

The revitalization of Alma Creamery is an example of how hard work, innovation, professional management and community support can create just such an opportunity.

Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Alma Creamery is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all West Virginians, our thoughts and prayers are with the countless many whose lives were disrupted by Hurricane Katrina. We extend our hope that families will be reunited, lives will continue to be saved and, in time, homes and towns will be rebuilt.

Once again, when it mattered most, West Virginians have risen to the occasion. Hurricane Katrina dealt us a big blow last week, and reaction to this disaster will probably be analyzed long after our people have recovered and our cities have been reconstructed. But it is with great certainty that I tell you no one will question the swift reaction of West Virginia, among the first states to roll up its sleeves and roll out its resources.

West Virginia has had its share of devastating floods in recent years and has learned how to rapidly organize its agencies following an emergency. Because of this, we were able to mobilize quickly in response to the calls of help from the governors.

Three West Virginia Air National Guard C-130 cargo planes flew in 200 evacuees from New Orleans late Saturday and early Sunday. Most of these evacuees are now housed at the Camp Dawson Army Training Site in Preston County. As of Monday morning, five C-130 Hercules cargo planes from West Virginia stand ready in Texas to bring back about 400 evacuees from the Houston Astrodome.

Six crews from our State's Air National Guard—four from the Charleston-based 130th Airlift Wing, which just two weeks ago was saved from the chopping block by the BRAC Commission, and two from the Martinsburg-based 167th Airlift Wing—have been sent to aid storm victims.

In addition to these ongoing National Guard efforts, our Secretary of Military Affairs and Public Safety Jim Spears, the National Guard and the State Police continue to work directly with the homeland security officials in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi on formulating an action plan to assist victims who have lost their homes and are in desperate need of a place to stay.

Our citizens, too, have wasted no time in pitching in. They never do.

Marshall University has waived all application and late fees for students displaced by Hurricane Katrina who wish to take classes during the fall semester.

Marshall students, faculty and staff have begun making plans for a relief effort for victims of Katrina. Thunder Relief 2005 will be a joint effort in response to the devastation from

the disaster in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. All donations raised from the effort will go to the American Red Cross. And at the medical school, Dr. Robert B. Walker is serving as a liaison officer for any medical personnel in hurricane-stricken areas who need to get Marshall's assistance in transferring patients or providing medical or other required public health resources.

In my hometown of Beckley, West Virginia, the Beckley Christian Ministerial Alliance, spearheaded by the Rev. David F. Allen, is collecting donations from area congregations through the month of September, with a presentation of the donations to the Red Cross scheduled for September 30.

There are other countless community and individual efforts going on across our state: Fish fries, barbecues and spaghetti dinners in small towns, bucket brigades at spotlights, donations from widows on fixed budgets, from children with piggy-banks full of carefully saved pennies. A drop in the bucket might only be a drop, but when it's all added up, our residents are giving a little hope to those who need it the most.

As a West Virginian, I am proud of the way both our State leaders and residents have responded to this disaster. Like any good neighbor, they opened their doors and their hearts to those in need. Our friends to the South can count on West Virginia.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR DAN ALBERT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, there is a rumor in Monterey, California, that when the Portola expedition arrived there in June, 1770, Mayor Dan Albert was there to welcome them to the City. Mayor Albert has served the people of Monterey for so long that we forget that there was a time when he was not part of local government. He and his wife Joanne are also dear friends to me and my wife Shary. So I rise today to honor not only a public servant of the highest caliber, but also a friend of many years.

Dan Albert is serving his tenth two-year term as Mayor of Monterey. He has held the position of Mayor longer than anyone in Monterey's 225 year history. Mayor Albert was elected to the City Council in 1979 and elected Mayor in 1986. Prior to that time, he served on the City of Monterey Parks and Recreation Commission for several years. He is a former member and Chair of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), the one local position that he and I have both held.

But length of service is not everything, as my colleagues know. The value to a community comes through what it continues to receive from its longstanding public officials. By that measure, Dan Albert is worth his weight in gold. When first elected to the City Council, Monterey was in the economic doldrums. The fishing industry had disappeared, the tourism industry was weak and the military economic activity was being continually threatened. What a difference 25 years of real leadership makes. The BRAC Commission just reaffirmed the indispensable role that Monterey plays in

supporting the Defense Language Institute and Naval Postgraduate School. Monterey is the center of a thriving regional tourism economy. Its convention center, Window on the Bay Park, Aquarium, and coastal recreation trail all draw and enrich visitors from at home and abroad. And the City of Monterey is a national model for the participation of its citizens in neighborhood preservation and enhancement. All of these trends, and many others, have Dan Albert's quiet leadership at their center. It is a legacy that has made a permanent mark on Monterey.

