

the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior to designate Healthy Partnership Zones in Colorado at the request of the State or local governments. These zones would include both Federal land and adjacent non-federal land at risk of uncharacteristically severe damage from wildfire or an outbreak of insects or diseases that requires multiple activities to reduce the threat. Designation of a partnership would be done with public participation and would last for no more than 5 years.

Within Partnership Zones the relevant Federal agency could partner with the State, a local government, or an Indian Tribe to prepare and implement eligible projects. Projects covered include hazardous fuel reduction projects; treatment of insect-infested trees; and the restoration of forest lands, rangelands, or watersheds.

Contracts under this section could be implemented under streamlined procedures. Priority would be given to projects that have been developed with collaborative community input and that are consistent with community wildfire protection plan. A Federal agency could not act on private land without the owner's consent.

TITLE II—COLORADO FOREST HEALTH MEASURES

Section 201. Research and other Activities—This section is based on provisions of Senator Allard's and Rep. Musgrave's "Headwaters Protection and Restoration Act" of 2006. It provides for grants to support research regarding—(1) marketing of forest products; (2) treatments for high elevation forests, and (3) steps to increase utilization of science and consideration of community needs in development of treatment strategies. The section also provides incentives for building infrastructure capacity such as; length of stewardship contracts, identifying markets for non-traditional forest products, grants and low-cost loans for small business that utilize wood from forests in Colorado. Directs the Secretary to examine the possible utilization of biomass as a renewable fuel source and how this could affect the Clean Air Act.

Section 202. Colorado Forest Health Fund—This section is also based on the Allard-Musgrave 2006 "Headwaters Protection and Restoration Act." It would establish a Colorado Forest Health Fund to which would be credited part of federal receipts from federal timber sales in Colorado—\$2 million or half of all such receipts, whichever is greater—as well as any funds specifically appropriated for the fund. The funds would be deposited in an interest bearing account and up to \$2 million per year would be available to pay for measures to improve forest health and to reduce hazardous fuels in Colorado. The section authorizes appropriation of up to \$2,000,000 per year.

Section 203. Grants for Colorado Fuels for Schools Program—This is also based on the Allard-Musgrave bill. It would authorize grants to the State of Colorado for feasibility studies regarding the use of biomass boilers to heat schools and other public buildings in Colorado and to assist with the installation and operation of these boilers. This section authorizes appropriations of up to \$5 million per year for fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

Section 204. Stewardship Contracts in Colorado—This is a new section. It would authorize longer-term Stewardship Contracts—up to 20 years in duration—for fuel-reduction projects in Colorado. It also includes technical provisions requested by the Forest Service regarding the implementation of requirements related to potential cancellation liability.

Section 205. Good Neighbor Agreements in Colorado—This is also based on the Allard-

Musgrave bill. It would make permanent existing authority for "good neighbor" agreements between Federal agencies and private land owners in Colorado and Utah.

Section 206. Preparation of Fire-Danger Maps—This is a new section. It would direct the Forest Service to work with the State Forest Service to map fire threatened areas in Colorado using geospatial technologies.

Section 207. Truck Weights—This is a new section. It would allow the State of Colorado to permit vehicles with a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds (but not more than the state's overall maximum gross weight limit) to haul dead or diseased timber and other forest materials removed from Colorado forests in order to reduce fire hazards.

TITLE III—TAX PROVISIONS

Section 301. Extension of Tax Credit for Electricity Produced From Biomass—This section is based on legislation introduced by Rep. Beauprez and is also similar but not identical to a provision of the 2006 Udall-Salazar "Rocky Mountain FIRES Act." It would extend an existing biomass electricity production tax credit (now scheduled to expire on January 1, 2009) until January 1, 2030.

Section 302. Partial Exclusion from Gross Income Payments Received for Certain Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects—This section is similar to a provision of the 2006 Udall-Salazar "Rocky Mountain FIRES Act." It would allow a taxpayer to exclude from taxable income money received from the Federal Government as compensation for hazardous fuel reduction work. The exclusion would be for up to \$10,000 for a single return, \$20,000 for a joint return.

Section 303. Deduction of Certain Expenditures in Connection with Implementation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans—This is a new section. It would allow individuals to deduct funds they expend for hazardous fuel reductions that are done as part of a wildfire protection plan from their income taxes. It allows for the exclusion of up to \$10,000 for a single return or \$20,000 for a joint return.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSHUA S. MODGLING

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, U.S. Army Private First Class Joshua Stephen Modgling. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Joshua, born January 3, 1985 in Rapid City, South Dakota, was the son of Air Force parents. Joshua grew up all around the country, including my congressional district. His mother, Julie Montano, resides in Mira Lorna, California where Joshua attended high school. Joshua was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia. His unit conducts missions out of Forward Operating Base Falcon to find improvised explosive devices. Joshua was driving an armored Buffalo mine sweeper on June 19, 2007, when he was killed by a bomb. On July 6, 2007, he was laid to rest next to his brother, Ryan, at Riverside National Cemetery.

