

power of her ideas and the strength of her convictions. She will be a formidable and fabulous whip. She will even be able to keep me in line; and I congratulate her and I applaud her, and I am proud to call her my colleague and friend.

PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF KLAMATH BASIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is not the first time I have come to the well to address the House and my colleagues about the terrible plight of the people of the Klamath Basin in Oregon and northern California.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, on April 6 of last year, the water was cut off to the farmers at Klamath Basin. Some 1,400 farms were affected. The decision was unprecedented. Never in the near-hundred-year history of this water project run by the Bureau of Reclamation had the water been totally cut off; but a new scientific analysis and decisions by the various agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marines Fisheries Service, said, sorry, there is not enough water for the farmers. We have to maintain the highest lake levels we have ever maintained to protect sucker fish, and then we have to release water later on in greater amounts than we have before to provide water for the Koho salmon, which are in danger.

Mr. Speaker, a number of us, especially the farmers and ranchers in the basin, argued against that, saying that there was no scientific evidence to prove that this was necessary; but those arguments fell on deaf ears. Later in the spring, the chairman of the House Committee on Resources agreed to let us have a field hearing in the Klamath Basin. Thousands of people turned out. Thousands of people turned out for that hearing, Mr. Speaker; and at that time we raised these issues and said the science just did not add up to the decisions that were being made.

We called for the Department of the Interior to get peer review of that science. We also held a rally where close to 18,000 people, in a county of 60,000, turned out. They called it the "bucket brigade," where we talked about the farm families. The veterans who were lured to this area by the same Federal Government with a promise of water for life, they were asked to come settle this project, this reclaimed land, guaranteed water to grow their crops to expand the Nation; but no water did they get this year, virtually none.

So the fields dried up. We can see the sand here and a wheel line in the sand. There was so much sand and dust that there were traffic accidents that came about, but the biggest accident that came about were the bankruptcies and

the losses that devastated this area. Oregon State University said \$134 million of potential economic loss. Bankruptcies like the Carleton family, third generation in the basin, they had farmed there three generations.

This administration, this Congress responded with a little bit of economic assistance, saying, here we will help a little bit, \$20 million into the basin and \$134 to \$200 million economic hit. This poor gentleman, when he got that, the money went to the bankruptcy court. He got stuck with a \$60,000 tax bill out of \$122,000 in emergency aid.

I tell my colleagues that just to show the devastation not only to the environment of the farm country but the families who lived there; but the most important fact came out this weekend, Mr. Speaker, when the National Academy of Sciences finally finished their review of the data and the decisions.

Do my colleagues know what that showed, Mr. Speaker? It showed there was no scientific justification for the high lake levels or for dumping the water in the Klamath River. This is the article out of the Herald and News, irrigation cut off was not justified.

The damage done to these people is extraordinary. Some of it can never be undone. The decisions were flawed. They were based on science that did not add up to the decisions that were made.

Further, had we not had this outside peer review by the National Academy of Sciences, we would have continued down a road of dumping potentially lethally hot water into the Klamath River, killing the very Koho salmon this whole plan was supposed to fix and help. The National Academy of Sciences said one of the reasons that these Koho are surviving in this rather warm river complex to begin with is probably due to natural seepage and some cold water springs where they can go off into micro-habitat and survive.

The plan that the National Marine Fisheries Service wanted us to follow which denied water to the farmers said dump warm reservoir water into this same river system. In effect, pollute this river with warm water at the worst time of the year, providing lethal water to the salmon.

Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a poster child for the need for reforming of the Endangered Species Act to have precisely this kind of peer review of the science, it is the Klamath Basin.

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Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, if this government owes any debt to anyone, it is to the farmers and ranchers in this basin whose livelihoods were robbed from them, whose fields turned up dry, some of whom left; and I have not even talked about the farm-worker families that had to leave.

During the bucket brigade rally, where 18,000 showed up, a Hispanic farm worker came up to me in the high school ball field where we had all gath-

ered, tears in his eyes, and told me he had come to this country some 20, 25 years before and gotten a job on a farm in this basin the next day. He had raised his family, educated his kids, and worked every day since, until that week, when he had lost his job.

A terrible wrong has been committed here. We have an obligation and a responsibility to make it right.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI, MEMBER OF CONGRESS, NEW MINORITY WHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate and honor our new minority whip, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), I also must really thank her for being such a role model. As a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a friend to many, a great humanitarian and a phenomenal leader, Ms. PELOSI has really demonstrated that women can do it all at the same time.

NANCY PELOSI's congressional district is right across the Bay Bridge from my district. Her constituents have recognized her intellect, her passion, and her coalition-building ability by electing her to the House of Representatives eight times. Now, as minority whip, these same attributes and values will be brought to our leadership team to meet the challenges of this new millennium.

No one is more qualified to lead than Ms. PELOSI. She understands that education is the soundest investment we can make as a Nation to secure our future. She understands that access to quality health care, affordable housing, job and pension security, and a commitment to fighting the global HIV/AIDS pandemic are essential to our economic and national security. And she knows that job security and economic security are not Democratic or Republican issues, but American issues that deserve bipartisan support.

As a true leader on international issues, Ms. PELOSI cares about our foreign policy and fights to ensure that our foreign aid is directed toward the betterment of humankind. She has been a powerful and relentless ally in the fight to eradicate HIV/AIDS in San Francisco as well as in Africa and throughout the world. Her deep commitment to civil rights and civil liberties here at home and her unwavering support for human rights abroad have given us all a standard for justice and equality.

On October 10, 2001, exactly 90 years to the day after women won the right to vote in California, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) was elected by her colleagues to become our Democratic House whip, the highest ranking woman in the 212-year history of this institution.