Mayor Albert retired after 37 years from his position as teacher at Monterey High School. During his time at Monterey High he coached the Monterey High varsity football team for 23 years. Mayor Albert and his wife, Joanne, are lifetime residents of the city and both attended Monterey High School. They have four grown children and ten grandchildren.

Finally, I want to mention something that is not often said of politicians. Danny Albert is polite. He is always gracious; always friendly. He treats all those around him with dignity, respect and a charming humor. Which is not to say that he doesn't fight hard for his city. As a former football coach, he knows how to block, tackle, and score touchdowns for Monterey. But he does so with a style that preserves the conversation and promotes mutual respect and comity.

TRIBUTE TO A LEADER, GEN. JOHN W. HANDY, COMMANDER, U.S. TRANSPORTATION COM- MAND AND AIR MOBILITY COM- MAND

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege today to pay tribute to a leader and warrior, GEN John W. Handy, Commander, United States Transportation Command, USTRANSCOM, and Commander, Air Mobility Command, AMC. General Handy is retiring after honorably serving this great Nation for over 38 years. It has been a distinguished career.

General Handy was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force in 1967 and received his pilot wings in 1968. He has accumulated over 5,000 hours piloting just about every mobility aircraft in the U.S. Air Force, to include the C-7A Caribou, the C-130 Hercules, the C-141 Starlifter, the C-37 Gulfstream V, the C-9 Nightingale, the KC-10 Extender, and the Nation's newest mobility airlifter, the C-17 Globemaster III. His hands-on performance, sound judgment, and expertise made him an exceptional Air Force leader.

General Handy commanded the 21st Air Force at McGuire Air Force Base. He created and commanded AMC's Tanker Airlift Control Center. He also commanded two airlift wings and a maintenance squadron. He previously served as the Director of Operations and Logistics for USTRANSCOM; the Air Force's Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, DC; and Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, DC. It is clear and widely

accepted that General Handy is the pre-eminent mobility and logistics expert in the Department of Defense.

In November 2001 General Handy assumed command of US TRANS COM at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. USTRANSCOM is one of nine unified combatant commands and executes mobility combat operations through its three component commands: The Air Force's IAMC, the Navy's Military Sealift Command, MSC, and the Army's Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, SDDC. General Handy has had the unique distinction of simultaneously commanding both USTRANSCOM and its air component command, AMC. USTRANSCOM provides the synchronized transportation, distribution, and sustainment which projects and maintains our national power. As a global combatant commander, General Handy has made supporting the American warfighter his top priority.

Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, USTRANSCOM, under General Handy's leadership, has moved over 2.4 million passengers, 6.4 million short tons of cargo, and 2.8 billion gallons of fuel in support of the Global War on Terrorism, including Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. To put this in perspective, the passenger movement is equivalent to moving the entire population of Kansas while the cargo movement is equivalent to moving over 70 Washington Monuments halfway around the world. General Handy, an avid NASCAR racing fan, is fond of stating the amount of fuel moved could run the Nextel Cup Series for the next 19,473 years.

America truly has a military deployment and distribution system that is unmatched anywhere in the world. America's military might moves with USTRANSCOM, but so too does its heart. As quick as we are to defend this great nation, Americans are just as quick to assist those in need; and when we do, we turn to the remarkable capabilities of USTRANSCOM. Under General Handy's command, USTRANSCOM has provided humanitarian relief to hurricane victims in the United States, earthquake victims in Iran, and tsunami victims in South Asia, just to name a few. The medicines, supplies, equipment, and personnel that USTRANSCOM delivered to these and other natural disasters ultimately saved lives and eased human suffering.

