

children in the area, educating the community about the advocacy center and organizing area agencies who began working and meeting together on a regular basis as a result of her tireless efforts.

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) across the Nation are child-focused, facility-based programs in which representatives from many disciplines meet to discuss and make decisions about investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases. They also work to prevent further victimization of children. This approach brings together a comprehensive group of agencies such as law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, mental health and the medical community. It is an approach that truly puts the needs of the child victims first.

It takes a very unique individual to facilitate communications and meetings between these many agencies. Mitzi Stites initiated this plan in Robertson County in 1993 and since that time has seen great success. She has shown foresight and leadership not only in the day-to-day operations of the facility, but by pioneering a number of community efforts on behalf of children.

These include the Blue Ribbon Campaign in honor of April as Child Abuse Awareness Month, which Mitzi successfully launched in 1994 in Robertson County; the Teddy Bears for court program for child victims; the annual drive for backpacks filled with school supplies and toiletries for at risk, low-income, and children of victimization; and "snuggables" given to victims by the CAC, local enforcement, and the Department of Children's Services (DCS). She also annually organized "angels" to anonymously sponsor abused children and their families each Christmas. She has worked closely with Sharon Puckett of WSMV-TV in Nashville to provide hundreds of stuffed animals to needy children in our area. These stuffed animals were often donated quietly by Nashville's wealth of country music stars.

In addition, Mitzi Stites has been involved in numerous community and civic activities, serving as the Secretary for the Robertson County Coalition for several years, as well as many other organizations.

Prior to being named Executive Director for the Robertson County Children's Advocacy Center, Stites worked briefly at the Robertson County Times newspaper from 1992–1993. However she spent most of her career in mortgage banking, first with Southeast Mortgage Company in Miami from 1963–1989 and then with the JT Brokers Group, Inc., in Jupiter, Florida from 1989–1991.

Mitzi Stites often went above and beyond the call of duty, spending numerous hours fashioning the Robertson County Advocacy Center into a warm and homey atmosphere, rather than a sterile, office environment. The children who entered her doors often came in traumatized and fearful, but whether they were there for one visit or numerous visits, I assure you, they always left feeling loved.

Because my Springfield Congressional office was housed next door to the Advocacy Center, I was able to get to know Mitzi both professionally and personally. I admire her character and zeal on behalf of the children in our community, who once abused or neglected, often have no voice. Mitzi Stites has been that voice heard loud and clear on behalf of these children.

I wish the best for Ms. Stites on her retirement and in all of her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAMUEL MERRITT COLLEGE RECEIVING THE 1999 CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S QUALITY AWARD OAKLAND, CA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and celebrate Samuel Merritt College's receipt of the California Governor's Quality Award for 1999.

The Quality Award is California's premier award for performance excellence and quality achievement in business, education and health care professions. Samuel Merritt College was one of only six recipients to receive this prestigious award. The College is the first institution of higher education to receive this award.

Samuel Merritt College educates students for a life of highly skilled and compassionate service in health care. Founded in 1909 as a hospital school of nursing, Samuel Merritt College today offers both graduate and undergraduate degree programs in a variety of health science fields. The College's degrees include Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing and Health and Human Sciences and Master degrees in Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, and Nursing.

Samuel Merritt College has a long tradition of excellence representing the finest in health sciences education.

On March 8, 2000, a reception was held by the College's Board of Regents in celebration of this honor.

The Samuel Merritt College is truly a valuable resource for the community and medical profession. I am proud of this accomplishment and join in the celebration of this well-deserved recognition.

APRIL 13, 2000 IS NATIONAL D.O. DAY

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor National D.O. Day. I rise to recognize members of the osteopathic medical profession for their substantial contributions to American healthcare. I congratulate the American Osteopathic Association on its 103 years of service to osteopathic physicians and their patients. It is my pleasure to acknowledge members of the osteopathic medical profession, their spouses, and osteopathic medical students who have chosen today to make visits to their representatives and senators. It's good to see these individuals taking time to educate our colleagues on the values and principles of osteopathic medicine.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to represent the State of Missouri, which is the home of osteopathic medicine. In 1892, a charter was obtained for the American School of Osteopathy. The original school was located in a small one room building in Kirksville, Missouri and today is known as the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. A revised and expanded

charter was issued on October 3, 1894, in accordance with the laws regulating educational institutions in the State of Missouri. Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, an allopathic physician (or M.D.), was the founder of the Kirksville school and, indeed, the father of osteopathic medicine.

