

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO HELEN PACE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hardworking woman from my district. Helen Pace has recently retired from Berthod Motors in Glenwood Springs, Colorado after 38 years of service. I join with my colleagues here today in recognizing Helen's dedication and continuous service before this body of Congress.

Helen first started working for Berthod Motors back on October 15, 1965. Back then, Louie and Aline Berthod were the owners of this Glenwood Springs automotive landmark, which was then located in the Tamarack Building on the corner of 10th and Grand Avenue.

Along with her husband Cecil, Helen has played a significant role in establishing the Berthod Motors tradition. Cecil began employment with Berthod in the equipment division back in 1957 and went to work alongside his wife Helen from 1965 until his own retirement in 1994. Helen's career at Berthod began as a warranty clerk, eventually taking over accounts receivable and becoming office manager. Together, Cecil and Helen Pace devoted nearly 75 years of continuous service and commitment to the customers of Berthod Motors. In retirement, Helen plans to make good use of her new Buick Century, already planning a road trip with her husband in the car that she received as a retirement gift.

Mr. Speaker, it is increasingly rare these days that one person would spend close to 40 years devoted to a job they loved. Helen Pace has committed the last 38 years of her life serving the customers of Berthod Motors, a commitment that should not go unrecognized. I join with my colleagues here today in wishing Helen and her husband Cecil joy in their well-deserved retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OBERLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this year, the Oberlin, Ohio, Fire Department celebrates its 150th anniversary. Established in 1853, today the department boasts a staff of 30, state-of-the-art equipment, safety and educational programming, and professional recognition. The community has celebrated the sesquicentennial with a parade, summertime events, a traditional firefighter competition featuring an old-fashioned bucket brigade, hose race, and water ball contest, displays and an open house, and culminating in a special dinner this fall.

The mission of the Oberlin Fire Department is "To proudly protect lives and property by providing prompt, skillful, cost-effective protection and life safety services." It is routinely recognized for successfully meeting this mission with the prestigious yearly Life Safety Achievement Award. It serves the 10,000 people of Oberlin and New Russia Township in northeast Ohio with emergency responses, college fire safety courses, school and community educational services, and fire prevention efforts.

For a century and a half, ordinary men and women have conducted themselves with extraordinary bravery as they skillfully guarded the safety of their fellow citizens in Oberlin. I am proud and humbled to represent these fine people, and join with the community in a resounding "thank you!"

TRIBUTE TO OPEN SPACE PROTECTION IN GRAND COUNTY, CO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Middle Park Land Trust and the Denver Water Department for their efforts in creating an outstanding conservation easement for Colorado's citizens in Grand County, Colorado.

Open space in Grand County and the rest of our state is coming under increasing pressure because of the rapid expansion of Colorado's population. In response, Grand County's elected officials and citizens partnered together to begin a 7-year odyssey to protect and preserve the open ranges, meadows and ridges in the Fraser Valley. Through a series of deed restrictions, conservation easements and open space development, more than 20,000 acres of land are now under some form of protection from development in Grand County.

The Denver Water Department was encouraged to "donate" properties they owned because of the efforts of Grand County citizens to raise approximately \$6,000 in funds to help cover some of the costs related to monitoring lands in perpetuity and to provide funds to pay legal fees in case the easement is questioned in court.

The Colorado General Assembly partnered in this historic easement by passing legislation that changed tax deductions to tax credits and increasing the value of allowable easements from \$100,000 to \$260,000, thus encouraging the development of multiple land trusts across the state.

Road and trail easements are now being developed to connect the towns of Fraser and Winter Park while protecting connecting routes and surrounding lands. Once again, citizens in the county, Fraser's local library and county officials have been encouraged in their efforts by the historic conservation easement crafted by Grand County citizens.

The Middle Park Land Trust has had its most successful and productive year. I applaud their innovative conservation efforts and encourage more partnerships like this, not only in Colorado's pristine mountain counties, but throughout the country as we seek to preserve our Nation's beautiful lands for now and for generations to come. Present and future generations will be thankful for the foresight in preserving some of the landscapes such as these in Grand County that inspire, enhance wildlife and recreational opportunities.

I have attached a copy of a local newspaper story about this important effort.

[From the Winter Park Manifest Oct. 29, 2003]

MEADOWS ARE OPEN FOREVER

(By Harry Williamson)

As you take your drive into the Fraser Valley this week, check out the meadows on the west side of Highway 40 just south of Tabernash.

