

I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his son, Eric; his three daughters, Sheila, Robin, and Heather; and five grandchildren.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF ANGELO PETRARCA

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Angelo Petrarca who retired on January 31, 2000 after 40 years of service in South Chicago Heights.

Fire Chief Petrarca joined the South Chicago Heights Fire Department in June 1970. He became a Lieutenant in May 1971 and was appointed Assistant Fire Chief in May 1973. On May 1, 1974, Mr. Petrarca was appointed as Fire Chief.

Chief Petrarca has been a resident of South Chicago Heights since 1959, and is known to be completely dedicated to his career as well as to ensuring the health and well-being of the community. The major highlight of Chief Petrarca's career this past year involves the improvement of the fire departments response time which was previously, on average 6–7 minutes, before November 1998. The response time is now an impressive two minutes from the time of call to the actual arrival of EMS personnel on site. This is mostly due to Chief Petrarca's decision to staff the fire department with a 24 hour a day on duty paramedic along with another EMS professional on call seven days a week.

Chief Petrarca also believes in giving of his time to various organizations both professionally and for the good of the community. Some of his affiliations include: Member of the Illinois Fire Chief Association; Past President of the WILCO Fire Chiefs Association; Member of the International Association of Arson Investigators; Chairperson of the ETSB; Member of the National Emergency Number Association; and Member of South Chicago Heights Y2K Readiness Committee.

Fire Chief Angelo Petrarca's commitment and impact on his community is not only deserving of congressional recognition, but should serve as a model for others to follow.

At a time when our nation's leaders are asking the people of this country to make serving their community a core value of citizenship, honoring Fire Chief Petrarca is both timely and appropriate.

I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their congressional districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and enlightened America's communities.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN V. HAYS

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. John Hays, president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and owner/operator of Rouse Brothers Ranch in Unity, OR. John Hays is a fierce-

ly independent man who is committed to preserving and protecting the rights of America's farmers and ranchers.

Through hard work and dedication, John has had a stellar career championing the rights of private property owners. When John is not fighting to preserve the rights of land owners, he is speaking out against the high levels of agribusiness consolidation and the many related problems affecting agricultural producers, rural communities, and consumers.

After thinking about various events in John's life, I am reminded of a passage in Theodore Roosevelt's letter to Marcus Alonzo Hanna (June 27, 1900): "I am as strong as a bull moose and you can use me to the limit."

Mr. Speaker, I must tell you, it has been an honor to know John and to be his friend. Truly, he is dedicated to preserving the unique integrity of our proud western heritage.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I commend the example of John Hays to my colleagues, and hereby submit to the RECORD for their consideration a January 11, 2000 article appearing in The Bulletin (Bend, Oregon).

[The Bulletin, Jan. 11, 2000]

CATTELMEN'S LEADER WORKS TO PRESERVE RANCHING

(By Jim Witty)

JOHN DAY.—It's not easy being a cattleman in Oregon at the dawn of the 21st century.

To hear John Hays tell it, the Western rancher should join the northern spotted owl, the blackfooted ferret and the gray wolf on the endangered list.

Hays, a bull of a man with a gregarious streak a mile wide and at least as deep, sees red when the topic turns to cows and those who would interfere with their unfettered husbandry.

"We kind of look at ourselves as an endangered species," Hays says. "If you look at the last five or six years, we've been nearly regulated out of business."

Hays, the newly elected president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, has come out with both guns blazing.

One of his first communiques is illustrative.

Shortly after a federal court ordered the Bureau of Land Management to eliminate cattle grazing along 18 miles of the Owyhee River in Southeastern Oregon, Hays shot out a press release to Oregon media outlets accusing U.S. District Judge James Redden of bias and calling the principal litigant—the Oregon Natural Desert Association of Bend—the "eliminate the food chain group of America."

Hays concluded the news release by declaring: "This type of judgment is why people fled Europe during the time of Hitler. It is a very sad time in my life as president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association."

Strong words. But Hays is no shrinking violet.

He has vowed to fight a triple threat he believes is ripping the guts from the ranching industry: the Endangered Species Act, which cattlemen complain has produced a spate of unwanted regulations (listings or potential listings of steelhead, salmon and trout species, for instance, have restricted the way ranchers can do business on their property); the buyout of dozens of medium-size packing plants by a couple of large corporations, IBP and Con Agra; and the subsequent homogenization of the market—the loss of ranchers' ability to command a premium for premium beef.

This day, Hays is at the senior center in John day taking a break from the environmental wars, rallying the troops for an assault on the marketing front.

