

March 20, 2001 to discuss the Base Reuse Plan for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Tustin, we discussed the local resolution of the City of Tustin's failure to include public benefit conveyances to Santa Ana Unified and Rancho Santiago Community College District in its Base Reuse Plan. You assured me then, and in your follow-up letter dated March 26, 2001, that the Department of Navy would not convey MCAS property until the parties concerned come to an agreement on the allocation of land.

We also discussed the possibility that, in implementing any such agreement, the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Base Reuse Plan may be required to be amended, to substitute a public benefit conveyance to the Districts in place of commercial development, or otherwise to accommodate a compromise among the City and the Districts. You stated in our meeting that such an amendment to the ROD would not create a significant problem for the Department of Navy. Furthermore, you stated that such a change may not even require an amendment to the ROD, but that if an amendment were required, that the Department of Navy could approve such an amendment to the ROD expeditiously and without undue delay.

Could you please affirm these statements to me by way of a short confirming letter. I would appreciate hearing from you by August 3rd, 2001. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

LORETTA SANCHEZ,
Member of Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, August 3, 2001.

Hon. LORETTA SANCHEZ,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you for your letter of July 19, 2001, regarding the need for local resolution of the reuse-related issues concerning the conveyance of Marine Corps Air Station Tustin to the Local Reuse Authority, the City of Tustin.

As you requested, I am re-affirming the statement I made to you in my letter of 26 March: The resolution of the issues surrounding conveyance of MCAS Tustin property for educational needs is critical to any conveyance decision. This is why the Navy continues to encourage a local agreement addressing all requests for property for these requirements. The lack of an agreement on educational transfers seriously complicates any Navy decision to convey MCAS Tustin property.

Regarding the Record of Decision (ROD), we continue to believe that the final resolution of the issues between the City of Tustin and the Santa Ana Unified School District can be accommodated within the ROD as presently configured. If the two sides reach a solution that would materially affect the ROD, then Navy would have to reevaluate the issue.

As always, if I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

DUNCAN HOLADAY,
Deputy Assistant Secretary,
(Installations and Facilities).

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 7, 2001.
Hon. DUNCAN HOLADAY,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Installations and Facilities, Department of the Navy, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY HOLADAY: Thank you for your letter of 3 August 2001 reaffirming that the Navy will not convey any Tustin MCAS

property until the parties concerned come to an agreement on the allocation of land. I appreciate your prompt and helpful response. I write to again seek your assistance on another matter, directly relating to the Record of Decision (ROD).

In our meeting of 20 March 2001, you indicated to me that the following two potential compromise solutions to the impasse between the City of Tustin and the Santa Ana Unified/Rancho Santiago Community College District would not require an amendment to the ROD. Or, if an amendment would be necessary, that it could be approved expeditiously.

(1) A compromise involving swapping the zoning of approximately 40 acres of commercially-designated land within the Districts' boundaries for 40 acres of educationally-designated land within the 'Learning Village.'

(2) The re-designation of approximately 100 acres of commercially-designated property within the Districts' boundaries to educational uses.

Your written confirmation of this would be very helpful relative to negotiations between the parties at this juncture and, for that reason, I ask that you please respond to my inquiry no later than August 14, 2001. Thank you, again, for your continued assistance with this difficult matter, and for your timely attention to this further request.

Sincerely,

LORETTA SANCHEZ,
Member of Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, August 14, 2001.

Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ: Thank you for your letter of August 7 inquiring about the Department of the Navy's Record of Decision (ROD) regarding MCAS Tustin.

Let me assure you that the Department's principal interest is that the parties directly involved—the City of Tustin, the Santa Ana Unified School District, and Rancho Santiago Community College—reach an agreement rapidly on how to allocate the land so that we may begin to transfer the property.

The potential effect of an agreement on the ROD should not stand in the way of the negotiations. The Department is prepared to work with you and the parties directly involved if doing so would help answer questions or resolve issues associated with any proposals being considered.

We will review any agreement to determine whether we need to amend the ROD; if that proves necessary, we will do so expeditiously. If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

DUNCAN HOLADAY,
Deputy Assistant Secretary,
(Installations and Facilities).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday's roll call votes on H.R. 717, the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy CARE Act, and H.J. Res. 65, making continuing appropriations for the 2002 fiscal year.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both H.R. 717 and H.J. Res. 65.

HONORING THE STAFF OF THE OREGON FARM SERVICE AGENCY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the Oregon Farm Service Agency staff as they assist the farmers of the Klamath Basin in dealing with the crisis that arose earlier this year from the denial of irrigation water by the federal government.