Ignoring a couple of dilapidated, ancient cabins way back in the trees, there's not a spec of building to be seen. It's just horses and the occasional coyote moving among the sagebrush.

And that's the sight you're going to see forever—never a house, never businesses bordering the highway—thanks to a deal finalized by the county, the Middle Park Land Trust and the Denver Water Department.

Completing seven years of work, a conservation easement has been signed that protects the 514 acres, part of the old Stadelman Ranch, from any type of development ever taking place.

In addition, the approximately 300 acres on the east side of the highway is also protected by deed restrictions signed by the landowners that prohibits any building in those meadows. The only land that is not removed from possible future building is the approximately 160 acres at the far north end, just before Tabernash, which is owned by the city of Arvada.

And, the approximately 45 acres of meadow in the Hidden River Ranch subdivision, located just north of the meadows on the west side of the highway is also removed from development by a deed restriction.

So what you see today in those meadows, is pretty much what you're always going to get.

"In all of our surveys concerning what land local residents wanted to see protected, these meadows were always very high on the list," said Cindy Southway, Land Trust director.

The easement on the west side meadows was signed between Denver Water and the county, which was assisted by the Land Trust in developing the agreement.

Denver Water also owns the slightly more than 900 acres atop the ridge further west of the meadows, heavily-treed land that the agency likely plans to sell for development.

Commissioner James Newberry said that under the agreement a developer would be able to use the meadows as a portion of the open space required to develop the remainder of the land under the county's Rural Land Use Process, which requires at least 66 percent open space. This type of land development was developed by the county in 1999 as a way to maintain the rural character of the county.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

County officials said that since the land atop the ridge is not included in an urban growth area, as designated by the county's master plan, the only way it can be developed is through the rural land process.

Southway said that if and when the land is sold for development, it is hoped that a new conservation easement could be developed between the new owner and the Land Trust.

"We're in the business of holding these easement, and we could work with that developer to tighten it (the easement) up to get them tax benefits," she said.

The effort to get the meadows under easement was started approximately seven years ago by the Land Trust, then called the Grand County Land Conservancy. The idea, however, floundered over the years for various reasons, including Denver Water's hesitance to make what the Land Trust referred to as a "donation" to cover some of the cost of "monitoring the land for perpetuity. Southway added that funds are also needed to be held in reserve to pay legal fees in case the easement is ever questioned in court.

She said that when a landowner balks at making a donation, then the Land Trust does fundraisers to obtain the funds, with approximately \$6,000 raised for the Denver Water project.

Newberry said that the county, involved in other discussions with Denver Water, suggested a few months ago that negotiations on the easement possibility be resumed. He said that due to state legislation passed last year counties are now able to hold non-development easements.

"Once Denver Water started talking about it, we got this thing done in record time, considering there was a government entity on the two ends of the deal," Newberry said. He added that the negotiations, once restarted, took just under three months.

Newberry said another agreement has been finalized where Denver Water has donated an easement of an existing old farm road that extends along the bottom of the ridge. He said the county's plan is to make the roadway part of the Fraser Valley Parkway, which has been a concept for the last 20 years as an alternative route to Highway 40. Officials said, once developed, the roadbed would be a 60 feet wide collector road consisting of two lanes.

He said the county has already acquired the necessary right-of-way for the parkway from County Road 522, through two developments near Tabernash and on through, via the Denver Water road, to County Road 50.

Newberry said the county is currently working with the town of Fraser, the library and the people who own the land between County Roads 50 and 73 to identify and purchase a road easement. Once this route, to also include a trail easement, is determined the road would connect with the existing parkway. Plans are for the parkway to then run through a still-to-be-determined route through the Rendezvous subdivision and on through the town of Winter Park.

Southway said 2003 has been a very successful year for the Middle Park Land Trust, which was started in 1995. She said that, during the year, approximately 1,400 acres have either been put under easement or that an agreement is being finalized. She added that its been her agency's most productive year, due in large measure to legislation passed last year that gives Colorado tax credits for land put under a conservation easement.

She explained that the state before was like the federal government where a tax deduction was given.

