

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
GERALD D. "JERRY" COCHRAN
OF CRESCENT CITY, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Honorable Gerald D. "Jerry" Cochran on the occasion of his retirement as the Del Norte County Assessor, an office he has held for the last 36 years.

Mr. Cochran has been a dedicated advocate for the citizens of Del Norte County since first being elected to office on November 3, 1970. He is a tenacious public servant with a reputation for being forthright, open and responsive to the needs of the community. He has been a consistent advocate for working families and for those less fortunate. I consider him a true friend and counselor, someone I rely upon to advise me about issues affecting the most northern coastal county of California, home of

the Smith River National Recreation Area and Redwood National Park.

Over the last three decades in Del Norte County, Mr. Cochran has provided outstanding and resourceful leadership during critical, watershed events for the region. He was a fierce advocate on behalf of the county leading up to the expansion of Redwood National Park in 1978. He led the local effort to site a California correctional facility in Del Norte County in 1980's. He has fought for highway improvement projects, protected the county's interest in state and federal land acquisitions and always focused on ways in which to help build the local economy to secure good-paying, long-term jobs.

Mr. Cochran moved to California from the state of Wisconsin when he was five years old, one of five children of Tom & Alvina Cochran. He attended Humboldt State University and joined the United States Air Force, serving our nation for four years with duty in Japan, Vietnam and at the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama.

Mr. Cochran has served on numerous local boards, including Sutter Coast Hospital, Rural

Human Services, Humboldt State University Advisory Board, and the Wild Rivers Community Foundation. He currently serves on the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the prestigious Golden Gate Bridge District Board of Directors.

He is an active member of Rotary International of Crescent City, the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee and was recently asked to serve as the Del Norte County Veterans Service Officer. In 2005 he received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Crescent City/Del Norte County Chamber of Commerce.

Jerry married the lovely Jacqueline Cochran 41 years ago; they have one daughter, Marcy, son-in-law Darin Bradbury, and a beloved grandson, Dalton.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Gerald D. "Jerry" Cochran for his vision, leadership and commitment to a healthy and vibrant Del Norte County and for his extraordinary record of public service to the people of the North Coast of California.