

Work was started on the Flood Hazard Study on Oostanaula Creek in October 1987. A series of public hearings were held in November and survey work has proceeded on schedule. The final plan was completed and ready for funding by September 1988.

In 1987, a group of volunteer conservationists formed an "Earth Team" to assist the McMinn Soil Conservation District with their conservation programs. The members included Hugh "Doc" Lamb, J. Neal Ensminger, Harold "Prof" Powers, Herbert "Dick" Williams, F. W. Adsit, Rex Moses, Charles Engle, E. H. Looney, Clarence Streetman, and Ginger Wheeler.

The McMinn "Earth Team" was the first recipients to receive state and national recognition for their volunteer efforts in conservation. They were cited by the National Association Conservation Districts for their exemplary volunteer efforts to attain conservation goals. They were honored at the NACD National meeting in February 1988 at Little Rock, Arkansas. The "Keep McMinn Beautiful" committee was formed as a direct result of the Earth Team.

Some of the projects carried out by the Earth Team were:

- I. Conservation Education Program
 - a. Conducted conservation school camps for city and county schools.
 - b. Presented programs to civic and garden clubs.
 - c. Contacted farmers to explain the provisions of the Farm Bill.
 - d. Developed a forest information program for area woodlot owners.
 - e. Assisted with conservation tours, meetings, etc.
- II. Water Quality Concerns
 - a. Conducted an extensive public awareness campaign on the water quality problems in McMinn County.
 - b. Developed a slide presentation on roadside litter and dumps.
 - c. Assisted the county in locating suitable landfill sites.
- III. Formed a Speakers Bureau
 - a. Sent out brochures to civic, school, and church groups on conservation speakers available for programs.
- IV. Conservation Application
 - a. Located farm boundaries on maps.
 - b. Compiled list of Highly Erodible Land (HEL).
 - c. Assist with layout of strip cropping, animal waste systems and waterways
 - d. Gather information on soil loss for SL-1 referrals.
 - e. Contact farmers concerning sodbuster-swampbuster provisions of Farm Bill.

In 1993, The Tennessee Department of Conservation and Environment published a list of all streams in Tennessee, which have water pollutants. Oostanaula Creek was identified as having pollutants nitrogen and pathogen. Best Management Practices were installed and cost shared through funds received from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture with the help of the Southeast Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development. Water Quality practices included stream fencing to prevent livestock having direct access to the creek, stream crossing, alternative livestock watering systems, conservation buffers strips and animal waste management systems

The Farm Bills bring many programs under Conservation Compliance. To participate and receive benefits from USDA is voluntary to the farmer. The District strives to make program participation clientele friendly and manageable to the farmers as it can, while meeting conservation goals.

In 1993, 484 landowners received assistance from Field Office staff. To date, 23,546 acres of highly erodible land were identified with

20,996 acres under conservation plan, and 13,084 acres plan applied and on the ground. The ACP program had 171 referrals. There were 25 LTA's, 13 Farm Bill Status Reviews, 1 569 compliance investigation, and 7 water quality complaints were investigated.

The McMinn County Water Quality assisted the Tennessee Department of Health & Environment with investigations of citizen complaints involving water pollution from animal waste and dairy operations waste, poultry operations waste, mining runoff, and disposal of dead animals. Investigations were conducted of numerous potential groundwater pollution problems (wells and springs in the county). Through these investigations, samples were collected to be analyzed by private laboratories. The test results were then analyzed and possible solutions were recommended.

Local industry and utility districts with potential groundwater problems were assisted. The County Board of Education was assisted with assessment of periodic well water sampling requirements to comply with State Regulations. Well water samples were collected for determination of lead in drinking water from several homes in response to requests. The laboratory determination results were then analyzed and citizens advised as to further action. Also, assistance was given in determining aquatic weed problems and treatment was recommended for several farm ponds.

Consultation was provided for two established watershed districts in response to water quality assessment needs. Sites for drinking water sampling were selected and samples collected to establish the need for extension of Riceville water lines to additional areas in the county.

The Water Quality Office responded to many requests for information and questions concerning appropriate authority for assistance.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL NATHAN R. ANDERSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and community of Cpl. Nathan Anderson upon the death of this outstanding Marine.

