

TRIBUTE TO MONTGOMERY
COUNTY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Montgomery County for its outstanding efforts in the digital Government program. The Montgomery County website recently received two awards and an honorable mention at the Best of the Awards Ceremony held by the Center for Digital Government in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The digital government program has been tremendously successful, and it continues to provide County residents with easier and more convenient ways to take care of County business.

Mr. Speaker, Montgomery County's website provides a valuable service to our community and I would like to thank the website team for their service and dedication to the residents of our community.

HONORING LINO MARCHETTI AS
HE IS NAMED PERSON OF THE
YEAR BY THE ITALIAN AMER-
ICAN FOUNDATION OF LUZERNE
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Lino Marchetti, of Exeter, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of being named "Person of the Year" by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Born in Bologna, Italy, Mr. Marchetti is the son of the late Samuel and Sylvia Parente Marchetti.

Mr. Marchetti served in the United States Army during World War II. He worked for many years at Atlas Chain in West Pittston, Pennsylvania, and is a member of the United Auto Workers, AFL-CIO.

An accomplished musician, Mr. Marchetti serves as president of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 140. He frequently provides musical entertainment for residents of nursing homes and for patients at veterans hospitals.

He is the adjutant of the American Legion, Post 833, and he serves as vice president of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County.

Mr. Marchetti and his wife have been married for 53 years. They are the parents of two daughters and the grandparents of three grandsons.

Throughout his life, Mr. Marchetti has been a good citizen, friend and neighbor whose deeds have touched the lives of many in a very positive manner.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Marchetti on this special occasion that recognizes his service to his fellow man and the community at large.

NATIONAL FORESTS REHABILITA-
TION AND RECOVERY ACT OF
2005

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to authorize the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to carry out five collaboratively created pilot projects dealing with post-disturbance rehabilitation.

For those communities that remain at risk from wildland fire or other disturbances, it is important to consider, in advance, scenarios for rehabilitation should a wildland fire, insect infestation, hurricane, or other disturbance event occur. The National Forests Rehabilitation and Recovery Act does just that—this legislation promotes pro-active planning and collaboration to accelerate the approval of rehabilitation projects following uncharacteristic disturbance events.

The National Forests Rehabilitation and Recovery Act will create five pilot projects for post-disturbance rehabilitation. Federal forest land communities can apply to participate in the pilot program by meeting a number of different criteria, with specific consideration given to communities that have a proven track record of working in a collaborative manner to resolve natural resource issues.

This bill includes independent, third-party monitoring of the forest areas following rehabilitation operations to track the short-term and long-term impacts of logging, replanting, stream restoration, road removal, or other rehabilitation activities. The legislation further creates a National Oversight Committee of scientists to provide scientific and socioeconomic monitoring and evaluation of the pilot program. The National Oversight Committee will submit reports to Congress on the short and long-term results of the pilot project. The results of this report will allow Congress to make the most informed decisions on post-disturbance rehabilitation in the future.

Community collaboration has shown great promise in resolving controversial issues before Federal agencies. While I reserved concerns with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, Public Law 108-148, one good that came out of the legislation is that it recognized the promise in collaboration by encouraging the development of community wildfire protection plans. These plans have allowed communities across the country to work in a collaborative manner to resolve natural resource issues concerning wildfire protection.

There is no doubt that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. When Congress passed the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, Congress clearly recognized the priority of preventing wildfires through active thinning of Federal lands in the wildland-urban interface. It is just common sense that we need to invest more on the front end in the name of fire prevention to avert major spending post-fire.

While I believe that there were inadequacies with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, I do believe that we are being penny-wise and pound-foolish by cheating our budget for forest thinning. To date, forest thinning has not been funded even close to the level authorized. This

needs to improve for the sake of protecting our communities and public lands.

Mr. Speaker, the National Forests Rehabilitation and Recovery Act represents a balanced and collaborative approach to post-disturbance rehabilitation. I am pleased to introduce my legislation today with my colleagues Mr. NICK RAHALL and Mr. RAUL GRIJALVA. I urge my other colleagues to support this bill so that we can promote a collaborative approach to restoring forest ecosystem health and diversity following unusually intense disturbances.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on September 29, 2005 I was unable to vote during rollcall votes Nos. 502 to 508 as I had to attend a funeral in my district.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H. Res. 470, H. Res. 388, and H.J. Res. 68. I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 178.

