one of the greatest gifts I could receive."

Congratulations to the Children's Inn for 10 years of devoted service to our community. Keep up the great work!

EDWARDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:
MUSTAFAA SALEH AND LISA
MATTESON

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, these students are all credit to their families and the Chicago community. I wish them tremendous success in their continuing education and future aspirations. Furthermore, I charge all of them to use their strength and leadership in service to this great nation. Mr. Speaker, I am again pleased to offer my sincere congratulations the winners of my 2000 Spirit of Achievement Award program.

RICHARD H. BLADES, 1930-1999:
PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, late last year, we lost a remarkable man—a man who made significant contributions to every field he touched: the non-profit sector, business, politics, and government, including the House of Representatives.

Richard H. Blades was an expert in public relations who never sought publicity for himself, a political strategist of the first rank who never held office, a man of comfortable means who never forgot those less fortunate, and a man with a great sense of humor who never failed to confront the serious issues of his community, state, and nation.

Dick Blades was born in Huntington Park, California, and established a reputation in high school, and at the University of Southern California, as a skilled debater. After graduating from U.S.C. in 1952, Dick began work as a public relations consultant and political strategist. He also established an extraordinary partnership with Alphonzo Bell.

In the 1950s, Al Bell was a major figure in the California Republican Party serving as Chairman of the State Republican Central Committee, and later as Chair of the Los Angeles County Republican Central Committee. Dick worked with Al Bell on some of the legendary internal battles of the Republican party in the 1950's—featuring such larger-than-life figures as Governor Goodwin Knight, Senator William F. Knowland, the Republican Leader of the United States Senate, Senator Thomas H. Kuchel, the Republican Whip, and Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

Alphonzo Bell was then elected to the House of Representatives in 1960 from Los Angeles and would serve for sixteen very distinguished years. During those years, Dick assisted Congressman Bell in a variety of capacities, including campaign manager, field representative, and administrative assistant. Dick also found time to consult on Nelson Rockefeller's 1964 campaign for President, and Charles Percy's victorious 1966 campaign for United States Senate in Illinois.

The partnership of Congressman Bell and Dick Blades enjoyed great success and they had many significant legislative accomplishments in the 1960's and 1970's, especially in the areas of education, space and technology, and the environment. Their proudest achievements included initiating the preservation of the Santa Monica Mountains and the Channel Islands, and establishing the San Onofre area as a public beach.

Dick had great respect for the House of Representatives as an institution where diverse people and interests would come together to resolve conflicts. He is an example of what makes this institution work—the dedicated staff member who serves his Representative, Congress, and the country, with honor, wisdom, and loyalty. Dick also respected the electoral process and was known for his keen understanding of the issues. The campaigns he managed spoke honestly and intelligently to the people, and Dick treated the voters as independent citizens capable of exercising good judgment, not as a pliable mass to be manipulated with modern media techniques.

After Congressman Bell's retirement, Dick provided consulting services to Bell Petroleum and embarked on another extraordinary career as a volunteer board member in the non-profit world. All of the skills Dick displayed in the political world were now being used to help charities—many of them very small or new organizations doing innovative work.

Dick's qualities of judgment, wisdom, and ability to get things done, along with his skills in finance, public relations, policy, and personnel, made him a revered and sought after board member in a variety of worthy causes, especially in the areas of health care, disability rights, and literacy. Dick was a life-long asthmatic who ultimately succumbed to respiratory failure. He served as President of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of Southern California and helped begin the Breathmobile project which brings critical medical services to inner city children. The Breathmobile program has been credited with saving hundreds, if not thousands, of lives, and was later expanded to the entire country.

Dick was also a valued board member and officer of Centro Latino Educacion Popular, which trains Spanish-speaking adults to read and write, the Western Law Center for Disability Rights at Loyola Law School, and the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment.

Although Dick was unquestionably a man of the sensible center, he had a diverse collection of friends who ranged from the far right to the far left. He helped to moderate them, but he, in turn, learned from them and was always open to good ideas from any source.

At Dick's memorial service, there was an astonishing array of friends from all walks of life—business, charities, education, politics, and entertainment—and from all stations in life, young and old, the wealthy and those of

modest means, celebrities and those whose names have never been in the papers.

What they had in common, along with Dick's friends who could not attend, was deep affection and respect for an extraordinary man who had no children but who touched the lives of many, and who leaves a legacy of achievement and generosity of spirit that is a model for us all.

