

chapter in American history. The tiny island of Sint (St.) Eustatius, known locally as "Statia", is a quiet and peaceful island with pristine coral reefs located in the Dutch Antilles, which is part of the Leeward Islands of the Caribbean. As the story goes, on November 16, 1776, the American Brigantine "Andrew Doria", under the command of Captain Isaiah Robinson sailed into the harbor of Statia—at the time a Dutch Colony—on a mission to obtain a cargo of munitions and military supplies. Nearing Fort Oranje, the Andrew Doria fired off a 13-gun salute. The cannons of Fort Oranje under the command of Governor Johannes de Graaff answered with an 11-gun volley. This volley is regarded as the first salute to an American flag on board an American warship in a foreign port. Or more simply put, the first recognition of America's newly declared independence from Great Britain by a foreign power.

It is unfortunate that down through the years the importance of St. Eustatius to the American Revolution has faded into relative obscurity. The truth, however, is that a good part of the weapons, ammunition and ordinary supplies needed by the Continental Army was imported via St. Eustatius. In addition, because of its geographic location and vibrant shipping industry, St. Eustatius provided the fastest and, more importantly, the safest connection between the Continental Congress and America's political supporters overseas. It has been said that Benjamin Franklin in particular was known for shipping his mail to Europe through St. Eustatius. And John Adams held the commercial connection between the fledgling United States and St. Eustatius is such high regard that it formed the foundation for his argument that the United States should enter into diplomatic relations with the Netherlands.

Regrettably, it was the impending American-Dutch commercial treaty that finally compelled the British to act against St. Eustatius. In February 1781, British Admiral George Rodney attacked and captured the island, sacking the storehouse and homes in the process. For a time after the island surrender the British continued to fly the Dutch flag; a ruse which successfully lured many American and other enemy ships into captivity. Despite their island being reduced to ruins the people of St. Eustatius never lost their love and affection for the people of America. And today, November 16th is a national holiday on the Island of Sint Eustatius known as Statia America Day. As St. Eustatius prepares to celebrate the 231st anniversary of the salute to the Andrew Doria, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and saluting the people of St. Eustatius and the important role their tiny island played in the fight to win our independence.

#### REGARDING DEAN AGUILLEN

#### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to bid farewell to a member of the Hispanic family in the House of Representatives; Dean Aguillen of the Speaker's office is leaving the Hill this week, and he will be greatly missed by me and many other members of the House.

We labor together, we fight together, and we plot together . . . as a party, as a Caucus

. . . and we get close to the staff with whom we work.

Dean Aguillen is a San Antonio native and he has seen the House run by Republicans . . . and leaves us with the knowledge that a Democratic Majority is a better deal for the nation.

Dean has been a magnificent ambassador for Speaker PELOSI for the Texans and for the Hispanic Caucus. He is always available for us, always works to ensure our needs are met, and answers our questions fully and in a timely way.

Dean told me today that he was inspired to get into politics by his local member of Congress when he was a little kid. Henry B. Gonzalez, an icon of Texas politics, had a Saturday morning talk show that Dean never missed.

That molded his thinking and motivated him to find his way to Washington. He leaves this place as a much-loved staff member; and he leaves with many, many friends.

Dean, we'll miss you man. I know Speaker PELOSI will miss you. Thank you for all your work and your dedication over the years. Vaya con Dios.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES SLATER OF LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

#### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most outstanding individuals I have come to know in my 30 years in Congress, Dr. James Slater of Loma Linda University Medical Center, who pioneered the development of the proton beam cancer therapy.

When Loma Linda University Medical Center in my district recruited Dr. James Slater to develop a radiation oncology program in 1970, they gained a unique expert in the field of radiation therapy. Before he became a physician, Dr. Slater's main interest was physics. With a profound understanding of the way radiation works on the human body, Dr. Slater set out to find a way to gain more control of the process and reduce the toll this therapy takes on patients.

He became convinced after nearly 15 years of research that the best way to accomplish this was through proton beams, which had been tested in research laboratories but never developed as a permanent medical therapy. After meeting with scientists and physicians from around the world, Dr. Slater began looking for a partner to develop the technology for a proton-beam treatment center. When private industry declined to take the challenge, he turned to Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) near Chicago, which had been actively involved in research on the potential for medical technology. In 1986, the medical center and Fermilab—backed by the Department of Energy—agreed to build a proton-beam treatment center at Loma Linda.