Also, I would voted "nay" on H.R. 3824, the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005 because in reality this bill is a threat to the recovery of endangered species in our Nation. However, I would have voted "aye" on the Miller substitute to H.R. 3824.

JIMMY CARTER—A WARNING
AGAINST AN ARCTIC FOLLY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention and strongly endorse the position taken by former president Jimmy Carter in support of the preservation of America's greatest wildlife preserve. President Carter's position was stated in his opinion editorial article "Arctic Folly", in the Washington Post, September 13, 2005.

President Carter criticizes a policy advanced by the Bush administration and adopted by the Congress in the energy legislation passed earlier this session which favors increased production of domestic oil over the protection and preservation of the environmental treasures contained in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and which do nothing to encourage the preservation of oil.

President Carter states, "Now is a time to speak out for the ecological integrity of this unsurpassed 18-million acres wilderness. If we do not respect those acres, many species will be affected." This "Frozen Desert" as Mr. Carter describes it, is a rich Serengeti-like haven of life; serving as a nursery for Caribou, polar bears, walrus and millions of shore birds and waterfowl. Nevertheless, Mr. Carter warns that "... In a few months Americans could lose this special and amazing place through a backdoor legislative maneuver..."

I strongly support Mr. Carter's commitment to the preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and I am glad to know that he is

asserting leadership to preserve this important legacy for our wildlife and future generations.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 13, 2005]

ARCTIC FOLLY

(By Jimmy Carter)

Congress is about to make one of those big decisions that marks an era. Unless wiser heads prevail, it may do it badly—making the wrong decision in the wrong way and about the wrong place. At stake is America's great wildlife sanctuary, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. To dissuade Congress from this environmental tragedy, Americans must rally, and quickly.

Congress had its Pyrrhic energy victory this summer, with a new energy policy that ignores much-needed conservation measures and gives the oil industry large new tax breaks regardless of where it drills and pumps. Surely Congress has done more than enough to increase the profits of the oil industry.

Yet now, in a separate decision, the White House and Big Oil are pressuring Congress to allow drilling rigs to rip into the ecological heart of America's preeminent wildlife sanctuary. We must not confuse this with Prudhoe Bay, which lies west of the Arctic refuge and is already an industrial landscape resembling Houston more than Yellowstone.

With increasing gasoline prices bringing economic hardship and concern to many Americans, we must not be misled by oil lobbyists who are trying to convince us that our energy security is singularly dependent on sacrificing the Arctic refuge. They promote the false premise that development will touch just a few thousand acres when, in fact, it would introduce roads and pipelines spider-webbing across hundreds of thousands of acres on the fragile coastal plain.

We cannot drill our way to energy security or lower gasoline prices as long as our nation sits on just 3 percent of world oil reserves yet accounts for 25 percent of all oil consumption. An obvious answer is to increase the fuel efficiency of motor vehicles, at least to the level we set more than a quarter-century ago.

Instead, the administration recently proposed a tiny increase in gas mileage for SUVs, miniVans and pickups. Not effective until the 2011 models, this would save about one month's current consumption of fuel over the next 20 years—far less than will be saved in just one state by a new California law. The new ruling offers automobile makers an opportunity to avoid the reductions by modifying the size of various models as they persist in manufacturing gas guzzlers. It is not a coincidence that Moody's has just downgraded the debt of General Motors and Ford to junk status, while makers of efficient vehicles prosper.

I have been to the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to study the wilderness wildlife. Far from being the frozen "desert" some suggest, this is a rich, Serengeti-like haven of life: nursery for caribou, polar bears, walrus and millions of shorebirds and waterfowl that migrate annually to the Lower 48. To sit, as Rosalynn and I did, watching a herd of musk oxen circle-up to defend their young and then to find yourself literally in the midst of thousands of caribou streaming by is to touch in a fundamental way God's glorious ark of teeming wildlife.