IN HONOR OF EMILIO MILITO
NAVARRO, EUGENE GENE SMITH
AND WILMER RED FIELDS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Emilio "Milito" Navarro, Eugene "Gene" Smith, and Wilmer "Red" Fields; three players who have made a celebrated contribution to the baseball history of America.

Emilio Navarro played for the Cuban Stars and is the last known living player from the Eastern Colored League. Considered an excellent hitter, in 1928 Emilio was the regular shortstop and lead off batter for the Cuban Stars and posted a .337 batting average in the following season. Frequently listed as "Milito" in the box scores, he was a star in his homeland of Puerto Rico, and was elected to the Puerto Rican Hall of Fame in 1992.

Eugene Smith played in the Negro Leagues from 1939 to 1950 and pitched for the Cleveland Buckeyes in 1947. He was regarded as a power pitcher with a good fastball and slider, and was one of the "Big Four" on the St. Louis Stars' pitching staff.

Wilmer "Red" Fields was an ace pitcher for the Homestead Grays team that won the National Negro League Championship in 1948. He registered a 7-1 record in league games that year, appeared in the All-Star game, and pitched in two World Series games. After the Grays disbanded, Fields was offered positions with five major league teams, but turned all the offers down. He did, however, play for Toronto in the International League, as well as playing in several Latin American Leagues during winters.

My fellow colleagues, please join with me in honoring these three admirable athletes, whose talents are being recognized at the Third Annual Negro/Hispanic Baseball Legends Celebration this year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN
FRONT RANGE ROADLESS AREA
AND MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PRO-
TECTION ACT AND THE COLO-
RADO FOREST RESTORATION
AND FIRE REDUCTION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, Colorado's forest lands are one of the things that makes our state a very special place to live. But as our population increases, so do the pressures on our forests and the potential damage that can result from intense wildfires

in the areas where residential areas press against the forests.

Today, I am introducing two bills that respond to at least some aspects of these two serious problems. One will provide protection for roadless areas in the Congressional District I represent. The other would put new emphasis on cooperative efforts to restore forest lands and prevent catastrophic forest fires in areas of high risk throughout Colorado.

PROTECTION FOR ROADLESS AREAS

The first bill is the Northern Front Range Roadless Area and Mountain Backdrop Protection Act. Under that bill, the Forest Service would manage over 80,000 acres on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest as "protected roadless areas." All of these areas are within Colorado's Second Congressional District. They are areas that the Forest Service identified as roadless in its 1997 Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Arapaho-Roosevelt. Most of these areas would be appropriate additions to existing wilderness areas, and they are also included in President Clinton's Roadless Conservation Proposal for the national forests.

The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest is within a few minutes drive for more than 2.5 million people in the Front Range Denver-metro area. As a result, it is experiencing increasing use of all kinds, especially recreational use. I have supported the President's roadless area initiative in part because I know how those increasing pressures are affecting the Arapaho-Roosevelt and the other national forests in Colorado. And, with respect to relevant lands within my own Congressional District, I want to build on what the President has proposed. So, my first bill would undergird the President's initiative with a statutory requirement that the Forest Service manage these areas to preserve their roadless qualities until Congress determines otherwise.

With this interim protection in place, the bill would also require the Forest Service to study and evaluate these areas and then make recommendations to Congress regarding their future management. That report would be submitted within three years. In the meantime, and until Congress decides otherwise, these roadless areas would be managed under the "recommended for wilderness" management category in the Forest Plan, and require the Forest Service to study and report to Congress in three years about management options for these lands. The report would include recommendations about the suitability of wilderness designation for some or all of these lands but can also include any other recommendations the Secretary of Agriculture decides to make. The bill will thus maintain all options and allow the Congress to ultimately resolve the status of these roadless lands.

ROCKY FLATS MOUNTAIN BACKDROP STUDY

The bill also contains a section intended to help local communities preserve the Front Range Mountain Backdrop just west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site.

As all Coloradans know, Rocky Flats is just a few miles north and west of Denver. Once, it was a nuclear weapons production facility. But now that mission is over and the task of the Rocky Flats workforce is to carry out a thorough, prompt, and effective cleanup and closure. I strongly support that effort, and am also working to have the prairie land within the site's 6,500 acres protected as wildlife habitat and open space. But I think we need to look beyond the site's perimeters.