Osteopathic medicine is a unique form of American medical care developed in 1874 by Dr. Still who was dissatisfied with the effectiveness of 19th century medicine. Dr. Still was one of the first in his time to study the attributes of good health so that he could understand the process of disease. Dr. Still's philosophy focused on the unity of all body parts. He identified the musculoskeletal system as a key element of health and recognized the body's ability to heal itself. Dr. Still pioneered the concept of "wellness" over 100 years ago. He stressed preventative medicine, eating properly and keeping fit. Dr. Still's philosophy—that in coordination with appropriate medical treatment—the osteopathic physician acts as a teacher to help patients take more responsibility for their own well-being and change unhealthy patterns—is every bit as viable today as it was when he developed it.

D.O.s complete four years of basic medical education, followed by an intern year and specialty training. In fact, D.O.s are certified in 23 specialties and subspecialties. They pass state licensing examinations and practice in duly accredited and licensed osteopathic and allopathic healthcare facilities. D.O.s comprise a separate, yet equal, branch of American medical care.

It is the ways that D.O.s and M.D.s are different that brings an extra dimension to healthcare. Just as Dr. Still pioneered osteopathic medicine on the Missouri frontier in 1874, today's osteopathic physicians serve as modern day medical pioneers. They continue the tradition to bringing healthcare to areas of greatest need. Approximately 64 percent of all osteopathic physicians practice in primary care areas such as pediatrics, family practice, obstetrics/gynecology and internal medicine. Many D.O.s fill a critical need by practicing in rural and medically underserved areas.

To the over 1,600 D.O.s in my state, the approximately 2,000 students at Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville and Kansas City, and to all 45,000 D.O.s represented by the American Osteopathic Association—congratulations on your contributions to the good health of the American people. I look forward to working with you to further our mutual goal of continually improving our nation's healthcare.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUISUN-FAIRFIELD CHAPTER 81 OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Disabled American Veterans Chapter 81 of Suisun-Fairfield, California as this organization celebrates its 50th anniversary of service to our country.

The Suisun-Fairfield Chapter is part of a national DAV network that provides services to

and represents America's 2.1 million service-connected disabled veterans.

The DAV was formed in 1920 when local self help groups that had formed to provide support for the more than 300,000 disabled World War I troops who returned home from European battlefields merged into one national organization. The national organization received its Congressional Charter in 1932.

Forty local veterans helped organize and charter Chapter 81 in 1950. Over the years, its membership has grown to more than 900 veterans.

The annual Forget-Me-Not Drive is Chapter 81's primary community activity. The Forget-Me-Not Drive commemorates images brought back by soldiers who fought in World War I of flowers growing among the graves of their fallen comrades. The flower became the symbol of both those who died in battle and those who came home bearing the scars of war. Proceeds from the drive are used by Chapter 81 to provide incidentals to disabled veterans who are hospitalized or living in the community.

During the past fifty years, chapter 81 has also hosted special events for disabled children and for residents of the Veterans Home of California.

Chapter 81 has also had a very active Ladies Auxiliary. They hosted the club's bi-monthly family potlucks and continue to be involved in the club's annual Christmas Wish List Program for children and in distributing gifts at the Veterans Home.

Chapter 81 also actively works with its elected representatives to make sure that our service men and women who have been wounded in battle are not re-injured by peacetime apathy.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we acknowledge and honor today this veterans' organization and the men and women who have given so much for our country.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO AMEND THE ALASKA NATIVE
CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would address several matters of concern to Alaska Natives through an amendment to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

As my colleagues know, ANCSA was enacted in 1971, stimulated by the need to address Native land claims as well as the desire to clear the way for the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and thereby provide our country with access to the petroleum resources of Alaska's North Slope. As the years pass, issues arise which require amending the Act. The Resources Committee as a matter of course routinely considers such amendments and brings them before the House.

Consequently, I am introducing this bill containing several such amendments to ANCSA in order to facilitate having its provisions circulated during the upcoming Congressional recess among Congress, the Administration and the State of Alaska for review and consideration.

This bill has six provisions. One provision would clarify the liability for contaminated lands. The clarification of contaminated land would declare that no person acquiring interest in land under this Act shall be liable for the costs of removal or remedial action, any damages, or any third party liability arising out or as a result of any contamination on that land at the time the land was acquired under this Act.