This victory is really a great triumph for our Nation. Ms. PELOSI has broken through a glass ceiling that has long kept women from reaching the upper echelons of power in this House. As she said shortly after being elected, "We made history; now we have to make progress."

NANCY, congratulations on earning this place in history. Congratulations and Godspeed as you accept this place of distinction in the people's House. I know that there are many girls and young women throughout the world who are saying, "When I grow up, I want to be just like Congresswoman PELOSI."

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the comments of my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), and I stand here to congratulate the new minority whip of the House of Representatives, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

This is my second term in the U.S. Congress, and I have to express the fact that the joy I have had serving in the Congress I partly owe to NANCY PELOSI and the guidance she has given me as a colleague throughout these 3, almost 4, years in the House of Representatives.

The wonderful thing is that the world is very small, because I came to know NANCY PELOSI through some friends of mine from Cleveland, the Sklars; and so I stand here celebrating with them as well this great opportunity.

I also have to say that there was no greater joy than being a monitor in the room when those votes were counted and I was able to say, yes, I have been a part of history being made as those votes were counted on behalf of NANCY PELOSI. I am looking forward to her leadership and the opportunity to be there to help her lead this Congress and lead this Democratic Party into this new century and to have an opportunity to say to the world that "a woman's place is in the House, the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress."

Congratulations NANCY PELOSI, and I am here to let you know I am here for you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KIRK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MINNESOTA MOURNS THE DEATH OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE DARLENE LUTHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, the people of Minnesota are in mourning because we have had a death in the family. Minnesota State Representative Darlene Luther, wife of our good friend and colleague Bill Luther, passed away last week after a courageous battle with cancer.

Today in St. Paul, Minnesota, Darlene's family and hundreds of her friends and constituents attended her funeral mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul. From Governor and Mrs. Ventura, to members of Minnesota's congressional delegation, the Minnesota legislature, and supreme court; from Darlene's constituents in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, to Darlene and Bill's legions of friends across Minnesota, we said farewell to a loving and committed wife, a caring and loyal friend, and a compassionate and dedicated public servant.

Just as we mourned a great loss, we also celebrated a life of love and a life of service, a life of passionate advocacy and genuine empathy for people, especially people in need. Mr. Speaker, Darlene Luther was truly a loving daughter and sister to the Dunphy family; a loving wife and mother to Bill, Alicia and Alex; and friend to us all. She will be sorely missed by all of us who knew and loved her, by all of us whose lives she touched.

Most of all, Darlene loved her husband, Bill, and their children, Alicia and Alex, as deeply and as dearly as any wife and mother ever could. She was so proud of them, as she told me countless times. I will never forget how proud she was of Bill when he was sworn in as a new Member of Congress. Darlene ran over to me and proclaimed, "Not bad for a kid from Fergus Falls, huh, Jim?" I know Darlene also made Bill very proud, and their love for each other will continue to inspire us all.

I will never forget Darlene's pride when Alicia was accepted by Boston College. "I am so proud of Alicia," she told me, "and she did it despite a letter of recommendation from a Republican Member of Congress." Darlene was so proud of the wonderful young woman Alicia has become and so grateful for the loving daughter she has always been.

Mr. Speaker, I will never forget how proud Darlene was at Alex's very first Special Olympics, as we were there to cheer him on. And I will never forget Darlene's pride and her tears of joy when Alex moved into his new apartment. Alex Luther showed all of us what the dignity of independent living is all about.

Mr. Speaker, the loss of Representative Darlene Luther is a great loss for Minnesota. We have lost our leader for people who need life-saving organ do-

nations. We have lost a tireless advocate for early childhood education and kids with special needs. We have lost a true champion for health care and people with disabilities. We have lost a legislator with a big heart who made a big difference in the lives of so many Minnesotans.

Darlene Luther represented the best in public service because she always put people first. As her friends and constituents know, Darlene never took herself too seriously, but she took her job very seriously. And Darlene loved her job, just as she loved her colleagues and the staff of the Minnesota legislature, just as she loved Bill's colleagues and staff, just as she loved her constituents in Brooklyn Park.

As we celebrate Darlene's life of love and service, let us honor her legacy by keeping her passions alive. And may the tender strength of her love and her kind and gentle spirit live forever in the hearts of each of us.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW MINORITY WHIP, NANCY PELOSI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, it is really a privilege and a joy to be on the floor this evening and rise to honor our colleague, the gentlewoman from California (NANCY PELOSI).

I want to make my remarks tonight really in the form of a story. I do not have any notes in front of me, but I would like to hearken back to over 25 years ago. So that is more than a quarter of a century, which certainly says something about my age, but that is how long I have known NANCY PELOSI.

Neither one of us were in elected public service at the time, but she was very well known throughout the State of California for the work that she was doing in her beloved adopted city of San Francisco, having been brought to San Francisco by a great San Franciscan, Paul Pelosi. And out of that marriage, that wonderful, wonderful marriage, have come five magnificent children.

First, let me say something about Paul. We all love him and respect him. He is one of the most gentle individuals, who always has a smile on his face and has done so much for so many of us. It is his singular joy to welcome us to his home to do for each one of us over the years. So this is a great party celebrated around the two of them and not just NANCY.

Five children: Nancy Corinne, Christine, Jacqueline, Paul, Jr., and Alexandra. Two magnificent sons-in-law, Jeff Prowda and Michael Kenneally; and five extraordinary grandchildren, Alexander, Liam, Madeleine, Sean, and Ryan. So you can see that there is both the Gaelic and the garlic that has been blended in this magnificent family.

NANCY PELOSI is recognized a leader not only in her own community but