In April of this year the Bureau of Reclamation announced that, based on biological opinions rendered by the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the farmers of the Klamath Basin would be denied irrigation water for agriculture from Upper Klamath Lake. This decision, coupled with a severe drought in the region, has subjected local farmers to extreme financial hardship. The devastating combination of drought and poor management decisions by the federal government has literally put the future of their way of life in doubt, as farming as it has existed in the Basin for over 100 years has virtually ceased.

Long before the full impact of this decision upon Klamath Basin farmers was understood, the Oregon Farm Service Agency was hard at work in delivering relief, guidance, and information to those affected. State Executive Director Larry Frey was in touch with my office almost immediately. He and his exceptionally competent staff made themselves available at any time, day or night, to keep me informed. They worked tirelessly to identify federal programs to help the farmers survive this season.

Mr. Speaker, on July 20, 2001, the Congress passed a partial relief measure of \$20 million to be disbursed to the devastated Klamath Basin farmers. The Klamath County office of the Oregon Farm Service Agency is now in the process of signing up farmers for that relief. Manning their offices in Klamath Falls from before dawn until late into the evening, they are dispatching the requests for relief quickly and efficiently. This is just the latest effort in a long-standing record of outstanding service to farmers by the Klamath Falls office, which is headed by County Executive Director Denise Martin. Denise's unflagging efforts serve as an inspiring example of a federal employee going the extra mile to meet the needs of her clients with compassion and professionalism.

Denise Martin would be the first to tell you that she has not delivered this tremendous service alone. Indeed, she has been assisted by a staff whose effectiveness is matched only by its dedication to the farmers of the Basin. Throughout this crisis she has relied heavily on fellow professionals Harvey Bush, Josh Hanning, and Kristen Bingaman. Additionally, the efforts of Anna Flemming, Linda Watson, Lindsay Miles, Dorothy Scull, and Rowena Chase have been invaluable to the operations of the Klamath Falls Office.

An effort of this magnitude, which has entailed many weeks of 13-hour days, could not proceed as smoothly as it has without the help of Farm Service Agency staff members brought in from all over the State of Oregon. These talented and committed individuals assisting the Klamath Falls office are: Lois Loop,

Janice Knutz, Linda Miller, Kelsey Hanning, Toni Williams, Ilene Berry, Patti Anderson, Charley Newhouse, Alycia McCord, Marty Hamilton, Bret Harris, and Lee Go.

Delivering these urgently needed funds to Klamath Basin farmers in a fair, accurate, and efficient manner is a monumental task. What makes this effort even more remarkable is the fact that the program for disbursing the funds, designed by State Office Specialist Fred Ringer, does not require one dime in administrative fees for the Farm Service Agency.

Mr. Speaker, we should all take pride in this selfless group of federal workers whose tireless efforts have made the difference between despair and hope for so many of the farmers in the Klamath Basin. They truly represent the best of what our government stands for. Their hearts are guided by compassion and they have the personal commitment to do their job to the fullest, regardless of the extreme effort required. I offer them both my praise and my most sincere gratitude for caring for the farmers in the Klamath Basin who have faced such significant trials.

Many hurdles remain in the path of Klamath farmers, and I am delighted that the Oregon Farm Service Agency will be working with us throughout the challenges that lie ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN STEWART
NIEDERER

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity today to pay tribute to Martin Stewart Niederer.

Martin Niederer was young, he was a hard worker, a loyal citizen, and represented the bright, young future of America—the next generation. Martin's life was robbed from him, and from us, by the hand of terrorists—radical extremists, seeking to rule the world by instilling fear and spreading hatred. Henrico, and indeed the entire Richmond area, has experienced a great loss. Our entire community mourn along with Martin Niederer's parents and his loved ones.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, a precious life was ripped from our midst. Martin Niederer forged his way as a leader—in his case, a leader in the center of the world's economic capital. Sadly, Martin Niederer reported for work on September 11, as he always did, to Cantor Fitzgerald at the World Trade Center—only on that day, America was to become victim to a set of horrific terrorist atrocities. Martin was conducting the nation's economic business, when he and the World Trade Center were attacked.

Because Mr. Niederer lived as a symbol of American greatness and success, he was attacked. Not because he, as an individual, was hated, but because he stood with his colleagues as a symbol of America's prosperity and our democracy. We owe Martin Niederer for paying our price for freedom. We must forever honor his memory. Mr. Niederer's memory will be honored as America secures its future, fights against a maniacal hatred of freedom and human rights, and continues to demonstrate strength.