One of the most marvelous experiences I've had as a member of Congress came in 1987, when Dr. Slater and his team came to my office to lay out the plan for a new way of treating cancer tumors. I was quickly convinced

that his idea was fabulous, and his ability to bring together the medical, technical and operational experts was superb. During a hearing before the House Energy Appropriations Subcommittee, my colleagues agreed. Many members had family or close friends who had been afflicted with cancer, and they were eager to help find a new treatment plan. Major funding was approved and the center opened in 1990.

Thanks to the dedication of the medical center and the support of Congress and Department of Energy, Dr. Slater's vision has become a reality in the past 20 years. More than 11,500 patients have received treatment for prostate cancer, brain tumors, and other forms of cancer. A research program is promising new ways to treat breast cancer early and possibly avoid mastectomies in many cases. Another program has helped the National Aeronautics and Space Administration research the effects of space radiation and design better equipment for astronauts. Since 2003, four more proton-beam treatment centers have opened in other areas of the country.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to tell my colleagues that Loma Linda University Medical Center has decided to honor this pioneering medical scientist by naming the proton beam treatment center in his honor. There is no doubt that this honor is richly deserved, and memorializes a true visionary and benefactor for thousands of cancer patients in the future. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Slater on receiving this honor, and thanking him for his dedication to opening new horizons in the fight against cancer.

#### TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DAVID A. HARTMAN

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's fallen heroes, Sergeant First Class David A. Hartman. Sergeant Hartman will be honored on December 1 by the Bay City United States Army Reserves. They will dedicate the Drill Hall at the Bay City Michigan Reserve Center in his memory.

David Hartman is remembered by his family and friends as loving, fair-minded, honest, fun-loving, family-oriented, and job-oriented. He worked hard, and was not afraid to step in and help out. He followed his father's example and signed up for the military when he graduated from high school. He was a 21-year veteran of the military. David served in the first Gulf War and came home with Gulf War Syndrome. He was eligible for a medical discharge but he decided to stay in the military to continue serving his country. Sergeant Hartman stated that he wanted to join the people going to fight and lead by example. On July 17, 2004, at the age of 41, David Hartman was asked to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country when the vehicle he was driving was struck by an improvised explosive device in Baiji Iraq. Sergeant Hartman was serving in Iraq with the Army Reserves 401st Transportation Company from Battle Creek, MI. He is survived by his wife, Robbin, son, Benjamin, and daughter, Heather.

Madam Speaker, when Sergeant Hartman volunteered to put his life on the line for his country, it was with the hope that he would never be required to make that ultimate sacrifice. But it was God's will that his life be cut short on that road in Iraq. We as a Nation need to remember SFC David Hartman and all the brave individuals who have died for our freedom. I ask the House of Representatives to join me and keep their memory in our hearts and prayers.

COMMENDING THE EMPLOYEES OF  
PORT ST. LUCIE'S FINANCE DE-  
PARTMENT

**HON. TIM MAHONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the hardworking employees of the City of Port St. Lucie's Finance Department. For the 16th consecutive year, the city's Finance Department has been recognized for excellence and professionalism in the way they account for public money. The Government Finance Officers Association, a professional association of State and local finance officers in the United States and Canada, recognized the department with their Excellence Award because of the high quality of their 2006 comprehensive annual financial report.

The 16,000 member Government Finance Officer's Association said "the certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management." It is my honor to commend the city of Port St. Lucie's finance director, Marcia Dedert and her staff for their dedication in assuring that all public funds are accounted for and transparent to the residents of the city.

The Finance Department of Port St. Lucie has truly exemplified their own mission statement to accurately maintain the financial records of the city pursuant to all legal requirements and to safeguard the City's financial assets. After 16 consecutive years of winning such a prestigious award, Port St. Lucie has clearly established themselves as one of the leading finance departments in the Nation, and I am proud to have the opportunity to represent such an outstanding city.

THANKING DEAN AGUILLEN FOR  
HIS SERVICE TO THIS CONGRESS

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Dean Aguilén for the service he has provided to this Congress and the American people.

Dean's final day with us is today; however, I believe that a friendship and working relationship will continue for years to come.

During my first term in Congress, Dean was a great assistance to my office and me. He helped with the transition and acclimation from being a local county supervisor to Congress.

Dean has accomplished quite a bit in his career within the Capital, but I want to take time to thank him for the way in which he became successful.

Dean is an extremely hardworker and he does the multiple jobs and responsibilities with a smile, patience, respect, and understanding. He has taken care of all of the Democratic members, but I have also seen him take time to recruit and help young staff learn the ropes so they too can be successful.

Dean has made a great impact on many Members and staff.

