

if properly developed, could go a long way towards freeing the U.S. from its dependence on coal. Just 10,000 square miles of solar panels would supply all of the nation's electricity needs.

And just a few weeks ago, the Public Service Company of New Mexico and FPL Energy LLC, based in Florida, signed an agreement to build in my congressional district one of the nation's largest wind generation fields near Fort Sumner in eastern New Mexico. Harnessed by 136 twirling turbines, wind will be used to create electricity in the first large-scale renewable energy operation in the state.

Wind will make up less than 4 percent of the power generated by PNM, and this project has the hope of becoming the first of many wind farms in the state and an example of using and developing new technologies for renewable energy use.

A RPS makes good economic sense to help states diversify their energy market, increase their work force, and help revitalize communities who have little to no economic development.

Currently, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission is working on passing a Renewable Portfolio Standard for New Mexico that would require electric utilities to generate 10% of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2007.

Mr. Speaker, our dependence on coal, oil and other traditional energy sources is unsustainable. To protect our environment and our economy, we must turn off the dead end street that our energy non-policy has been leading us down, and start down a path of energy productivity and sustainable, environmentally sound production.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGHLIGHTER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students and staff members involved with Rocky Mountain High School's student newspaper, Highlighter, for winning the 2002 Colorado High School Press Association Newspaper Sweepstakes for the second consecutive year on October 3, 2002.

Under the guidance of Rocky Mountain Highlighter newspaper advisor and language arts teacher Stephen Wahlfeldt, these dedicated and resourceful students worked tirelessly through the school year to create an informative and professional newspaper. The Lobos ultimately achieved victory over 63 other participating schools in the Sweepstakes, and kept the title of "Colorado's best high school newspaper" in Fort Collins for at least another year, through six first-place and three second-place awards.

Crucial wins in the individual categories came from Erin Ortmeier for Critical review writing; Leigh Pogue, Baker Machado, and Ortmeier for Sports Feature story; Joy Bloser and Brett Burnett for Feature Photograph; Kristen Frank and Burnett for Sports Photograph; and Jenny Ackerson, Carolyn Whitten and Burnett for Front Page Layout. The Rocky

Mountain Highlighter also proved its superiority in the esteemed General Excellence category. Additionally, Jack Meiter, Kendall Miller and Burnett won second-place for Personal Opinion Column, as did Brent Barentine for Graphic Illustration. The entire staff collaborated to place second the Headlines category.

These journalists involved in Highlighter are commended for their achievements and praised for their pursuit of excellence. These young men and women are primary examples of the vast potential of future generations. Go Lobos!

HONORING HANOVER COUNTY SHERIFF V. STUART COOK FOR HIS LEADERSHIP DURING THE SNIPER ATTACKS

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hanover County Sheriff V. Stuart Cook for his outstanding leadership during the sniper attacks that shook Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

After the Ashland, Virginia shooting of October 19th, Sheriff Cook was instrumental in leading a quick and efficient response. In addition, he and his team performed a thorough investigation after the shooting that certainly aided in the capture of the suspects on October 24th and will prove vital to the incrimination of the suspects during trial. Furthermore, Sheriff Cook served as a strong voice of reason to many in the area who were terrified and anxious because of the attacks.

Sheriff Cook is an outstanding law enforcement officer who has served Hanover County, Richmond, and the Commonwealth of Virginia with distinction for over 37 years. His professionalism, commitment to his team, and dedication to duty are truly deserving of special recognition. He is a highly dedicated man who has faithfully contributed to his community and the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are fortunate that he serves in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sheriff Cook.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT: TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to protest the "compromise" provision included in the Defense Authorization Act regarding the issue known as concurrent receipt.

As we all know, current law requires an offset between military retired pay and VA disability compensation. In effect, our disabled military retirees are paying for their own disability!

Both the House and the Senate, in their versions of the Defense Authorization Act,

passed significant and appropriate provisions to address this inequity. The Senate bill provided concurrent receipt for all veterans who were qualified to receive both military retired pay and VA disability compensation. The House bill provided it for those veterans with a disability rating of 60 percent or more.

Now, we come to the so-called "compromise" before us. A compromise, to me, means that you meet somewhere in the middle. This compromise does not such thing. It would set up an alternative "special pay" for only military retirees who have combat-related disabilities. These are military retirees with 20 years of service who also:

1. Have a Purple Heart and a disability rating of 10 percent or more for the condition for which they received the Purple Heart, or

2. Have another "qualifying combat-related disability" rated at least 60 percent.

I have heard that this "compromise" is being sold as a good first step. It is not a good first step. It is hardly a step at all.

During my ten years in Congress, I cannot recall more than one or two other issues besides concurrent receipt on which I have received so many letters, e-mails, and calls. The expectations of our military retirees have been raised by the House and Senate versions of this bill. It is a disservice to give so little to so few at the last minute. While these veterans with combat-related disabilities are absolutely deserving of recognition, so are the others whom we have been fighting for!

I understand that it is expensive to pass concurrent receipt. But disabled veterans did not hesitate when called to serve. They returned home with disabilities they have had to live with ever since. How can we even doubt the need to keep our promises and give them what they deserve? They earned their military retired pay. They deserve their VA disability compensation. The "compromise" that is before us today is a disgrace.

KUNTU REPERTORY THEATRE

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to an important cultural resource in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Kuntu Repertory Theatre of the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Africana Studies has been presenting the works of African, African-American, and Caribbean playwrights and poets since 1974. The Theatre was founded that year by Vernell A. Lillie to showcase the works of Rob Penny, the school's playwright in residence, as well as those of other authors whose works explore the Black experience. It plays an important role in Pittsburgh by providing an important voice in the region's cultural mix. In addition, the Kuntu Repertory Theatre is the only ongoing African American theater group in Pittsburgh; consequently, it provides African American actors, writers and technicians with opportunities that might not be available elsewhere.

Over the last 28 years, the KRT has produced more than 80 plays under the direction