'We want to get back in control of our market,' says Hays, 57, sipping coffee in an anteroom before he's scheduled to outline his plans before several dozen ranchers in the main hall.

To regain that control, the former restaurateur and sports agent is promoting a premium product produced by the state's ranchers, called Oregon Trail Branded Beef, that will be processed in a cattlemen-owned plant. That way, says Hays, ranchers can sell contaminant-free beef that they control from rangeland to retailer.

'People get E. coli and who do they point to?' says Hays. 'The cattlemen, right off the bat. We don't have any control of the product.'

While the ambitious co-op marketing campaign is occupying most of his time these days, the battle on the ground is never far from his mind.

'Grazing is a target,' says Hays. '(Environmentalists) found out with the spotted oil that they could get rid of the timber industry. Grazing is the next thing they're pushing for.'

Bill Marlett of Bend-based Oregon Natural Desert Association is Hays' arch nemesis. The two have never met.

'As a human being, I give everybody a chance,' says Hays. '(But) I hate to see anything progressive being torn down.'

ONDA argues that cows have trampled riverbanks, fouled streams and chewed up fragile desert topsoil on more than 13 million acres of public land in Oregon. And the organization's goal is to remove all cattle from the state's BLM- and Forest Service-administered land.

Marlett says he doesn't quite know what to make of Hays.

'I don't know where he's coming from to be honest,' says Marlett. 'To make the inference about Nazi Germany—aside from being irrelevant—is crazy. Why would you say something like that? If he's going to base policy on rhetoric, there's probably not a lot of progress we can make communicating. . . . It's kind of extreme.'

Hays, in turn, argues that those pushing to rid the range of cattle are outside the mainstream.

'We are the table,' says Hays, referring to the cattleman's place in the scheme of things. 'I don't consider the people who don't own property as even the tablecloth, the salt and pepper shaker. . . . A lot of it is lifestyle. They could care less about lifestyle.'

But Hays is concerned that lifestyle is in trouble as are communities dependent on ranching.

He contends that ranchers are the best land stewards because their livelihoods depend on it.

'You don't make a living if you trash your ranch,' Hays says. 'We're some of the better environmentalists in the world. . . . It's like anything else, if you don't harvest the grass, it will turn to weeds.'

But Hays says he sees the Endangered Species Act being used as a tool to take cattle off the range. For instance, he says, when a threatened trout is found on a rancher's grazing allotment, they can't use the creek anymore unless they invest in a costly fencing regiment.

Hays subscribes to the theory that there is an overarching plan guiding the environmental movement that will move more and more private land into government ownership.

'These are apostles of the one world movement to get people off the land,' he says. ' . . . Eventually it's a government takeover.'

Most environmentalists pooh pooh the notion, saying that it's difficult enough organizing their own groups, let alone a monolithic movement.

Although he served a 5-year stint in the Marine Corps, 17 years in the restaurant business and a few more in partnership with former NFL greats Mel Renfro and Darryl Lamonica putting together contracts, his first love is ranching, Hays says.

On his home place in Unity, about 60 miles west of the Idaho border, hays runs about 3,000 head of cattle on 23,000 privately owned acres and 80,000 acres owned by the federal government. His family has operated the Rouse ranch since the 1850s, he says.

Hays argues that society has mixed up its priorities.

'I see it in the logging industry in my hometown.' 'One fellow there had 30 some people employed there. It kept the town going. He had to let them go. Now our town's full of drugs. Some have had to leave. . . . It hurts your kids, it hurts your schools, your community.'

So, says Hays, does the Endangered Species Act.

'Why is a fish dominant over everything else?' he queries. 'People are taking this ESA and using it as a tool to get what they want.'

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, the following is a list of votes that I missed while in Michigan recuperating from surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 2—H. Con. Res 244—"yes"; Rollcall No. 3—H.R. 2130—"yes"; Rollcall No. 4—H.R. 764—"yes"; Rollcall No. 5—H.R. 1838—"yes"; Rollcall No. 6—Instructing Conferees on H.R. 2990—"yes"; and Rollcall No. 7—H.R. 2005—"no."

IN HONOR OF MAURY MEYERS,
MAYOR OF BEAUMONT

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Maury Meyers, who will be receiving the Jay C. Crager Award from the American Heart Association. This award is given to outstanding citizens who have distinguished themselves with unselfish civic responsibility and community service. It is fitting that Maury Meyers is receiving this award because he has dedicated his life to serving his community.

