

HONORING TUDOR CITY GREENS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I stand before my distinguished colleagues to honor the invaluable work of Tudor City Greens.

Tudor City Greens is a not-for-profit organization that maintains two parks within the Tudor City complex; one of New York City's most densely populated neighborhoods. Surrounded by the steel and glass of towering skyscrapers, these two parks have provided tranquility and beauty for the public's enjoyment since the late 1920's.

The importance of the parks to New York's quality of life was brought to the forefront when the very existence of the parks were threatened in 1972. That year a real estate developer bought the Tudor City complex and planned to build apartments on the parks. The community rallied against the developer and vehemently battled to save the parks. After a 15-year legal battle, the properties were sold to Time Equities who donated the parks to the Trust for Public Land. The parks were deemed only for recreational and cultural use and in 1988 Tudor City and its parks were designated an historic district by the Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1988.

Tudor City Greens was founded in January of 1987 by residents of the complex to preserve and maintain the parks. Since its conception, the organization has worked diligently to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to restore and maintain the parks. They have cultivated new gardens, initiated a tree care program and organized annual events such as Easter egg hunts, caroling and a Halloween parade.

On May 10, Tudor City Greens, will sponsor its Parks Celebration to focus the city's attention on the beauty of the parks, and the continuing efforts to preserve them. I would like to personally thank the directors of Tudor City Greens for their dedication and outstanding work in preserving one of New York's cultural treasures.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Tudor City Greens for providing the citizens of New York with this emerald isle deep within the heart of New York.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED TO THE CLEAN AIR ACT

HON. RANDY TATE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 1995

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I had preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an amendment offered by myself, and my distinguished colleague, Representative MIKE PARKER, to H.R. 961, the Clean Water Amendments of 1995.

The explanation follows:

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 961 TO RESOLVE THE TACOMA CASE BY INCLUDING STATE WATER QUALITY RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FERC LICENSING PROCESS—EXPLANATION

The purpose of this amendment is to address the serious concerns that the Supreme

Court's 1994 Tacoma decision are creating for the nation's hydropower projects. These projects are the leading source of clean, renewable electric energy in this country. But they are operating under a cloud because the Supreme Court has interpreted the Clean Water Act, in particular section 401 of the Act, so broadly as to effectively supersede the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)'s licensing authority over the projects under the Federal Power Act.

This amendment would rectify that situation. It directs state water quality agencies to provide their Clean Water Act recommendations—for hydropower projects under the Commission's jurisdiction—to the Commission to consider under the Federal Power Act. Section 10(a) of the Federal Power Act requires FERC to conduct a lengthy, comprehensive review of both proposed hydropower projects and existing projects upon relicensing. That review focuses heavily on the potential environmental impacts of each project and best ways to mitigate or avoid those impact. Furthermore, section 10(a) specifically requires the Commission to take into account the recommendations of state and federal agencies, Indian tribes, and the public. Therefore, in the context of hydropower projects under FERC's jurisdiction, it makes sense to fold state water quality agency recommendations into the comprehensive licensing process that already exists under the Federal Power Act. This amendment accomplishes that objective.

TRIBUTE TO CPL BRUCE BARDELL

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 1995

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished police officer who is retiring as a hero from the Allen Park, MI, Police Department. Cpl. Bruce Bardell was honored last month by the city he has served with bravery and skill for 29 years.

Since being wounded by a gunshot fired by a fleeing felon in 1978, Corporal Bardell has undergone four major surgeries, the most recent of which was in January of this year. I would like to share with my colleagues a little about the incident that led to this injury because it reveals much about the character of this officer, and the other officers on the Allen Park police force.

On June 3, 1978, Corporal Bardell was among the officers dispatched when a larceny was reported in the north end of the city. The suspects fled in a car. After the police gave chase, the suspects abandoned their vehicle and escaped through back yards on foot in the dark. When a resident reported a prowler, Officer Bardell responded. Upon arriving to the area of the report, he viewed a shadowy figure darting in a nearby yard, and gave chase on foot. Officer Bardell was surprised by a second suspect hiding behind a garage, who fired two shots at point blank range, striking Officer Bardell in the abdomen. He managed to return fire, striking the suspect, who was immobilized until other officers arrived on the scene.