In addition to conducting the largest military movement since World War II and providing unparalleled humanitarian relief, General Handy has made it a priority to transform our Nation's deployment and distribution system, ensuring our ability to project national power where needed with the greatest speed and agility, the highest efficiency, and the most reliable level of trust and accuracy. As the USTRANSCOM commander, General Handy actively took on the role of the Distribution Process Owner for DOD, charged with improving efficiency and interoperability across the entire DOD supply chain. His initiative to develop Joint Deployment and Distribution Operations Centers, JDDOCs, in each of the regional combatant commands continues to improve combat capability and save valuable resources. Regional Combatant Commanders can now plug into the DOD supply chain system, track their requirements, and prioritize their actions. The net result is that troops and equipment are now arriving to the battlefield faster and at less cost. While meeting the

needs of the warfighter, General Handy's Distribution Process Owner improvements have generated almost one-half billion dollars in cost avoidances and savings in the global war on terror.

General Handy will be the first to tell you he did not accomplish these feats alone. General Handy has led the way in seeking collaborative joint solutions to today's complex combat issues. Those who worked for him and with him, military and civilians from every branch of Service, will miss his leadership and mentorship. They'll miss the stories and humor he used to get his message across. We in Congress will miss his straightforward approach and sound counsel. The nation will miss his devotion to duty, ceaseless drive for improvement, and unwavering support to the American warfighter.

General Handy will be remembered as the man who brilliantly led our Nation's mobility forces during the Global War on Terrorism. I know we speak on behalf of our colleagues and a grateful nation in saying thank you to General Handy and his wife, Mickey, for their years of service and sacrifice. General Handy, we wish you well in all your future endeavors and pray that those who follow in your footsteps may continue the legacy of unprecedented support to our great Nation. Good luck and Godspeed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2361,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference agreement on the Department of Interior Appropriations, H.R. 2361, because it addresses urgent needs within our veterans' health care system. Last month, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a \$1.3 billion shortfall in funding for veterans' medical care, and it is estimated that in FY 2006 this shortfall could grow. This is unacceptable. With thousands of new veterans entering our health care system every year—including those that have fought in Iraq, Afghanistan and the global war on terrorism—we must provide the resources they need and deserve, as well as continuing to provide for those who came before them. This bill provides \$1.5 billion in emergency funding in FY 2005 for veterans health care and keeps our promise to those who have so honorably served our nation.

This bill also provides a \$5 million increase for the National Endowment for the Arts. I support this investment in our artistic resources. It enhances the richness of Minnesota and our nation's cultural legacy and allows participation in the arts by many who would not otherwise have the opportunity.

Regrettably, this bill falls short on supporting the federal programs that conserve our environment and protect the public's health. This bill cuts funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund by 17 percent. This fund allows states to allocate funds for local water

and sewage treatment projects. St. Paul Regional Water Services recently applied for Clean Water funds for a water filtration project and were denied because there wasn't enough funding.

Funding for the National Park Service is also cut by three percent. These dollars are used to protect our national treasures like Voyageurs, Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks. The maintenance backlog at our National Parks has increased from \$4.9 billion in 2000, when President Bush pledged to eliminate the backlog, to \$7.1 billion today. We should give the Park Service the resources to maintain these national treasures instead of slipping farther and farther behind in unmet maintenance needs.

I am pleased to support our nation's honored veterans. Unfortunately, while this bill could have done so much more to keep our families and communities strong and healthy and protect our nation's cherished natural resources for generations to come, this Congress failed to make the environment and public health a priority.

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the goals and ideals of National Health Center Week. I also wish to recognize the Will County Community Health Center which is one of Illinois' largest and most comprehensive public health agencies. The Will County Community Health Center has served Will County in my 11th Congressional District since 1942 and became a Federally Qualified Health Center in 1997. They annually care for more than 48,000 medically underserved county residents.

On July 25, 2005, House Resolution 289, of which I am co-sponsor, passed the U.S. House of Representatives. House Resolution 289 reads as follows:

Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers are non-profit, community owned and operated health providers and are vital to the Nation's communities;

Whereas there are more than 1,000 such health centers servicing more than 15,000,000 people in over 3,600 communities;

Whereas such health centers have provided cost-effective, high quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved (including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations), acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system;

Whereas these health centers provide care to 1 of every 7 uninsured individuals, 1 of every 9 Medicaid beneficiaries, 1 of every 7 people of color, and 1 of every 9 rural Americans, all of whom would otherwise lack access to health care;

Whereas these health centers are engaged with other innovative programs in primary and preventive care to reach out to over 621,000 homeless persons and more than 709,000 farm workers;

Whereas these health centers make health care responsive and cost-effective by integrating the delivery of primary care mammograms, and glaucoma screenings;