

claim a right to live on my land, and accord you the privilege to live on yours.

This legislation is called the Salmon Planning Act. It provides for the planning that will be necessary to save the endangered salmon and steelhead populations in the Snake River if the Bush administration continues to deny funding to recovery efforts.

For centuries, salmon has been recognized as a symbol of the Northwest lifestyle and a mainstay of the economy. Both commercial fishermen and the sport fishing industry rely on consistent runs of salmon and steelhead. Generations of northwesterners have grown up with fishing as a part of their lives.

Beginning in the early 1960s, a series of 4 dams were constructed on the Lower Snake River. The dams provided energy, water for irrigation, and a barge system for transporting goods between the inland and ocean ports. Since then, the 12 genetically distinct populations of salmon and steelhead, native to the Snake River, have dropped to such an extent that every one of those populations is either functionally extinct or listed under the endangered Species Act.

Scientific studies have shown that declining salmon runs represent the declining health of the overall ecosystem in the Columbia and Snake River basin. Independent studies by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Fish and Wildlife Service have shown an ecosystem in peril.

Additionally, numerous treaties with Native Tribes in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and the Canadian Government have committed our government to ensuring the continued viability

Last year the National Marine Fisheries Service released a biological opinion regarding the Columbia and Snake River Basin and developed the Salmon Recovery Plan, which would avoid breaching the dams. I support this plan and hope that we can continue to make every effort to develop a workable solution without breaching the dams.

However, the current administration has so far failed to allocate any funds to implement this plan. Full funding of the restoration measures called for in the Salmon Recovery Plan will cost an estimated \$1.2 billion per year for the region as a whole. The administration has chosen to sacrifice the salmon and the economy of the Northwest in favor of large tax refunds.

The Salmon Planning Act will provide for a thorough peer review of the Salmon Recovery Plan of 2000 by the National Academy of Sciences to ensure the scientific credibility of its findings. In addition, the Salmon Planning Act calls for a study by the General Accounting Office of the effects of potential dam beaching if recovery efforts fail.

The GAO study would detail the effects of dam removal on every sector of society that is impacted. In addition to the fishing and scientific community, dam removal would affect energy, transportation, agriculture and the local communities.

The GAO study will also address the potential liability of the American taxpayer that may result from our failure to fulfill our treaty obligations should our salmon and steelhead populations become extinct.

Passage of the Salmon Planning Act by itself will not result in the breaching of the dams. Let me repeat that, this act will not result in breaching the dams. Congress will

need to address this issue again in the future. This bill does, however, provide the planning that will be necessary for Congress to make an informed decision.

The window of opportunity to save our valuable salmon and steelhead resources is quickly closing.

IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO  
SPEAK UP

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House of Representatives attempted to consider campaign finance reform. While the House ultimately decided not to consider the legislation because of a ridiculous rule, it is significant that campaign finance reform has come to the floor for a vote before election reform has even been debated. I was the first to point out that it does not matter how much money we spend on our campaigns, or for that matter, how much money we do not spend on our campaigns, if votes still do not count.

It is clear to me that after last year's farce of an election, in which it was discovered that thousands of Americans nationwide had their right to vote stripped from them, Congress would have acted by now. But Congress has not acted.

Congress remained silent when the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released its findings that minority voters were more likely to have their votes thrown out than non-minority voters. Congress remained silent when thousands of voters testified to civil rights groups such as the NAACP, the National Council of La Raza, the ACLU, and this Committee, discussing the many problems they faced at the polls last November. Congress still remains silent, while Americans become more cynical by the day.

The debate that needs to commence is not on how much money we spend on our campaigns. Instead, the debate should focus on how much money we are not spending on our elections. My home county, Broward County, may not purchase the best voting machines on the market because it cannot afford it. We need to be talking about how to get Broward County, and every other county in this country, the needed funds to improve their election systems.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to what many argue, the need for election reform is much more than a civil rights issue. Rather, the need for election reform is a challenge to our democracy. It is a challenge that calls on us to reaffirm our commitment to the principles and ideals that our country's founding fathers died defending. It is a challenge that burns at the heart of every American who believes in our country's democratic heritage. It is a challenge that we cannot back down from, and it is a challenge that we will not back down from. Finally, it is a challenge that must be overcome before history repeats itself.

TRIBUTE TO THE NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2001

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization. The responsibilities of this highly regarded, but little known agency cover the waterfront, from counterintelligence to criminal investigations, from force protection to infrastructure protection. They are the protectors of our protectors.

I am referring to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS)—on watch to protect and serve sailors, Marines, and their families, wherever they may be, whether it's Chicago, Illinois; Split, Croatia; or a ship in the Persian Gulf.