We Americans use a lot of energy, and millions of us want to do so in a more efficient way that also allows us to cherish our disappearing wilderness heritage. In the Arctic refuge we cannot have it both ways. In the next few months Americans could lose this special and amazing place through a backdoor legislative maneuver.

Each fall Congress endeavors to combine budgetary directives covering the nation's \$2.5 trillion dollar annual budget in a single "reconciliation" decision. In a tricky ploy to avoid full debate, drilling advocates have buried their despoil-the-Arctic goal in this mammoth measure. So, conservation-minded Americans must ask our elected representatives to vote down any final budget reconciliation bill that would allow the sacrifice of our Arctic sanctuary.

Now is the time to speak up for the ecological integrity of this unsurpassed 18-million-acre wilderness. Many Americans will be in Washington on Sept. 20 for the Arctic Refuge Action Day rally on the Mall and to contact congressional representatives personally.

If we are not wise enough to protect the Arctic refuge, future generations will condemn us for needlessly sacrificing the wilderness of their world to feed our profligate, short-term and shortsighted energy habit. The pathway to a better, more sustainable energy future does not wind through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

HONORING ATTORNEY PAUL MAZZONI AS HE IS NAMED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE COLUMBUS DAY ASSOCIATION OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Attorney Paul Mazzoni, of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who has been named "Man of the Year" by the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County.

Mr. Mazzoni has enjoyed a very successful career and has distinguished himself as a dynamic crime fighter during the years he served as special assistant attorney general and as district attorney for Lackawanna County.

The son of Italian immigrants, he was born in Carbondale, Pennsylvania. His father worked in the coal mines and his mother labored in the factories.

A graduate of the University of Scranton, he received his law degree from Georgetown University Law School.

After serving as Census Director for the 10th Congressional District, he was named special assistant attorney general. Later, he worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and, after that, as a workmen's compensation judge.

Elected to two terms as district attorney, Mr. Mazzoni prosecuted more cases of election law violations than any previous DA in the history of Lackawanna County. He also prosecuted a murder case involving two juvenile victims that attracted the attention of a national magazine.

He also broke up the largest interstate crime ring ever to operate in northeastern Pennsylvania. The case involved organized crime figures from New York and New Jersey and led to solving a murder case and scores of burglaries and robberies throughout the region. The case sparked the book "Marked to Die" by Michael Brown.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania awarded Mr. Mazzoni a certificate of merit, the first

such award ever presented to a county prosecutor by the state.

Having established a law firm with his brother, Robert, who is now a Lackawanna County Common Pleas Judge, Mr. Mazzoni remains engaged in the practice of law at the firm of Mazzoni and Karam.

A former president of the Lackawanna County Bar Association, Mr. Mazzoni is married to the former Elaine Seckary. The couple has four children and 11 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Mazzoni on this happy occasion. The quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania is better today because of the contributions of men like Paul Mazzoni.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the City of Belleville, Michigan, which is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its incorporation.

Located on the southwestern fringe of the Detroit metropolitan area, in VanBuren Township, the City of Belleville was originally founded in 1820. The area was a small industry-trade center in the early 1800s when farming and lumbering were the main occupations.

Today, Belleville and Van Buren Township make up a diverse community of approximately 40,000 residents and is home to Wayne County's largest inland lake. The area is enhanced by its homes, schools, churches, shopping centers, and industrial parks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Belleville as they celebrate their historic past. It is my hope this fine community will enjoy a long and prosperous future.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF JON AND KAREN SALERNO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Jon and Karen Salerno, united in marriage and united in their unwavering dedication to family, faith and community, as they are recognized by civic leaders, friends and family for their significant contributions to our entire community, including the Italian American community. In honor of their volunteerism, the Salerno's have been chosen to serve as Grand Marshals of the 2005 Cleveland Columbus Day Parade.

Jon and Karen continue to dedicate their personal time and talents to the promotion and preservation of Greater Cleveland's rich Italian heritage by numerous community events and programs, including the annual Cleveland Columbus Day Parade. Karen has focused her professional vocation in working to improve the lives of families and individuals who face life-long challenges of living with physical,