

George Walker Smith, who tonight will be honored at the San Diego Urban League's Annual Equal Opportunity Awards Dinner. Reverend Smith is the 1999 recipient of the League's Equity Opportunity Award.

Reverend Smith is a man who has distinguished himself throughout the years by his unselfish service. During his 42 years as a pastor in San Diego, he has been active not only in his parish, but in the greater community. His influence is felt not only in the religious sphere, but in education policy and political activity. He was one of KNSD Channel 39's "List of 39", a series featuring prominent and effective San Diegans. In 1998, San Diego Magazine profiled Reverend Smith as one of the 50 San Diegans who have had a major impact in shaping the city over the past 50 years.

The third of eleven children of the late Amanda and Will Smith, he early on faced a situation in his home town where schooling was not provided beyond junior high school for African-Americans. This segregated education forced him to attend a boarding school supported by missions of the Presbyterian Church.

An outstanding academic record as class valedictorian and his participation in extra-curricular activities and sports earned him a scholarship to Knoxville College. Upon graduation, he entered Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to pursue his goal of becoming a minister. He received his Master of Divinity degree in 1956 and set out to eradicate the economic and educational injustice he had experienced. His motivation to provide a quality education to all children stems from his own early experiences, which made it difficult for him to receive the education that he deserved. He determined that should not happen to another child!

Coming to San Diego shortly after receiving his Divinity degree, he became the founder of the Golden Hills United Presbyterian Church. This congregation merged with the Brooklyn Heights Church in 1981 and became the Christ United Presbyterian Church of San Diego, one of the most respected congregations in the San Diego Presbytery.

Almost immediately, he also became involved in the educational system in San Diego. His accomplishments include his election in 1963 to the San Diego Board of Education—San Diego's first African-American public official, his service as President of the Council of Great City Schools, and as President of the National School Boards Association.

During his 16 years on the School Board, he literally changed the color of the administrative and teaching staffs—bringing the advantage of diversity to the nation's 6th largest school district.

He also served on many state and national commissions and on the National Advisory Commission for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the White House Conference on Children and Youth.

He has received many honors and awards, attesting to his contributions and the high regard in which he is held, including San Diego's Outstanding Young Clergyman, Phi Delta Kappa Lay Citizen Award, Gentleman of Distinction of the Women's Guild, Temple Emanuel, and Distinguished Alumni of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He was endorsed by the Presbytery of San Diego for the

moderator of the General Assembly, the first time a San Diego Presbyterian had been so honored.

He is married to Irene Hightower Smith, and they are the parents of three children, Anthony, Carolyn and Joyce and the grandparents of five grandchildren, Taj, D'maj, Shani, Wayman, and Noni.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Reverend George Walker Smith on the occasion of his recognition by the San Diego Urban League and to acknowledge his idealism and dedication to providing a quality education for all children and to making his community a better place for all of its citizens.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN P. HUSTON

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that John P. Huston, chairman of Wood & Huston Bank in Marshall, Missouri, was inducted into the 50-Year Club of the Missouri Bankers Association.

Huston began working full time for Wood & Huston Bank of Marshall after he graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1949. Huston is also an Army Veteran, having served our country in the Korean War. He is currently chairman of Wood & Huston Bank and president of Wood & Huston Bancorporation, Inc.

Huston is one of eight bankers who were honored at the Missouri Bankers Association's annual convention this summer.

I wish to extend my congratulations to Mr. Huston for his most deserved induction into the 50-Year Club of the Missouri Bankers Association. He has truly served his community and country with great dedication. I wish him well in the days head and am proud to recognize his achievements today.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BRAZOSPORT REHAB CARE CENTER AND NATIONAL REHABILITATION AWARENESS WEEK

#### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and join with the Brazosport RehabCare Center in Lake Jackson, Texas, in observing and celebrating National Rehabilitation Awareness week beginning September 12 through September 18, 1999.

The Brazosport RehabCare Center opened its doors on December 31, 1992. Construction was completed at the end of April, 1993, for a total of 14 acute rehabilitation beds.

The Brazosport RehabCare Center is located in Brazosport Memorial Hospital in Lake Jackson, Texas. The primary service areas include the cities of Lake Jackson, Clute, Freeport, Angleton, Danbury and Brazoria. This service area has a combined population of approximately 95,000. The secondary service

area includes the cities of Sweeny, West Columbus and Old Ocean with a population of approximately 16,000. The RehabCare Center has also attracted patients from Bay City and Alvin.

Comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation services are provided to individuals with orthopedic, neurological and other medical conditions of recent onset or regression. These patients have experienced a loss of function in activities of daily living, mobility, cognition or communication. Types of patients admitted into the Brazosport RehabCare Center may include those with a diagnosis of stroke, spinal cord injury or dysfunction, brain injury, amputation, multiple trauma, hip fracture or joint replacement, arthritis, congenial deformity, burns or other progressive neuralgic syndromes such as Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis and Guillain Barre.

The services Brazosport RehabCare Center provides include rehabilitation medicine, rehabilitation nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language pathology, social work, psychology and recreational activities. In addition, prosthetics/orthotics, vocational rehabilitation, audiology and driver education are provided when necessary through affiliate agreements with external organizations. The goal of each service is to maximize the individual's potential in the restoration of function or adjustment by intergrating with other services.

By addressing the multiple effects that disability has on the patient and family and by integrating the combined resources of patient, family and interdisciplinary rehabilitation team, comprehensive rehabilitation programming can maximize the abilities and esteem of the patient and family and foster a healthy reintegration into the community. At the Brazosport RehabCare Center, patient outcomes are exceptionally positive. Eighty-six percent of their patients are able to return home and lead an independent lifestyle.

I am proud and honored to have the Brazosport RehabCare rehabilitation facilities at Brazosport Memorial Hospital, Lake Jackson, Texas. Please join me in recognizing the Brazosport RehabCare Center for its outstanding services and remarkable accomplishments as we celebrate National Rehabilitation Awareness week.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES F.C. RUFF—AN OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY AND PUBLIC SERVANT

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Charles F.C. Ruff, who left his position as White House Counsel earlier this summer. His exemplary record merits the commendation and thanks of all Americans who admire his commitment to justice and public service.

While most Americans recognize Charles Ruff from his key role in the Senate impeachment trial earlier this year, his brilliant career in public service began over three decades ago. A graduate of Swarthmore College and Columbia University Law School, Ruff accepted a position with the Organized Crime

and Racketeering Section of the Justice Department in 1967. His commitment to representing the public interest was complemented by his solid legal skills, and during the 1970's Ruff rapidly became one of the most highly-regarded and influential attorneys in Washington. As the Special Prosecutor for the Watergate Special Prosecution Force, he effectively tried and convicted those members of President Nixon's administration who broke our nation's laws and violated the public trust.

In recognition of his numerous achievements, President Jimmy Carter appointed Charles Ruff to a senior position in the Department of Justice and later appointed him to the position of United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. In this latter post, Ruff supervised cases against two Members of Congress in the Abscam bribery case, as well as the government's prosecution of John W. Hinckley, Jr., the attempted assassin of President Ronald Reagan.

Charles Ruff turned to the private practice of law in 1982 and achieved extraordinary professional success as a partner with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Covington & Burling. Entering the private sector, however, not erode his desire to utilize his talents for the public good. In 1995 Ruff left private legal practice to accept a position at a far more modest annual salary, as Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia. His two years in this post earned him the admiration of his peers, as well as the notice of another attorney, who happened to reside at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

In early 1997, Charles Ruff accepted President Bill Clinton's invitation to serve as White House Counsel. His duties during the past two and a half years have proven as diverse as they have been complex, ranging from policing White House ethics to providing the President with sound advice on critical constitutional issues. Mr. Ruff has handled these responsibilities with unequalled skill, impressing colleagues and White House observers with this attention to duty and his unshakeable integrity.

Earlier this year, Ruff led the President's successful defense against impeachment charges in the United States Senate. An island of cool-headed statesmanship in the midst of political charges and countercharges, Ruff received plaudits from allies and opponents alike for his well reasoned and respectful arguments. As the Washington Post (June 10, 1999) noted after the trial: "Ruff was widely respected by both Democrats and Republicans in Congress as a lawyer who doggedly defended his client but didn't engage in personal attacks or media ploys."

When he appointed Charles Ruff to the position of White House Counsel, President Clinton explained his choice in very precise terms. "The job of Counsel to the President requires an individual with a rare combination of intelligence, judgement, knowledge, experience, stature and legal skill. That is a perfect description of Charles Ruff."

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Charles Ruff for his outstanding contributions to our nation and to the American people.