In reading about Joshua's life, I was impressed by his devotion to family and love of

sports. Joshua's father, Keith, describes a young man who developed an early interest in explosives; an interest that found a home as a combat engineer in the Army. He is survived by his parents; his sisters Kellilynn, Courtney and Michelle; brothers, Christopher and Kenneth; stepfather, Serefino; and grandmother, Virginia.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Joshua, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day the Modgling family had to lay Joshua to rest was probably the hardest moment the family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Private First Class Modgling's mother, father, sisters, brothers and all his relatives have given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their son, brother, and grandson, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will be remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOHN H. CHRISTENSEN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. John H. Christensen of Reston, VA, for his service to the Defense Logistics Agency, DLA, as Chief of Logistics Research and Development at DLA Headquarters. He has served one of this Nation's most important agencies admirably, administering virtually all of the DLA's Research and Development initiatives and Industrial Base programs that have supported our soldiers in combat.

A graduate of the University of Florida, Mr. Christensen received his bachelor's degree in environmental engineering in 1979. Additionally, he has obtained two master's degrees, one from Virginia Tech in systems engineering and the other from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in national resource strategy.

Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Christensen served as the first Program Manager of the Department of Defense, DOD, Electronic Mall, a single point acquisition center for off-the-shelf goods found in the commercial marketplace. His leadership helped bring a set of competing prototypes into a single operating system to provide for easy access, multiple searches, and cross-store shopping and ordering among millions of items from over hundreds of sources, all of which can accept credit card orders. The DOD Electronic Mall now generates millions of dollars each month in support of agency missions.

As chief of the Logistics Research and Development at Headquarters, Mr. Christensen is responsible for two major program elements; Manufacturing Technology Research and Development, and also Logistics Research and Development. The Manufacturing Technology

element consists of programs in Castings, Forgings, Industrial Plant Equipment, Operational Rations, and Military apparel. Logistics Research and Development includes a drive in Medical Readiness, Aging Aircraft, Supply Chain Management, and Competitive Sustainment. Additionally, the Industrial Base responsibilities include Waterstoppers, Surge and Sustainment, the Rapid Manufacturing Initiative, and all statutory programs related to the Industrial Base.

Having been in federal service for nearly 30 years, Mr. Christensen's career has been marked by sustained progression. Having served a 3-year tour as the Assistant Officer in charge of the Naval Fuel Depot in Yokosuka, Japan, with the United States Navy, he then went on to serve 2 years as the first Program Manager of the Department of Defense E-Commerce Program, and lastly served 7 years as the Chief of the Logistics Research and Development Division with DLA. Mr. Christensen has remained a committed member of the Naval Reserves, and he holds the rank of Commander with over 26 years of combined service.

Madam Speaker, I wish to commend Mr. Christensen for his many years of service to our Nation and I am proud to have him live in Virginia's 8th Congressional District. The Nation will lose a proud servant when he leaves office on August 31, 2007. I wish him and his wife, Mary, Godspeed in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING FETZER
VINEYARDS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a proud corporate citizen from California's First Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Fetzer Vineyards, an environmentally conscious grower, producer and marketer of wines, has been named a 2007 Brand With a Conscience in recognition of its sustainable practices and social responsibility in winemaking.

Candidates for this award, given annually by the Medinge Group, an international think-tank on branding and business, are evaluated on the basis of reputation, accountability and an assessment of expressed values of sustainability. Fetzer has long been known as an environmentally responsible brand and joins companies such as Whole Foods and the Virgin Group in receiving this honor.

Initiatives to improve the winery's energy efficiency and sustainability practices began in the 1980's with the Fetzer family and have continued to thrive with the support of Brown-Forman Corporation, its parent company since 1992. Among its many accomplishments, the vineyard has reduced its waste by 93 percent since 1991, is annually recognized as one of the top ten recycling companies in California and has been using 100 percent renewable power since 1999. Fetzer is also known for its extensive use of solar power, bio-fuel and its adoption of company-wide recycling programs. Fetzer has the largest solar array in the wine industry, consisting of 4,300 solar panels covering 75,000 sq ft.

This most recent accolade compliments a collection of awards recognizing Fetzer's commitment to environmentally conscious practices. In 1999 Fetzer received the Business Ethics Magazine Award for Environmental Excellence and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Climate Wise Partnership Award. In 2003, California's Environmental Protection Agency selected Fetzer to receive the Governor's Award for Environmental and Economic Leadership. Fetzer Vineyards has been acknowledged as Salmon Safe and touted for Fish Friendly Farming practices. In 2007, Fetzer received its 13th WRAP (Waste Reduction Awards Program) award.