Recently, the outstanding efforts of the NCIS were highlighted in a case that has hit very close to home for those of us who live and work in the Washington, DC, area. A Navy sailor, a rising star, a beloved daughter, Lea Brown was abruptly taken from our midst in a vicious killing in Fort Washington.

The Washington, DC, Field Office of the NCIS dedicated over 30 agents to the case, developing leads within hours that led to the arrest of several suspects by the Prince George's County Police Department. The clear message to criminals preying on sailors and Marines is, "You will be caught; you will be brought to justice." I know that I join the men and women of the naval service, as well as those of Prince Georges County, Maryland, in expressing my thanks for the tireless efforts of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to enclose this article from the Washington Times and submit my congratulations to the men and women of NCIS for a job well done.

[From the Washington Times, July 7, 2001]

NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE WORKS FAST  
WITH OTHER AGENCIES

(By Brian DeBose)

The Washington Field Office of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) is no stranger to working with local and federal police agencies.

Most recently NCIS, the criminal investigation arm of the U.S. Navy, is working with Prince George's County police on a high-profile homicide case that revealed an organized crime ring in Fort Washington.

The NCIS was investigating the disappearance of Navy Petty Officer Lea Anne Brown, as a missing persons case when Prince George's police found her body and that of her boyfriend, Michael Patten, June 12 in Accokeek.

When the connection between the two cases was made, Prince George's police immediately contacted NCIS Special Agent Frank O'Donnell. "We had as many as 30 to 35 agents working on the case from day one when for us, it was a missing persons case," said Mr. O'Donnell, who led the NCIS aspect of the investigation.

The NCIS has a global jurisdiction with 915 agents in 13 field offices around the world. More than half of all its cases are done in collaboration with another law enforcement agency, said NCIS spokesman Paul O'Donnell, who is not related to Frank O'Donnell. "We would not usually have 35 agents working on one case, but with this case, because of the heinous nature of the crime and our outrage, we wanted to devote

as much manpower as we could," said Albert W. Billington, special agent in charge of the Washington field office.

Petty Officer Brown, 24, was listed as missing June 11 after her commanding officer called NCIS to report the young woman had missed checks and had not shown up for work.

The next day a Prince George's County detective called Frank O'Donnell, who was heading up the missing persons investigation, to tell him police may have found her body and a man's body.

Prince George's police moved quickly on the case, Mr. Billington said, and with the help of NCIS computer experts were able to track credit- and debit-card usage, and conduct surveillance and searches of the suspects' and the victims' homes.

On June 27, Prince George's police arrested five men in connection with the killings. Marco Scutchings, 18; Robert Odum Jr., 23; Cortez Carroll, 22; Eric Thomas, 22; and Aaron Hollingsworth, 18, await preliminary hearings scheduled for July 26 and 27. The five men beat the couple and stuffed them in the trunk after a botched carjacking, according to police reports. The two later were shot execution-style and their bodies left in Accokeek, police said.

Twenty members of the NCIS investigation team are still working on processing evidence through forensics, conducting surveillance and interviews and searching residences.

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TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CHRISTINA  
CHAVEZ, OF NEW MEXICO

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2001*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the memory of my beloved Aunt and Godmother, Christina Chavez, of New Mexico, who passed away on July 19th, 2001.

Daughter of Romolo and Mary Baca; wife of Alberto Chavez; mother of Josephina Chavez, Joe Chavez, and Nicanora Thomas; grandmother to seven, and great-grandmother to five; sister to six brothers; Christina will be dearly missed by family and friends.

Christina's father, Romolo, my grandfather, was President of the Conservancy in New Mexico, which oversaw the development of immigration. Her mother, Mary, a devoted housewife, passed away very young, so Christina stayed home to help raise her brothers.

Christina married Alberto Chavez in 1945. Alberto's position with the Santa Fe Railroad took him away traveling a lot, so Christina spent her time raising crops, sheep and cattle on the family farm in Las Nutris, New Mexico, and performing the duties of housewife and mother.

Christina's children recall bailing the hay, feeding the animals, milking the cows, and going to school 12 miles away on the school bus. They recall her perpetually in motion with housework, cleaning, and canning vegetables and fruit.

Christina loved cooking. Her chile recipe was delicious, and it made her famous for miles around. And she could bake bread like you would not believe!

Christina and Alberto built an Orno (Indian) oven outdoors, and in the summer months they would bake bread and roast chile. The taste of bread and chile made from scratch

and baked in an outdoor oven is wonderful, much better than anything you can buy in a store.