Cpl. Anderson was a member of the Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7, 1st Marine Division serving his great nation in the country of Iraq. He was a loving son, brother, and friend to all who knew him. Cpl. Anderson was an active citizen in his community and did his best to make his country a better place to live.

Cpl. Anderson will be remembered for his unsurpassed sacrifice of self while protecting others. His example of strength and fortitude will be remembered by all those who knew him.

While words cannot express our grief during the loss of such a courageous Marine, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Cpl. Nathan R. Anderson.

IN HONOR OF MR. ARNOLD
FONTES

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Arnold R. Fontes, who is retiring after 34 years as the San Benito County Assessor. His continuous re-election for over three decades speaks volumes for his ability and for the trust the people of this county placed in him.

Mr. Fontes was raised in San Benito County and attended local schools. He joined the R.O.T.C. and graduated in 1955 from the University of Santa Clara with a degree in Business Administration, majoring in accounting. He served in Germany as an Army Artillery Officer, and met his wife, Helga, while stationed there.

Upon returning to the United States he was employed by McCormick Selph as their Accounting Manager, and then with Protective Papers as Plant Manager and Controller. On September 1, 1970 Mr. Fontes was appointed Assessor of San Benito County, and ran unopposed for eight consecutive terms.

Arnold Fontes played a significant role in the community during those years. His activities include 31 years with the Boy Scouts of America, serving as District Chairman and as Vice President of Special Assignments of the Monterey Bay Area Council. He was President of the California Assessors' Association in 1982 and Treasurer from 1983 to 2000. He was a member of the San Benito Chamber of Commerce for 35 years, including Director from 1972 to 1974. During his 32 years with the Hollister Rotary Club he served as President from 1979 to 1980, and received the Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Currently, Mr. Fontes serves as Treasurer for the Community Foundation for San Benito County.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Arnold Fontes's many accomplishments, and commend him for his tremendous devotion to his community. I join all of San Benito County in honoring this truly remarkable man for his lifelong achievements.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
MR. JOHN ALBERT "AL"
WICKLAND, JR.

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor an outstanding citizen and dear friend, Mr. John Albert "Al" Wickland, Jr. from Carmichael, CA, who died on Thursday, January 20, 2005. He was 84 years old.

Al was raised in Orland, CA. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied electrical engineering. When World War II began, Al left the University and began his lifelong dedication to his country and the communities he called home. Al entered the U.S. Army Air Corps and served honorably as a B-26 instructor during the war. On February

4, 1942, while on leave from his duties serving our country, Al wed Mary Elizabeth Linton in Carson City, NV. They were happily married for 58 years until Mary's death in 2000.

After the war, Al returned with Mary to Orland where they raised four children. In 1954, Al started Wickland Oil Company and a life-long career in oil distribution and marketing. Wickland Oil quickly opened a chain of gasoline and convenience stores called Regal Stations, which operated throughout California, Oregon, and Nevada. By adopting innovative strategies such as offering low-cost self-serve gasoline, Al demonstrated a unique ability to understand and cater to the needs of his consumers. With Al's leadership and vision, Wickland Oil and Regal Stations quickly grew into a regional powerhouse.

By 1980, Wickland Oil's commodities trading and oil storage business was a major operator on the international stage. Again displaying great vision, Al directed Wickland Oil into the Chinese market, making it one of the very first American firms to open trade relations with China. Under Al's leadership, Wickland Oil impressively built storage and distribution facilities in California, China, Australia, Singapore, Russia, and the Caribbean. Al was especially grateful for the contributions his two sons, John and Roy, as well as his son-in-law, Dan Hall, made to Wickland Oil. He took great pleasure in working with them on a day-to-day basis.

In addition to building a world-renowned company, Al served his community. He was a charter member and co-founder of the Orland Rotary Club, a Trustee of the YMCA, a member of the advisory board of California State University at Chico, and the co-founder of the California Independent Oil Marketers Association. Upon moving to Sacramento in 1972, Al joined the Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento Rotary, the Sutter Club, and Del Paso Country Club. In addition to participating in these activities, Al especially loved spending time with his family and friends piloting his boat, the Regal Lady, along the North American coastline and elsewhere.