Section 3 of the bill amends the Act further to allow equal access to Alaska Native Veterans who served in the military or other armed services during the Viet Nam war. Alaska Natives have faithfully answered the call of duty when asked to serve in the armed services. In fact, American Indians and Alaska Natives generally have the highest record of answering the call to duty.

Under the Native Allotment Act, Alaska Natives were allowed to apply for lands which they traditionally used as fish camps, berry picking camps or hunting camps. However, many of our Alaska Natives answered the call to duty and served in the services during the Viet Nam war and were unable to apply for their Native allotment. This provision allows them to apply for their Native allotments and would expand the dates to include the full years of the Viet Nam war. The original dates recommended by the Administration only allowed the dates January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971. Our Alaska Native veterans should not be penalized for serving during the entire dates of the Viet Nam conflict. This provision corrects that inequity by expanding the dates to reflect all the years of the Viet Nam war—August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.

The settlement trust provision of ANCSA presently indicates that the assets placed in a settlement trust are not subject to any creditor action other than those by the creditors of the settlement trust itself. Federal law is unclear whether the beneficiary's interests in the trust can be subject to attachment, etc., by their creditors. The legislative history from the 1988 amendments specifically indicates that a "spendthrift clause" could be included in the trust agreement for a settlement trust, but does not specify what the scope of such a provision could be. Normally, under general trust law, a spendthrift clause operates to limit the circumstances in which creditors can reach a beneficiary's trust interest. Alaska law (A.S. 34.40.110) expressly recognizes the validity of a spendthrift clause for trusts established on or after April 2, 1997, but does not expressly authorize a spendthrift clause for trusts established prior to this date.

All this uncertainty places the Trustees in a difficult legal position under present law in deciding whether to honor creditor levies against beneficiary interests in a settlement issue. Trustees are required as fiduciaries to protect the beneficiaries' rights, but are also required to honor creditor actions if those are valid under applicable law. At least one court case is now pending before the United States District Court for Alaska to determine whether the trustees of a settlement trust must honor a levy by the State of Alaska with regard to various beneficiaries' unpaid child support obligations.

By contrast, since 1971 section 7(h) of ANCSA has clearly restricted most creditor actions as to Native corporation stock. Creditors are prohibited from levies and other similar actions against Settlement Common Stock, ex-

cept to the extent that a court has authorized creditor action with regard to unpaid child support. Thus, child support levies are valid against Settlement Common Stock as long as a court has previously authorized such actions.

The proposed provision removes the uncertainty as to levies against the beneficial interests in a settlement trust by clarifying that such levies and other creditor actions may occur in the same circumstances that such levies and actions could occur with regard to the stock in a Native corporation. Not only does this confirm the trust procedure to a procedure already known to the personnel within Native corporations (who often provide the day to day administration of the trusts), but it also follows logically because the source of the settlement trust assets was the Native corporation.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the provisions which are currently included in the legislation I am introducing today which amends the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, it is my understanding that several other provisions are in the process of being drafted and/or negotiated with relevant parties. If those provisions are ready to be considered at the time of committee mark-up of this bill, then I anticipate that they would be offered for inclusion in the bill at that time.

Again, I am introducing this bill today to facilitate its provisions circulated and reviewed during the April recess by the Department of the Interior, the State of Alaska and Alaska Natives.

EARTH DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Earth Day serves to remind us all that environmental issues know no political bounds and affect all of the people, plants, and animals of the world community. It is essential that the policies our government enacts, and the personal activities we undertake reflect our profound concern for safeguarding the Earth.

From combating global climate change to protecting threatened species to providing clean water, we have a duty to act locally and globally to protect the environment for our present and future generations.

Saving the planet may seem to be an insurmountable task, but in order for our children to have a brighter future we must commit ourselves to an environmental policy which seeks to establish a clean, safe, and productive environment.

The 106th Congress is working to preserve and protect our Nation's open spaces by reinvigorating the land and water conservation fund. Designed to protect our nation's natural heritage, the land and water conservation fund is a vital program which has saved thousands of acres of forest, miles of river, and many of America's mountain ranges. In the face of pollution and urban sprawl, the 106th Congress has responded by looking to preserve our nation's greenways.

We must not forget that the air we breathe is our most precious resource. Americans can clearly see, smell and feel the difference that