Maury meets the description of a leader, he has been involved with every aspect of the community, and taught us as a community to believe in ourselves. Maury has contributed so much to the community of Beaumont and the people who live there. He believes in Beaumont and its residents, and has unfalteringly placed his time and energy into its progress.

Maury's first two terms as Mayor, from 1978–1982, changed the face of Beaumont and the character of the community through unparalleled initiatives. Maury returned to the Mayor's office in 1986 and faced a city that was suffering economically and was experiencing problems in the public and private sectors.

The problem of economic recovery and the creation of jobs was Maury's top priority upon his return to office, he wanted to invigorate Beaumont and the people who lived there. To address this problem, he created the "Worlds Largest Economic Development Committee" when 8,000 residents of all ages and walks of life filled the Beaumont Civic Center to participate in an economic summit.

Maury Meyers is a people person, and he took that spirit to the Mayor's office. He believed that everybody had a role and a voice in their community, and during his time in office hundreds of private citizens served on city-appointed advisory committees, neighborhood town-hall meetings and public hearings. An organization known as "Planning Economic Progress" was created by Maury and brought labor and management together on issues affecting commercial and industrial growth, as well as community development.

The Texas Energy Museum is in Beaumont because of Maury's hard work and perseverance. Competition for the museum between Beaumont and other major cities and Universities was fierce, and conditions made it necessary to organize a strictly private effort. In just a few days, he was able to raise more than \$1 million and brought the museum to Beaumont. He also founded the Southeast Texas Inc., a non-profit organization focusing on innovative regional economic development.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to speak on behalf of Mr. Maury Meyers and all of his accomplishments. He is a man that I look to for inspiration as I continue to work for the communities and neighborhoods of Texas. While I can not be with him when he receives his award, I am proud to recognize him on the floor of the House. He is a man who has committed his life not to himself, but to the people of Southeast Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TOM COFFEY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the residents of Maries County, Missouri, are gathering to honor one of their leading citizens, Mr. Tom Coffey, on his 94th birthday.

Mr. Coffey has a long history of public service. He began by volunteering to defend his country in the European Theater during World War II. After the war, he returned to Vienna and has remained a lifetime resident. He adopted the people of the city of Vienna and Maries County and has made significant contributions to the community over the past 50 years. Mr. Coffey provided generous financial support to build a fire station in Vienna, donated land for a business development site and established three scholarships for graduates of Vienna High School. He also purchased land to build the American Legion Hall and then deeded the property to the city.

Additionally, Mr. Coffey has been the leading force behind the Maries County Fair for more than 40 years and was one of five citizens to establish the Old Jail and Historical Society. He is planning to continue to support the community for many years into the future as he has designated more than 30 organiza-

tions to receive annual grants from his trust. I am not surprised that the city of Vienna wants to express their gratitude to Mr. Coffey on the occasion of his 94th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I know all Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to Mr. Coffey for his outstanding dedication to the community and selfless public service.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF
MONEE AND ITS
QUASICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the village of Monee and its quasicentennial celebration. The village of Monee was formed in the year 1874 and the residents of Monee have celebrated their 125 years of history with dozens of different events throughout the year 1999. It has been my great privilege and honor to serve the residents of Monee. I am pleased to recognize their strong and admirable sense of community pride.

The village of Monee, which lies in my 11th congressional district, is situated in northern Will County. Although the village is located less than 30 miles from the city of Chicago, the village has been able to maintain its small-town ambiance and sense of pride in its history and progress. Both the village and local organizations contribute time and money to hosting family-orientated events and activities.

The village of Monee was founded by Augustus Herbert in November of 1853 when he recorded his plat of land at the Will County Courthouse. The village is believed to be named for a French-Ottawa Indian woman, Marie LeFevre Bailly. The French called Marie "Mah-ree" but the Ottawa Indians had no sound for the letter "r" and called her "Mah-nee." French treaty clerks later wrote the name as "Mo-nee." The Indian princess, Marie was renowned as one of the most beautiful women in the northwest area. In 1833, the Treaty of Camp Tippecanoe made with the Pottawatomie Tribe made a gift of property to the four daughters of Marie and her husband Joseph Bailly. This gift of property is possibly the only connection between "Princess Monee" and the village named in her honor.

Today, the village of Monee has a growing population of approximately 1,044. The current village president is the Honorable Larry Kochel.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other towns and villages in their own districts which are proudly celebrating special occasions.

THE PASSING OF DR. LAURA
THOMPSON, A FRIEND OF THE
CHAMORRO PEOPLE

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn and pay tribute to the passing of a