

THE STEENS MOUNTAIN COOPERATIVE
MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION
ACT OF 2000

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues two letters I received concerning the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (H.R. 4828) that was debated on the House Floor on October 4, 2000.

House Resolution 4828 was supported by the entire Oregon congressional delegation and is the product of a long and hard-fought battle to ensure that there was an Oregon solution to an Oregon issue. I submit the following letters into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY'S
WILDERNESS SUPPORT CENTER

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WALDEN: Although this bill does not contain everything we wanted, we believe that this is a responsible resolution of a very important issue. This bill will grant lasting protection for the wildlands, wildlife, and waters of the magnificent Steens Mountain region. We support its passage today.

BART KOEHLER,
Director.

Recreation Service Providers on Steens
Mountain—

The outfitting and guiding industry has been in existence on a small scale and in a variety of ways on Steens Mountain since the early days of trappers and military scouts. From the early 1900's until the early 1960's outfitters, particularly homesteader Chester Nye and partner Paul Howard, primarily offered hunting and fishing trips to the very wealthy into the inaccessible backcountry of the Steens. The completion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road opened up all of the hunting areas that Nye and Howard depended upon for their enterprise and consequently put them out of business. Shortly after during the mid-1970's, the homestead known as the Nye Place consisting of several guest cabins and a cookhouse on the rim of the Little Blitzen Gorge and which Nye and Howard had used was taken over by Velty Pruitt and his summer camp for girls.

From that time until now, outfitters and guides, otherwise known as recreational service providers, have continually modified the services they offer based on the needs and demands of the outfitted public using Steens Mountain. Currently, Steens Mountain has eight permitted outfitters operating on both public and private lands providing a wide range of recreational services. These current and historical uses include: cross-country high-altitude running training, big game hunting, upland bird hunting, fishing and heli-fishing, multiple day horse packing, trail riding, multiple day llama packing, backpacking, day hiking, mountain biking, ATV touring, van/pickup tours, snowmobiling, cross-country and backcountry skiing with and without motorized support (snow machine or helicopter), snow shoeing, and snowcat touring. With all of these activities, many service providers include interpretive and educational information to their programs, and/or use these various modes of transportation or travel to provide interpretive and educational services. Additionally, a number of the permitted recreation service providers have historically con-

ducted activities on private lands that may be transferred into public ownership through this legislation. All of these uses are considered current and historical uses and fall under the purpose of promoting viable recreation operations on Steens Mountain.

It should be noted that while there are thousands of places to go in the United States to engage in outdoor recreation, Steens Mountain is a unique natural attraction and is the chosen vacation destination for nearly 100 percent of the 56,000 people currently coming to the region. In fact beginning in 1975, the Bureau of Land Management began tracking visitor numbers of those using the Steens Mountain Loop Road. These visitor numbers have increased over 278 percent since 1975, and with a new designation will likely continue to increase. There will no doubt be a corresponding growth in the numbers of the outfitted public seeking experiences with the permitted recreation service providers on the Steens. As part of ensuring the viability of the recreation operations on Steens Mountain which is a purpose of this legislation, these permitted recreation service providers should be allowed to meet the growth and additional needs of the outfitted public within the current and historic activities they provide.

Further most outfitters, pre-legislation, have invested a great deal into their recreation service operations and public land permits to provide services to the public. Some of the investments are recent and substantial. Because of this the operators may not have had time to realize a return on these investments. One example of this, and there are many, is Steens Mountain Packers helicopter supported activities particularly the backcountry ski heli-supported program. A great deal of time and money went into the exploration of the Steens to provide a compatible and safe service to the public. The legislation, designation and future management thereof may terminate the operators opportunity to recoup investments with the possible termination of the activity within a given area, such as wilderness. In staying in conformance with the purpose of the Act, the operator should be appropriately compensated for the loss of revenue from the activity, or exchanged for a reasonable like permit. Because of the uniqueness of the area, a like opportunity may be difficult to provide. It should be noted that an opportunity or permit entirely outside of the area may well not be considered a reasonable option (e.g.—a permit in Catlow Valley would not necessarily be a reasonable alternative to an existing permit within the Blitzen Gorge, nor a permit in Idaho as an alternative to a permit on Steens Mountain.).

JOHN AND CINDY WITZEL
Frenchglen, Oregon.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF
NANCY LONG

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I honor my constituent, Nancy Long, on the occasion of her seventy-second birthday. Nancy Long has been continuously dedicated to community and civic service for, perhaps, longer than anyone in Glen Echo and Montgomery County, Maryland. Ms. Long was first elected to the Glen Echo Town Council in 1969, and re-elected every four years thereafter.

Early on, she was appointed as Town liaison to the National Park Service for the C&O

Canal National Historical Park, Glen Echo Park, Clara Barton Historic Site, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Her efforts have been and continue to be tireless in the pursuit of preservation of the Park, conservation of the Canal, and protection of the Town's environs.