Fetzer is renowned for its triple-bottom line business approach, evaluating the impact of business decisions upon the employees and the environment along with economic considerations. As the largest grower of organic wine grapes in northern California, Fetzer carries on its tradition of using healthier vines and a more natural wine making process to produce wines that are recognized as being good for the planet and good for the palate.

With this award, Fetzer will serve as a model for companies striving to establish environmentally conscious business practices both locally and on a wider national and international scale.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Fetzer on its recognition as a 2007 Brand With a Conscience and to applaud its tireless efforts as a world-class organization and champion of sustainable business practices. I am proud to represent them.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN BORLAUG

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is with great humility that I rise today to honor Norman Borlaug, the noted agricultural scientist and plant pathologist. Mr. Borlaug's contribution to humanity cannot be overstated. No one can be entirely certain how many lives he is responsible for saving, but the number often noted is well over 1 billion people—an unprecedented feat in world history. The honorary titles and acclamations Mr. Borlaug has received throughout his illustrious career are too many to enumerate, and such a list would be too prestigious to truncate. Instead, I simply request that the record state how pleased and honored I am to be able to stand here today and recognize the occasion of Mr. Borlaug's receiving the highest honor this body can bestow, the Congressional Gold Medal. It's doubtful that this institution could find a more deserving recipient.

Mr. Borlaug came from humble roots, working on his family farm until the age of 19. After some prodding from his grandfather, Nels Olson Borlaug, he enrolled at the University of Minnesota. One cannot help but wonder whether his grandfather knew when he advised his grandson, "you're wiser to fill your head now if you want to fill your belly later on," how literally Mr. Borlaug would take it.

Affording a college education can be difficult, and was especially so for Mr. Borlaug, who obtained his undergraduate degree during the Great Depression. Despite the best efforts

of the federal government towards relief and recovery, times were still rough, and many of the men he worked with were literally starving. Mr. Borlaug would later recall how much food meant to the young men he worked with—17- and 18-year-olds who had for months and months been unsure where their next meal would come from. Mr. Borlaug later noted how he "saw how food changed them . . ." and how ". . . all of this left scars on me."

There is no doubt that Mr. Borlaug understood the importance of something as simple as food in peoples lives, how it brought hope as well as nourishment to the impoverished and less fortunate. Toward the end of World War II, he rejected offers that would double his salary so he could research wheat in Mexico. Devastating crop yields in the early 1940s had led the country to resort to importing up to 60 percent of its wheat. Various plant diseases decimated entire crops, bringing discouragement and fear to the lives of Mexico's farmers. Mr. Borlaug was determined to make sure that Mexico could feed itself through a new kind of strong, high yield wheat.

Wheat is naturally long-stemmed, and if the wheat is too heavy, the stem cannot bear the load and the crop collapses and spoils. This spoilage was common, especially if a farmer attempted to use modern fertilizers. After numerous attempts and years of trial and error, Mr. Borlaug was able to cross a strain of dwarf wheat—which is shorter and has a thicker, stronger stalk—with regular wheat. Due to the prevention of losses from disease and top-heavy spoilage, yields tripled. By 1956, Mexico was able to be totally self-sufficient in wheat production.

In the sixties and seventies, demographers and environmentalists were predicting that India and Pakistan would inevitably face widespread hunger, resulting in millions upon millions of deaths due to famine and starvation. As India and Pakistan raced towards deadly conflict over the Kashmir region, both countries were headed toward an even more deadly famine. Rather than dodge the war zone, Mr. Borlaug headed toward the conflict, his team working fields in sight of falling artillery shells. As Borlaug's "Green Revolution" swept across Asia, tensions of famine and instability eased. Due to Mr. Borlaug's ingenuity and perseverance, both countries are now self-sufficient producers of cereals.

The environmental benefits of Mr. Borlaug's techniques have saved 100 million acres of untouched land from being plowed to grow crops, preserving the natural habitat of an area equivalent to that of the entire State of California. Since 1961, worldwide land devoted to growing wheat has increased by only 4 percent, while output has increased 2.3 times over, saving countless acres of natural habitat worldwide for future generations.

As Mr. Borlaug receives the Congressional Gold Medal, we are recognizing both his previous accomplishments as well as those yet to come. Mr. Borlaug is continuing his efforts to end famine and hunger in the developing world by spreading his efforts to African nations long plagued by food insecurity. There are further mountains to move, further horizons to reach, further fear to extinguish and further hope to bring. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to be able to honor Mr. Borlaug not just as a product of the University of Minnesota, or as a great scientist or instructor, or as a great American, though he is all of these