So far, development in the Denver-metro area has not yet surrounded the Rocky Flats site. However, growth and sprawl are heading its way. Now is the time to shape the future of this part of the Front Range, and I think we have a real but fleeting opportunity to establish Rocky Flats and lands to its west as a "crown jewel" of open space and wildlife habitat that will be of inestimable value for Coloradans for generations to come. I also think the federal government can help achieve that goal. So, my bill would call on the Forest Service to examine the land ownership patterns west of Rocky Flats, identify lands that are undeveloped, and recommend options on how these areas could be preserved.

FOREST RESTORATION AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION

The second bill I am introducing is the Colorado Forest Restoration and Fire Reduction Act. This bill complements the roadless-area protection bill by addressing some of the most pressing forest issues in other areas—the parts of Colorado's forests that adjoin urban development and that are at greatest risk for intense fires that can despoil watersheds and destroy homes.

As the news headlines continue to report, wildfires on national forests and other forested lands are a serious problem this summer—especially in Colorado. Right now, a major fire is still burning at the Mesa Verde National Park, another fire threatens the watershed of Glenwood Springs, and people are trying to recover from earlier fires that destroyed homes in areas of the Front Range.

Part of the problem results from hot, dry weather. But there are other, contributing factors. For many years, the Forest Service had a policy of trying to suppress nearly every fire, even though fire is an inescapable part of the ecology of western forests like those in Colorado. Today, in many parts of the forests there is an accumulation of underbrush and small diameter trees that is greater than would be the case if there had been more, smaller fires over the years. They provide the extra fuel that can turn a small fire into an intense inferno. Add to that our growing population and increasing development in the places where communities meet the forests—the so-called "urban interface"—and you have a recipe for worse problems ahead.

Properties, lives, and wildlife habitat are at risk, and so is the environment. Uncontrolled wildfires strip the land of its protective vegetative cover, making it highly susceptible to erosion. We have seen what that means in places like Buffalo Creek, where the eventual rain storms wash sediment and forest material into waterways, polluting and clogging sources of drinking water. In addition, wildfires also have serious adverse effects on the quality of the air.

Working with state and local partners, including our state forest service, the U.S. Forest Service has identified the interface areas at greatest risk of fire—the areas they call the "red zone." My second bill deals just with those areas.

Red zone areas in Colorado are situated in regions that contain complex land ownership patterns—frequently involving federal, state, Tribal, county, private and city lands. Those patterns make it difficult for any one agency to deal with the problem and so makes the problem that more intense. My bill would address these problems by establishing a program to share costs and provide incentives for collabor-

ative efforts at forest restoration and fire-prevention projects in the red zone.

The bill calls on the Forest Service to work with state and local agencies, independent scientists, and stakeholder groups to identify priorities and develop projects for forest restoration and fire prevention. The bill spells out clear and sound requirements that such projects would have to meet to be eligible for funding—including preservation of old trees and trees larger than 12" in diameter. It also specifies that preservation of roadless areas would be required, and that all projects would have to meet the requirements of all federal and state environmental laws.

To help assure the integrity of the program, the bill would require establishment of a technical advisory panel, including independent scientists as well as representatives of relevant agencies and stakeholder groups, to provide additional guidelines and set priorities. It would also require that the projects authorized under the bill be monitored and evaluated for their benefits and any potential adverse impacts to make sure the program is working as intended. The bill also authorizes funding to provide the federal share of the costs of the projects developed and implemented under the program.

Ultimately, the objective of this bill is to develop new collaborative relationships between the Forest Service and state, local and private forest experts and landowners—together with the public—to get out on the land and address problems before they become uncontrollable. The theory of this bill is that it is cheaper and more effective to prevent fires than to fight them. Reducing fire risks and restoring natural balance on our forested lands can help us accomplish that goal.

Mr. Speaker, these bills were not written overnight and they do not reflect just my own ideas. In developing them, I have drawn upon the technical expertise of federal and state agencies and have consulted with members of the Colorado conservation community as well as with other Coloradans who are familiar with the resources, values, and problems of our forests. I think these bills are sound, balanced measures that can help address some of the most pressing of those problems. I look forward to working with other Members of the Colorado delegation and the Congress as a whole to achieve the important goals of this legislation.

NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, we've had a busy agenda this week. But one important bill has been missing—the bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, or "VAWA." The House should take it up without delay.

VAWA is very important for Colorado. Through last year, our state received almost \$15 million in VAWA grants. That money has helped assist victims of domestic violence, but it has also done much more.

In fact, according to a letter from our Attorney General, Ken Salazar, and his colleagues