And those cakes, cookies, and biscuits! Christina could really bake!

Christina's brothers, including my father, lived nearby, and would always visit and check on her. They marveled at her world-famous cooking, and shared a cup of coffee. They were often joined by lots of friends and neighbors.

Christina was a very kind and loving person, always caring about people, and she always had her home open. She would welcome people with food, and she was always lending a helping hand, opening the door to friends and strangers who needed a glass of water or a meal.

Christina raised three lovely, and successful, children: Josephina, who now works as a Security Officer for Sandia National Labs; Joe, who retired from the Santa Fe Railroad, where he worked on the cars; and Nicanora, who drives a school bus and also plays basketball.

Her children lovingly recall being raised by their mother: "We lived out in the country. Belen was 12 miles away. Mom would take us to the country drug store, Jenny's which had an old soda fountain. They made great root beer floats. They were very pure. The store is gone now. They tore it down. Mom would also take us to go buy groceries. It was like a treat, because we lived so far away from everything."

Christina's children remark that one of the best gifts she left them was the values she instilled in them. She was very religious, and even when she was in the nursing home, she attended church twice a week. She liked to pray the Rosary in Spanish.

Christina taught her children the teachings of the Catholic Church. During Lent, she made sure the family did not eat meat on Friday. Instead she would serve wild spinach with beans. It was excellent and made it much easier to avoid meat! She also made wonderful bread pudding with raisins.

Christina was fond of singing the Hail Mary. She had a lovely voice, and her children can still recall her singing in the home:

Hail Mary  
Full of Grace  
The Lord is with thee . . .

And she loved to recite the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in Heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy Kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in Heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For thine is the Kingdom and the power and  
the glory forever  
Amen.

Mr. Speaker, a quiet history runs through our Nation, a history that is not in our textbooks. In this history, the lonely whistles of the Santa Fe railroad can be heard through the night, as a young woman bakes bread on a farm. Her household is filled with the good smells of chile and coffee. Her children learn the words of our Holy Bible, and grow up to be good, God-fearing people with children of their own. From her they learn kindness and good deeds, the value of a hard day's work,

the importance of opening a door to a stranger.

This is the fabric from which our Nation is built. For often it is not the famous and the affluent who shape our country's destiny; instead it is women like Christina Chavez, who raise a family one day at a time, bake the bread, tend to the farm, go the country store.

And so, we pay tribute and memory to Christina Chavez, the last of my father's generation, my aunt and Godmother, loving mother to Josephina, Joe, and Nicanora.

There is a sadness that comes from great love, but there is also a quiet pride. Pride at all the families of Chavez and Baca have achieved in this great Nation. That as Latinos and Latinas we have carved a place for ourselves in the fabric of its history.

Mr. Speaker, Christina's children offer these words: "Thank you Mom for family values. You taught us how to be strong. You often raised us alone as Dad traveled on the Santa Fe Railroad."

And so, I say to Christina, thank you for all you have been to me and to your children, all the lives you have touched. God Bless you, we miss you, but we know you are in Heaven in the arms of the Lord. Amen.

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HONORING VERNON JOSEPH  
CHARRON, JR.

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, freedom, as we know, is not free and requires large doses of perseverance, dedication and sacrifice. Since his extensive tour of duty with the Navy during some of the most tumultuous times in World War II, Vernon Joseph Charron Jr. has traveled to numerous schools and other settings to inspire the youth of America with a similar passion for the United States that he holds. Vernon is a man who has aided the battle of freedom and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize his service to our country.

"Vern" was awestruck at the sight of his ship arriving at Pearl Harbor in 1942. The battle cruiser U.S.S. *Atlanta* was the ship that would be his home during the ensuing conflict. Located on the island of Guadalcanal and three months after the main conflict there, the Americans held a rudimentary airstrip called Henderson Field. Surprise confrontations and unplanned attacks stemming from the Japanese still plagued the island and resulted in many casualties. Obtaining and maintaining control of the waters surrounding the island was critical, and it is here that one of the most gruesome battles occurred and Vernon fought. On the night of November 12, 1942, as 14 ships from the Japanese fleet attacked the Henderson Field, the U.S.S. *Atlanta* and 12 other U.S. ships confronted the aggressors. After the battle, the area would be known as "Ironbottom Sound" due to the number of casualties and sunken debris. Twenty-seven ships attempted to destroy each other.

The U.S.S. *Atlanta*, by the end, had been hit 49 times before it ultimately sank. Although Vernon was the thirteenth man in his crew, he was the only survivor. Amidst flame and further attack, the U.S.S. *Atlanta* lost 170 men that night and although men of this generation