Ms. Long has been a volunteer at Glen Echo Park since 1970 and, in 1986, became one of three original founders of the Glen Echo Park Foundation. She has been re-elected to that Board each term since its inception. She organized and directed a successful fund raising campaign to save the Park's beloved Dentzel Carousel, which today is enjoyed by children and adults. This historic artifact is admired by preservationists for its spectacular and painstaking restoration work. The attention to preserving the Park and the existence of the Carousel today, is in no small measure to Nancy's tireless efforts. Her work continues on the Montgomery County Glen Echo Park Working Group, which has been studying the future of the Park and its cultural and arts programs.

In 1975, Ms. Long was selected by then Congressman Gilbert Gude as one of 25 individuals to travel the entire length of the C&O Canal to call attention to the Canal's importance and need for the preservation and conservation of its resources. She is currently one of two Montgomery County representatives to the C&O Canal National Historical Park Advisory Commission. Nancy Long has walked the 184 mile length of the Canal four times, the latest trek occurring in the spring of 2000.

Ms. Long has also served extensively on other boards and commissions. Just a few additional posts on which she served, are: Potomac Valley League, the Montgomery County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust, and the Potomac River Basin Consortium.

Ms. Long's 72nd birthday will be celebrated by her friends and Glen Echo neighbors today, October 17, 2000. I am proud that she expects to continue her work on behalf of community, conservation, and preservation.

TRIBUTE TO ERNEST T. DIERKING,
U.S. FOREST SERVICE DIRECTOR
OF LANDS AND MINERALS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, when the millions of people who live in Southern California want to escape our perpetual summer for a little winter fun or cool mountain breezes, we head to a refuge thousands of feet above and a world away from the beaches that are our trademark. Just an hour from those beaches lies the San Bernardino National Forest, which today provides thousands of acres of recreational splendor thanks largely to the efforts of one dedicated public servant: Ernest T. Dierking.

Ernest Dierking began his career with the U.S. Forest Service in June 1958, and has dedicated the last 22 years to expanding the San Bernardino National Forest and making sure the pines and mountain vistas are preserved for an appreciative public. He has served as the District Ranger in San Bernardino, and most recently he was Director

of Lands and Minerals. In that role, he has acquired 15,990 acres worth \$17 million to be preserved for the public's enjoyment.

Through the efforts of Ernest Dierking, the public can now enjoy hundreds of miles of mountain trails, ski resorts, wildlife watching and peak climbing from the Cucamonga Wilderness on the Los Angeles County line to the Santa Rosa Wilderness in Riverside County.

Mr. Speaker, Ernest Dierking retired from the Forest Service on Sept. 1, ending his 42-year career of accomplishment and public service. Please join me in thanking him for creating a mountain paradise on the edge of our nation's largest urban area, and wishing him well in his future plans.

EULOGY OF MARTIN T. MEEHAN

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my mother, brothers and sisters, my Aunt Katherine and Uncle John, my cousins, and my entire family, I want to thank all of you for joining us today to help celebrate our father's life. We are all honored by your presence and are grateful for your support and affection over the last few days.

I can imagine my father looking out at the long lines forming outside McCabe's Funeral Home yesterday. He would have said, "Frankie McCabe must be giving something out for free!"

Frank isn't, Dad, believe me.

My father was born in Lowell on July 16, 1927 to Martin H. Meehan and Josephine Ashe Meehan. His father immigrated to the United States from County Claire, Ireland in 1912. His mother, who immigrated from County Kerry the year before, was a cousin of the great Irish patriot Thomas Ashe, who died during one of the first hunger strikes—in Ireland's fight for freedom in Mount Joy Jail in 1916.

Thomas Ashe's picture was hung on the wall of his family home on Batchelder Street in the Acre Section of Lowell. In 1963, a portrait of President Kennedy was added.

The Acre was where the Greek and Irish immigrants settled in Lowell. My father grew up there and he loved it. Swimming in the canals, playing baseball for St. Patrick's and Lowell High School, and building lifetime bonds. It was a neighborhood where the kids were tough and strong, and everyone had a nick name—hence "Buster." The Acre was where thousands of new immigrant families were becoming part of the great American Dream.

In 1946 Dad met my mother at a party her cousin Maureen Gay had. Dad was not invited, he crashed. And my mother was glad he did. They were married three years later.

My father had a saying for everything in life. Some of them really bugged me at times. But they all had a purpose and wisdom for how to lead a good life.

"One God, One Country, One Woman" he used to say. That—one woman—was my mother. He was passionately in love with her through 51 years of marriage. Their love for each other intensified and grew. I believe the love our father and mother shared for one another was extended to every person who was a part of their lives.

I can remember as a very small boy first learning the concept of love. "I love you kids with all my heart", he'd say. "But I love your mother even more". "But Dad", I once replied, "Who am I supposed to love more? You or Ma?" "you kids should love your mother the most", he'd say. "She gave birth to you."