Officer Bardell returned to duty following his recovery from his injuries, and I am pleased to be able to report that his assailant is still imprisoned, serving a 60- to 100-year term. However, I must also note that Corporal Bardell has suffered continuing health problems as a result of this craven criminal act.

Despite these problems, he has continued to serve with distinction and honor.

For his years of dedicated service to the people of Allen Park, for his bravery in the face of great danger, and for his record as a good and faithful citizen, I call upon my colleagues in the House to join me in saluting this great American.

MONEY TO BURN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as I am sure you know, Arson Awareness Week, commemorating the end of the Los Angeles fires set during the 1992 riots, just ended, with communities all across the country focussing public attention on the terrible costs in lives and money from arson for profit. Arson Awareness Week has the support of firefighters around the Nation, many of whom have organized with consumers, government agencies and insurers to combat this form of insurance fraud through public information and the advocacy of such groups as the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud. The coalition recently published in its newsletter the following article, "Money To Burn", which I would like inserted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of our firefighters and the arson problem:

MONEY TO BURN

(By Michael E. Diegel)

ARSON-FOR-PROFIT AND ITS MANY FACES ARE A DANGEROUS—SOMETIMES DEADLY—FORM OF INSURANCE FRAUD

In 560 cases in 1993, someone's world ended just as biblical writers predicted—in a blaze of fire.

The 560 dead were the victims not of apocalyptic wrath but of arson.

For at least 80 other people living in apartments above a New York warehouse, salvation came in the form of investigators who unearthed a plot to burn the warehouse for the insurance money.

There's no way to know how many of the 560 were killed in cases of arson for profit, but experts believe at least 15 percent of reported fires are deliberately set for several reasons, including insurance fraud and other profit-seeking motives.

"It's as difficult, or perhaps even more so, as determining the level of [other types of] insurance fraud," said Rick Gilman of the Insurance Committee for Arson Control. "It's perhaps more difficult because arson covers a wide variety of motives where generally insurance fraud is strictly for profit."

He defines arson for profit as "an intentionally set fire to recover some financial gain. Maybe it's financial gain through insurance proceeds, maybe it's financial gain through reducing the competition, maybe it's financial gain through some other avenue."

"There isn't any information as to how common it is," Gilman continued. "The whole issue is one that's very difficult to find out anything about because there hasn't been an effective study of that aspect of arson for over a decade."

A 1982 study of closed claims files from 1980 was conducted by the Insurance Research Council's organizational predecessor, Gilman said.

"In general, what they found in the voluntary [insurance] market, the percentage of

arson cases was 15-17 percent, but when you got into the FAIR [Fair Access to Insurance Requirement] plan market, they found [arson cases were] upwards of 40-50 percent," Gilman reported.

What is known are recent cases that illustrate the variety of arson-for-profit schemes, such as:

A seven-person ring operating in Florida for at least six years. Participants torched houses, usually under the guise of renovation or construction projects. The group also burned cars and at least 15 insurance companies.

A New Jersey couple accused in February of setting fire to their home after it languished on the real estate market for more than a year.

Three San Francisco men were arrested in March and accused of buying a house in 1990, enhancing its value by presenting a fictitious lease-to-purchase agreement and filing a claim after setting the house afire. Investigators said one of the men had been pursued since the late 1970s for suspected arson, but this was the first time they'd gotten enough evidence to charge him.

A Prince George's County (Md.) man who owns a topless bar recently was accused of hiring others to set fire to the county's only other topless bar.

While large commercial arson cases and homeowner arson-related fraud is fairly common, arson for profit crosses all socioeconomic groups. Investigators in Buffalo, N.Y., report a rash of arson fires in apartments occupied by people on public assistance. Officials cited one woman who had fires break out in five separate apartments over three years. Relatives of hers experienced at least three fires.

In these cases, burned out welfare clients move into public housing. They refuse to pay any rent and eventually are evicted. Then the apartment is torched, usually after all belongings have been surreptitiously removed. The client moves into a hotel, which is paid for, gets all her meals paid for, and collects on claims for the "destroyed" belongings.