While Al enjoyed great success in his business and community endeavors, his passion remained his family. Al is survived by his wife of 3 years Beatrice Rogers Wickland and his four children: John A. Wickland III, Valerie E. Wickland, Roy L. Wickland and his wife, Janet E. Wickland, Laurel Wickland Hall and her husband, Daniel E. Hall. Al also had a great affection for his 11 grandchildren: Joshua D. Wickland, John A. Wickland IV, Stacia C. Wickland, Scott Lusk, Tracy Frost Lusk Scollan, Jessica Wickland Oehmen, Allison C. Wickland, Matthew J. Wickland, John L. Hall, Danielle E. Hall, and Joseph D. Hall.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with Al Wickland's family, friends, and community to commemorate his life of hard work, service to country and community, and dedication to his family. May he rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, due to reasons beyond my control I was unable to vote on

February 1st, or February 2nd of this year. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes.

On rollcall vote No. 14, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 15, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 16, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 17, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 18, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 19, I would have voted "yea."

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JEANNE CROTTY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jeanne Crotty has served diligently as an intern for the office of Congressman BOB NEY in the United States House of Representatives; and

Whereas, Jeanne Crotty has demonstrated that she is an extremely talented individual who understands public policy, government relations and the American political system; and

Whereas, Jeanne Crotty should be commended for her excellent service, her integrity and dedication to the projects she was asked to perform.

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and their staff in thanking Jeanne Crotty for her outstanding service as an intern in the United States House of Representatives.

COMMENDING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR HOLDING FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which commends the Palestinian people for holding free and fair elections on January 9. I know we all hope it will be the end of the violence that has devastated so many families, and the beginning of the resumption of peaceful negotiations.

The State of Israel and many, many Palestinians want this. They want peace—to safeguard their children, to encourage economic growth, to move toward the future with optimism and a sense of purpose. The United States shares this hope, and must continue to actively support these efforts. I commend President Bush for his involvement, and I hope he will remain steadfast.

But we are not naive. We have been at such hopeful moments before. As President Bush said last summer, there are a number of concrete actions the Palestinians must take before they can be viewed as legitimate partners in the path to peace.

Free elections are one step. But now newly elected Palestinian Authority Chairman

Mahmoud Abbas must do more. He must disarm Palestinian terrorist groups—not just call on them to cease attacks on Israelis. Abbas must do the hard work of dismantling the terrorist organizations. He must control and consolidate the security forces that often collaborated with terror groups. He must push for true political and economic reform, and stop the rampant corruption. And finally, he must truly engage Arab leaders in supporting true peace in the region. If he does all these things, if Abbas can demonstrate by his action that he is a serious, earnest partner in the pursuit of peace, then there is truly cause for hope.

We have waited decades for a peace that will safeguard Israel's security, and will bring about regional stability and prosperity. For those who truly seek peace, who understand that there is no choice but peace to secure the future of the Middle East, the latest developments are encouraging.

The future of the Middle East—and the ultimate security and safety of Israel—is at stake. The United States will maintain its commitment to bringing the parties back to the negotiating table, but the ultimate choice of peace is theirs to make. Chairman Abbas must not squander the opportunity to bring peace and prosperity to his people. He must show his willingness to make the tough choices, and take the risky path, that separates those who truly seek peace from those who do not.

I urge unanimous adoption of this resolution.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 36, EXPRESSING CONTINUED SUPPORT OF CONGRESS FOR EQUAL ACCESS OF MILITARY RECRUITERS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, along with Congressman GERALD SOLOMON I introduced the original amendment in 1994 which clearly stated that if universities receive Federal funding, they must also allow military recruiters on campus.

Congress was clear that if universities accept funding from the Federal Government, they must support the government at a basic level. It is a double standard for universities to be willing to accept all types of funding from the Federal Government, but are unwilling to support America's men and women training to defend the freedoms of our country.

Congress passed the Solomon-Pombo amendment with the understanding that the military plays an indispensable role in securing the freedoms protected in our society. The Federal Government is responsible for protecting our borders, our safety, and our freedoms. It is the military that ensures the freedoms of college faculty and students to voice their opinions in our open and free society.

The court ruling from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals is clearly flawed in a number of ways. It is not discriminatory for the military to maintain a "don't ask; don't tell" policy. In fact, the military's policy has been upheld by the courts in large part because Constitution explicitly states Congress' plenary power in this