## WILDERNESS ACT

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act plays a critical role in establishing common sense values and land use ethic for the management and protection of America's most scenic and ecologically diverse lands. Wilderness, as defined by the Act, is an area "where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," where the land "appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." After 7 years of hearings and debate, and 66 rewrites, President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act and formally codified the mantle piece of United States environmental legislation into law.

The Wilderness Act established 9.1 million acres of wilderness in our National Forests, and in its 35 year legacy, Congress added an additional 95 million acres to the Wilderness Preservation System. Although I am here to celebrate and commend Congress for its role in protecting our nation's land, the Wilderness Preservation System is far from complete and the land is far from being fully protected.

Threats to the preservation of our wilderness system exist in many forms, but they all have the same effect on our wild lands—the degradation and ultimate downward spiral of entire ecosystems. These threats exist in our national forests where valuable tracts of land are sought as much for their beauty as for their timber, in our lands to the West where the water that breathes life into diverse ecosystems is being diverted away for agricultural purposes, in our deserts where the chirp of a cricket is drowned out from the scream of jet engines overhead, or where mining threatens to degrade critically important lands adjacent to Congressionally mandated wilderness preserves. These are all very real and very dangerous threats facing our wilderness system—threats that Congress has the power to stop.

Unfortunately, Congress does not have the will to put an end to these threats. In fact, since the 104th Congress, only 20,000 acres of land at Opal Creek, Oregon have been added to the Wilderness Preservation System. To put this in perspective, the Reagan Administration alone added 15 million acres to the wilderness system. In the face of growing public sentiment and outcry for more greenspace and wildlands, Congress must push forward an agenda that all of America can support—protection and expansion of America's Wilderness Preservation System.

The American public no longer sees land as an opportunity for expansion and exploitation. All too often now, people seek nature as a release and haven from the rigors and stress of everyday life. We are about to embark on a historic journey to a new millennium and a new way of thinking. It is time that Congress breath new life into Wilderness Preservation System and expand on its already diverse portfolio. America is defined as much by its melting pot of people and cultures as it is by its diverse landscapes, many of which are unique to this nation alone. It is time for Congress to push forward a wilderness agenda

and teach our children a land use ethic that will protect the land and its creatures for generations to come.

**AMY ISAACS: THIRTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO PROGRESSIVE IDEALS**

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Amy Isaacs on her 30th anniversary with Americans for Democratic Action—the nation's oldest independent liberal organization that has worked tirelessly to improve American society. Her contribution to ADA has been enormous!

She began her career as an intern in 1969 and moved through the ranks as Director of Organization, Executive Assistant to the Director, Deputy National Director—and she has served as the National Director for the past ten years.

Her fellow staff members at ADA, unanimously agree on Amy's most admirable quality: humility. In spite of all she has done and all she has accomplished, she would never admit to her critical role in setting and pursuing the ideals and agenda of ADA. She is a dedicated servant to these ideals and, thus, to ADA. She has seen the organization through both good times and bad, and she has never thought of giving up the fight.

Amy and her fellow ADA members are dedicated to a better world with rising standards of living for all, to basic human rights at home and abroad, to the end of all forms of discrimination, and to a more equitable distribution of our resources.

These values are just as relevant today as when ADA was founded over 50 years ago. And such policy goals as the increase in the minimum wage, preservation of Medicare, universal and quality health care, comprehensive campaign finance reform, a safe and healthy environment, full access to a quality education owe much to Amy Isaacs and her fellow members of ADA.

Amy's commitment equals that of ADA's founders: Eleanor Roosevelt, John Kenneth Galbraith, Walter Reuther, David Dubinsky, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Reinhold Niebuhr, and Hubert Humphrey. Because I had the opportunity to work for Senator Humphrey as a Congressional Fellow in the 1970s, I learned from him, first-hand, about the importance of the role of ADA and the importance of the work of its members and of Amy Isaacs.

In addition to her work at ADA, Amy has worked at Planned Parenthood Federation of America and in political campaigns. She has spent time abroad, as a student at the University of Cologne in Germany, as a delegate to the Young Leaders Conference for the American Council on Germany, and as a member of a bi-partisan observer delegation to the Liberal International Party Congress in Stockholm, Sweden.

A graduate of American University in Washington, D.C., Amy also earned an M.A. certificate in International Administration from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognize and sincerely thank Amy Isaacs on the