"The State of Colorado changed to a tax credit, and increased the maximum value of the easement allowable for the credit from \$100,000 to \$260,000. These tax credits are dollar for dollar, and they're a commodity, they

can be sold. This makes it much more attractive for landowners, who retain ownership and use of the land. They just can't develop it," she said.

"The exciting thing is that it has been a great year for land trusts all across Colorado," she added.

Southway said that there are currently approximately 20,000 acres of land now under some form of non-development easement in Grand County.

TRIBUTE TO JANET WHITCHURCH—RECIPIENT OF THE 2003 ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mrs. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janet Whitchurch, a distinguished Californian, as she receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. This award, named for the foundress of the Society of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, honors individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, over a significant period of time. Founded in 1897, Sacred Heart Schools includes St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart and Sacred Heart Preparatory.

Janet Whitchurch grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art and a Master of Arts in Painting from Stanford University. She began her teaching career at Sacred Heart Preparatory in 1969 and taught Studio Art, Art History, Freshman History and served as Department Chair. Mrs. Whitchurch left Sacred Heart Preparatory in 1984 but soon realized that she had left her heart at the School. She converted to Catholicism and returned to Sacred Heart in 1995 to continue teaching and cultivating students as Chair of the Fine Arts Department.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to honor Janet Whitchurch's work, her values, and her commitment to Sacred Heart Schools and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her as she receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award for the extraordinary contributions she has made to Sacred Heart Schools.

HONORING CARL AND MIKE LOWELL

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two of South Florida's outstanding citizens, Carl Lowell and his son, Mike Lowell.

Carl Lowell pitched for St. Joseph's University in 1968 and '69 before leaving after his junior year to go to dental school in Puerto Rico. He was named Most Valuable Player of the 1968 team and was an honorable mention on the All-Middle-Atlantic Conference team after going 6-3 with a 2.39 earned run average while striking out 65 batters in 78 2/3 innings. On March 29, 1969, he pitched a no-

hitter against Franklin & Marshall, one of just five no-hitters in school history. His career 3.31 ERA is the fourth-lowest in the school's record books.

Carl, pitching for the Puerto Rican national team, beat Cuba in international competition. Carl is of Cuban and German descent and is a strong believer in freedom and democracy. When Cuban dictator Fidel Castro wanted to meet the team and have his photo taken with the players, Carl stayed on the bus instead.

Today, Carl is a prominent and respected dentist in South Florida.

His son, Mike, is the third baseman for the 2003 World Series Champion Florida Marlins and is one of baseball's best hitters. This year he hit 32 homers with 105 runs-batted-in despite missing the last month of the season with a broken hand. He's a 2002 and 2003 All Star and recently won the 2003 National League Silver Slugger Award which is given to the top offensive players at each position, as voted on by major league baseball managers and coaches.

Mike grew up in Miami where he was a high school baseball star and became the heart of the best Coral Gables High team in decades. He made All Dade First Team and was an All State/All Star in 1992.

Mike was offered a full scholarship by Florida International University (FIU) where he excelled and was an Academic All-American.

In 1995, he was drafted by the New York Yankees and quickly moved up the minor league system. His parents had always stressed the importance of a good education, and after being drafted, with some special help from his mother, Beatriz, Mike returned to FIU. Mike had three grade-by-final-exam courses, and Beatriz went to class and took notes for him while he was in the instructional league. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1996 with a degree in Finance.

In 1999, he was traded back home to play for the Florida Marlins. However, less than three weeks later, Mike's plans were put on hold by a startling discovery. While undergoing a regular physical examination, Mike was diagnosed with testicular cancer. The surgery and three weeks of radiation were successful, and today he is cancer-free.

On July 20, 2002, Carl had prostate cancer surgery. Mike spent the whole day at the hospital with him, then hit a game-winning home run against the Expos that night. After the game, he said he had dedicated the home run to his father.

Mike created the Mike Lowell Foundation which hosts the Mike Lowell Foundation Charity Golf Classic. All the proceeds from the event are donated to a wonderful charity in South Florida which provides free medical care to low income cancer patients, "La Liga Contra el Cancer" (The League Against Cancer) and local sports programs.

A patriot like his father, on April 25, 2000, Mike sat out the game to protest the shameful raid on the home of Elian Gonzalez, further earning the respect and admiration of freedom loving people everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, South Florida is truly fortunate to have these distinguished individuals living in our community. They are fine examples of love, perseverance, patriotism and civic leadership.