First they lived in a three tenement on Lincoln Street where Colleen and Kathy and I were born. Later they bought an eight room house the next street over at 22 London Street where they raised seven children in a home that was filled with love, laughter, energy . . . action 24 hours a day . . . a strong commitment to the Catholic Church and to family.

It was a great neighborhood—and my father helped us spread our family's love all over it. And there isn't a better testament to that love—than our relationship with the Durkin family who had seven children of their own, just down the street. So many memories, so many stories.

Visiting the ice cream stand with Dad was unforgettable. He would load all of us into the car with as many of our friends as would fit. He would ask us what we wanted. "I'll have a banana split," I'd shout. My sisters would say, "I'll have a hot fudge Sunday." Our friends couldn't believe it—they would order a shake or double ice cream scoop with extra nuts, extra whipped cream!

He'd take everyone's order and then go up to the line. "Don't worry," he'd say, "I'll carry it back". Ten minutes later he'd return with 13 single cups of chocolate ice cream. "That's all they'd had" he shug.

Dad was also a very successful little league coach. On Dad's White Sox team everyone played—at least three innings. I remember how embarrassed I was when Dad's White Sox lost every game. 0-18. Some games we were winning after three innings, 8 to 4 or even 7 to 2. But in the fourth inning Dad put all of the subs in—no matter what. "everyone plays!" he'd say. The other teams kept the best players in for the whole game. Naturally, they would win.

Today I am so proud of the way my Dad coached the kids on that 0 and 18 team. Today, I am so proud of how my father lived his life.

As children, we shared so many happy times together each summer with family and friends at Seabrook Beach. Later as adults, with his grandchildren, we spent weekends at Dad and Mom's beach house. After a few morning hours together on the beach, Mom and Dad would head back to the house to begin the day-long cooking ritual so that we could have dinner together. Many times in the evenings, we would sing songs around a bonfire on the beach. We enjoyed lobster bakes and thankfully Mom and Dad got to enjoy an occasional sunrise together. And many times, after a long day, many of us would sit together and watch the sun go down and our father would say to us all, "it's a great life and it's a great country."

Dad worked at the Lowell Sun Publishing Company for 43 years. He started as a truck driver * * * became a linotype operator * * * then became Assistant Foreman in the Composing Room. He loved the Sun and the newspaper business, and he knew it from soup to nuts. There were a lot of great reporters that came through the Sun over the years, but my father never hesitated to tell them

when he felt they just didn't get it right—especially on a political story.

Frank Phillips, Chris Black, Brian Mooney and others all heard from Dad on more than one occasion. When he was finished he had earned their respect and they appreciated his wisdom and experience. And they all affectionately repeat those stories—even today.

Dad was an active lifetime member of the Typographical Union—serving in a leadership position. He always stressed the importance of workers being able to organize for fair wages and benefits. It's not surprising that my sisters Colleen and Kathy are members of the teachers union and Mark and Paul are active members of their respective unions as well.

But as strong as a Union person as he was—he loved the Lowell Sun and the company's ownership, the Costello family. He followed the Costello kids' lives as if they were his own—always loyal to the company and the Costello family.

Supporting Mom and seven young children was not always easy. For seven years he got a second job working nights as a corrections officer. On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays he would get up at 5:30 to be at the Sun to punch in at 7 o'clock. His shift was over at 3:30. He'd put on his uniform at the Paper, punch in at the jail at 4 o'clock and work until midnight. He got home by 12:30 in the morning, and went to bed for five hours so he could be back at the paper by 7 a.m.

I'm sure it wasn't easy—but he wanted the best for his children and he wanted my mother to be able to be home with us.

My father didn't care what we did for work—but he wanted us to get an education. And we all did. He was especially proud of the fact that my sisters, Colleen, Kathy, and Mary all became school teachers. He thought it was the most important job of all. "Teaching is NOT a job"—Dad would say—"It's a vocation." He loved the idea that his daughters were helping to shape the minds of 25 kids in a classroom each day.

He was so proud of all his children, in a unique and special way. My brother Mark, a master electrician, "has the biggest and best heart of all my kids," he'd say. And Mark gave Dad his newest precious grandchild "Sarah" just two weeks ago. He was so proud that Paul followed him to the Sheriff's Department. Paul is a model for overcoming obstacles and winning. He recently went back to school for his degree, got married, and was promoted to Captain as well.

When I ran for Congress in 1992 my sister Maureen answered the call and put her work—and life—on hold to take the most important job in the campaign—raising the money to win. My Dad just loved the fact that I turned to my sister. And when we won he knew it was Maureen who was the rock behind us. "Politics is a tough business" he'd say—"you need people you can really trust—and that means family." [That's of course why President Kennedy had Bobby.] Of course after the election, I remember Maureen was sick and I asked, "What's wrong with her now?"—Dad's split second response—"Working for you!"

Dad was so well read, a voracious reader * * * A lover of poetry and words, and boy did he love to sing!

So much love in his heart, and this extension of love was felt by his grandchildren and in-laws. The term "in-laws" didn't mean much