AMERICAN HEROES AT PENTAGON
FROM BAKERSFIELD AND KERN
COUNTY

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the real contributions of many individuals from California's 21st District to the relief effort because of the horrible tragedy on September 11, 2001. I am continually encouraged by the courageous and unselfish acts of our communities.

Yesterday, I visited a group of American heroes at the Pentagon. Over the past two weeks, a tireless and dedicated crew of 11 firefighters and Forest Service personnel from Bakersfield and Kern County in California has helped with the rescue and cleanup efforts at the Pentagon. Facing, long days of work in a stressful environment, they kept their resolve. The display of internal fortitude by these heroes serves as a great example of generosity and selflessness.

Soon, this talented and brave group returns home, and I would like to express my appreciation to Steve Gage, Kevin Harper, Nick Dunn, Ken Stevens, Bob Klinoff, Bob Lechtreck, Dean Clason, Pat Caprioli, Steve Shoemaker, Jim Scritchfield, and Dan Kleinman for all their hard work in assisting with the rescue and recovery efforts at the Pentagon. I would also like to thank their families for the sacrifices they also endured during these uncertain times.

I am extremely proud of these firefighters and our communities for the compassion shown to the victims of this horrific act of terrorism. The blood, sweat, and tears shed throughout our history in the quest for life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness have never been in vain. That is why I am certain the American people will rise to the occasion and triumph in these most trying of times. Together, there are no difficulties we cannot overcome as the greatest example of freedom and democracy in the world.

THE SAFE SKIES ACT OF 2001

HON. ANDER CRENshaw

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. CRENshaw. Mr. Speaker, by now we are all aware of the events that took place on September 11th and the many actions that took place before the tragedy. One circumstance that I found troubling was many of the terrorists at the controls of the commercial airliners used in the attacks received training in our own flight training schools.

The United States attracts men and women from throughout the world looking to acquire the skills needed to pilot an aircraft. There are several factors that make the United States an ideal place to receive flight training: it is inexpensive to rent aircraft, fuel is reasonably priced, landing fees are nonexistent, and it is quick and easy to be accepted for flight training.

We have now witnessed firsthand the destruction that can be wrought when the skills

acquired in our flight training schools are used for evil purposes. Currently, The Federal Aviation Administration does not require a background check of any type for individuals seeking civilian instruction to fly an airplane or helicopter in our nations' skies.

In order to close this loophole, I have introduced the Safe Skies Act of 2001, which will require background checks of all those seeking civilian instruction to fly airplanes or helicopters. It is my hope that we can stop international and domestic terrorist groups from using innocent and necessary skills for purposes other than innocence and necessity. Mr. Speaker, I realize not all terrorist organizations are those that infiltrate our borders from the outside, but also threaten us domestically. For that reason, we must ensure that the best information from the FBI and CIA is used to comb all civilian aviation applicants' history for criminal activity, espionage, or links to terrorist organizations.

The skies over this great land belong to its hard-working, law-abiding citizens. Let's help ensure that it stays in their hands.

RECOGNIZING THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS AND NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Civilian Conservation Corps on the occurrence of their upcoming 60th anniversary. This Saturday, ceremonies around the country will commemorate the work and sacrifice of the members of the Civilian Conservation Corps, these unsung heroes who built over 800 of America's national and state parks. In addition to these ceremonies, volunteers will work to restore original CCC projects. The achievements and contributions of the CCC to our nation are still being realized nearly sixty years after the program ended. I also would like to recognize the efforts of thousands of volunteers who will donate their time on Saturday, September 29, 2001. These volunteers, participating in National Public Lands Day, will put in a day of real work on projects ranging from trail construction and repair to habitat restoration and making public lands more accessible for disabled visitors. In short, the volunteers participating in National Public Lands Day will work on projects much like the projects that the Civilian Conservation Corps completed so many years ago. I express my deep gratitude to the volunteers and to the men who made up the CCC.

Following the stock market crash of 1929, the United States, and the entire world, slid into depression. Banks failed, loans and mortgages were foreclosed, unemployment soared as factories closed their doors, farms were abandoned and bread lines grew in cities. In 1933, to help get men out of bread lines and back to work, newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt engineered the passage of legislative measures which created government work programs designed to lift the country out of the Depression. One of these programs was the Civilian Conservation Corps.