I wish him the best of luck and know that success will continue to be a part of his life.

Thank you Dean for your patience, kindness, and commitment to this country and to our community.

THE ARAPAHO/ROOSEVELT NA-  
TIONAL FORESTS LAND EX-  
CHANGE ACT OF 2007

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will help the Forest Service better manage an area near St. Mary's Glacier and Alice Township in Clear Creek County, Colorado and will also allow an appropriate new use of adjoining private lands.

The area dealt with in the bill is currently latticed with various mining claims interspersed with Forest Service land, which creates management difficulties. It is also an area proposed for a ski area terrain park, called Eclipse Snow Park. By facilitating a land exchange between the Forest Service and the developers of this terrain park, the bill would resolve issues for the Forest Service, the terrain park and the surrounding communities.

This legislation provides for the exchange of approximately 119 acres of National Forest System land with approximately 74 acres of private property (plus any necessary cash adjustment from private parties to the United States Treasury necessary to equalize the value of the parcels), contiguous to existing National Forest System land.

Currently, the boundary lines between the National Forest System land and the privately owned property are extremely irregular, making much of this mountainous land inaccessible and burdensome to the public. These jagged boundaries also make managing the National Forest System land difficult, if not impossible, for the agency.

This legislation simplifies the boundaries and consolidates National Forest System lands adjacent to Alice and the St. Mary's Glacier, in turn enhancing water quality protection opportunities for the St. Mary's Glacier watershed. In addition, this land exchange eliminates land-locked National Forest System lands and makes contiguous certain privately owned property, thus enabling efficient use of a decades old tradition of family-scaled commercial skiing in this basin.

In addition, the land exchange authorized by this bill would help provide access to the nearby James Peak Wilderness Area. Public access to this area from the Alice Township community is currently unavailable. Frequent trespassing, the lack of adequate parking and

no public access to the St. Mary's glacier area are major concerns for surrounding residents, the community, and the Forest Service. With the valley's close proximity to Denver, the presence and uniqueness of the glacier has become an attraction for hikers, backcountry skiers, and sight-seers. The frequency of visitors, especially during the summer, creates a parking, access, and trailhead sanitation dilemma. This land exchange provides a solution to these problems by providing needed parking areas and creating a public access trailhead, at no expense to taxpayers.

Although efforts have been made with the Forest Service to seek an administrative solution, the Forest Service estimates this process would take a minimum of 5 years—a delay that withholds the above-described benefits to the public. Therefore, legislation is needed to accomplish this important land exchange.

Commercial skiing has taken place in the Anchor Gulch basin, in which the current proposed Eclipse Snow Park is located, since the 1930s. That ski area has gone through many different names and ownership groups including Silver Mountain Resort, St. Mary's Ski Area, and Silver Lake Resort. It most recently operated in 1986 with two ski lifts. The ski area pre-dates major zoning concerns in the county, and operated almost exclusively on a collection of mining claims as well as illegally on some National Forest System land.

In 2001, the Clear Creek County Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution recognizing the ski area at St. Mary's as a "legal non-conforming use" affirming the County's desire to see the property used for skiing again. In late 2006 and early 2007, through a process which included months of public hearings, the Clear Creek County Commissioners approved the rezoning of all the property in the Anchor Gulch basin proposed by Eclipse Snow Park to a "Commercial Outdoor Recreation" designation which allows for commercial skiing and limited associated recreation amenities.

Eclipse Snow Park aims to become a small family-owned and operated ski area which harkens back to the days when skiing began in Colorado. The Vision for Eclipse will provide a predominantly natural un-groomed more natural Alpine Skiing experience. With a specific focus on gladed skiing, as opposed to traditional cleared trails, Eclipse will provide a unique, environmentally sensitive and increasingly sought recreation experience. Additionally, the vision will create a small-scale, organic ski area which fulfills a "back-to-the-basics" response to why people love to ski, with fewer commercialized aspects that many large scale resorts implement. Eclipse Snow Park will welcome skiers and snowboarders alike who are interested in a unique skiing and riding experience, at a more affordable price, with a far shorter travel distance than most Front-Range skiers are currently experiencing.

Eclipse Snow Park representatives have been in numerous discussions with the Forest Service, who have expressed interest in this land exchange but citing resource constraints, have stated a preference for legislative action. The Forest Service on several occasions over the past two summer field seasons has sent interdisciplinary teams of biologists, botanists, and ecologists into the Anchor Gulch basin to inventory surrounding resources and evaluate the project proposal for potential environmental impacts and opportunities to apply state-of-the-art mitigating techniques.