Typically, the "victim" can collect around \$3,000 plus pocketing what would have gone to rent. Fire investigators believe that more than a third of the city's more than 300 arson fires can be attributed to the scheme, which they say is increasingly popular. In a couple of blatant cases, they report welfare clients related to each other had fires at the same time.

Cases like these earn headlines or are part of the anecdotes told among arson investigators. So, too, are tales of arson by juvenile or serial offenders. Usually these cases aren't fraud-motivated arson. Residential fires, too, are less likely to be suspected arson for profit.

"It may be that the grease fire in the kitchen may have been intentionally set," Gilman said, "but it's the local fire department and the local homeowner that maybe they know, [so] I think there may be less of a tendency to investigate residential fires unless it's glaringly evident—multiple ignition sights or other glaring evidence of arson."

Gilman also suspects investigators are less likely to look closely at residential fires because there's not as much money involved as in commercial arson fires. Again, he lamented, "There's all too few facts in this arena."

Still, he added, companies are investigating fires more than in the past.

"The same intensity that is being addressed to insurance fraud is being found in the arson investigation arena," Gilman said.

Companies are creating and expanding special investigation units, using resources such as property loss databases and public records, trying to identify patterns and motives. They also go low-tech.

"Some companies train arson dogs and give them to local fire departments," Gilman said, "Nationwide has its own arson dog they use for their investigations, which I think is kind of neat."

Passage of arson immunity laws has helped, too. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have some form of arson immunity to protect insurers who give information to law enforcement.

In some cases, the law's scope is limited. For example, 14 states do not allow reciprocity; law enforcement cannot share information with insurers. Most insurers support full reciprocity in immunity laws and also would like to see legislation protecting insurer-to-insurer information sharing.

And there is good news. The number of suspected arson fires has dropped for three straight years and there was a reported 11 percent drop in arson cases in cities with more than 1 million residents. However, the cost of those fires was up in 1993 by more than \$350 million.

The National Arson Forum, a group of companies and organizations concerned about arson, developed Arson Awareness Week (the first week of May) to bring the cost of this crime to the attention of the public. It also commemorates the end of the Los Angeles fires set during the 1992 riots.

While the dollar costs are something that's borne by all of us, it's also a good time to remember that some of us pay with our lives.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I think it would be fitting for me to share with my colleagues a poignant poem written by Carrie B.H. Collins of Denver, CO. Ms. Collins' poem expresses the essence of our great Nation, and will make an important contribution to the record.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO

(By Carrie B.H. Collins)

Two hundred years ago

America started to grow

Her work was tedious and slow

And England had to go.

Two hundred years ago

They thought they had to fight

For freedom and for right

The Red Coats with their might.

Two hundreds years ago

We found the Indians here

They farmed and fished and sought

To hold their land they fought.

Two hundred years ago

The Brown folks lived here too

Their horses they did ride

And brand their cattle's hides.

Two hundred years ago

Black folks were shackled and chained

Free labor they did give

Some died that others may live.

Two hundred years ago

They came from far and near

Some came because of fears

And others shedding tears.

Two hundred years ago

America wanted more

She looked from coast to coast

For help without a toast.

Two hundred years ago

Some people had a dream

That one day it would seem

Like they could live as Kings.

Two hundred years ago

Men worked hard with the land

And some of them couldn't stand

Hardships of their fellow-man.

Two hundred years ago

They came with all they had

High hopes, courage and faith

To live and grow in grace.

Two hundred years and here

America, stand up and cheer

For men have worked sincere

Thank God, move on without fear.

Two hundred years and here

America, stand up and cheer

Brave men have bled and died

For freedom side by side.

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 1995

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Gold Award by Birch Trails Girl Scout Council in my home town of Wausau, WI. She is Molly Olsen of Girl Scout Troop 291.

She was honored on March 11, 1995 for earning the highest achievement award in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award project, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Birch Trails Girl Scout Council, Molly began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in 1994. She completed her project in the areas of Bat Education and Preservation. She worked countless hours researching the bat population and finding donations to build eight bat houses at Camp Del O'Claire. She also donated books about bats to the camp library in hope that girls will become more educated about the species.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Molly Olsen, and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.