

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 DEPARTMENT

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 Dederet 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 Aguillen 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 NATIONAL 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 withdraws 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.

Similarly, throughout the course of 2006 and 2007, Eclipse Snow Park has also been extensively reviewed by specialty contracting biologists, botanists, geotechnical engineers, wetlands scientists, hydrologists, and archeological investigators. Additionally, an in-depth assessment of ambient and projected vehicular traffic patterns has been completed by a professional traffic engineer. In summary, these studies conclude that the project will not create any significant impacts to surrounding resources and the community further demonstrating the public benefits of this exchange.

Under the bill, the Forest Service will determine the value of the lands to be exchanged, in accordance with the relevant normal appraisal standards, and will have authority to take appropriate steps to make sure the federal government—the taxpayers—will receive fully equal value for the lands to be transferred out of federal ownership. The private land-owner—not the taxpayers—will bear the costs of the appraisals and all necessary surveys. And the legislation requires the private land-owner to provide unimpeded access to St. Mary's Glacier, on the adjacent National Forest lands.

Madam Speaker, this is a modest but important bill and I think it deserves the support of all our colleagues.

HONORING MR. ARAM BASSENIAN

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to Mr. Aram Bassenian. Mr. Bassenian is a constituent from Laguna Beach, CA and is an outstanding citizen who is a shining example of the American Dream. He participates in many charitable and civic activities, including his active involvement with the Armenian EyeCare Project (AECP). The Armenian EyeCare Project, which does magnificent humanitarian work in Armenia, has honored Mr. Bassenian with the 2007 AECP "Lifetime Humanitarian Award".

The Armenian EyeCare Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of preventable blindness in Armenia. It was established in 1992 and sponsors programs in direct patient care; medical education and training; public education; and research.

Madam Speaker, Aram Bassenian is a man with a contagious passion for life and helping others. He is proud of his accomplishments, yet humble enough to be grateful for what he has. He is an ardent advocate for the Armenian community both in the United States and around the world. If his plate wasn't full enough already, Aram is one of the top architects in the United States.

I know Mr. Bassenian's wife Terez, daughter Taleene, and son Gregory are extremely proud of his accomplishments. He is a true inspiration to all Americans. He advises young people to "Focus, specialize, and do not be afraid of hard work. Work creates rhythm in one's life by establishing a health routine. For those who pay their dues, the opportunities that America provides are limitless."

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Aram Bassenian today as the AECP Humanitarian of the Year. Thank you very much.

REGARDING OKLAHOMA'S STATEHOOD DAY AND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize November 16, 2007—Oklahoma's Statehood Day and Centennial Celebration. From east to west, north to south, Oklahoma boasts a variety of cultures, landscapes, and opportunities that Oklahomans and visitors enjoy every day. The diversity represented in the State has long been a source of pride for and attraction to Oklahoma. Many Native American tribes were relocated to Oklahoma under force, but have grown to be a vital source of pride and diversity for the State's heritage and future. Furthermore, the land-runs that began in 1889 showed our Nation the power and promise that the lands of Oklahoma held for its inhabitants in the early days as a territory. It was just a short while later, in 1907, that the Federal Government and the other States of the Union fully recognized this and made Oklahoma a State. Those same feelings still ring true today as we honor our State's centennial celebration.

As an Oklahoman, I share a heritage built on the values of faith, family, hard work, and personal responsibility. In Oklahoma, people are our greatest asset. There is warmth in our people that you won't find anywhere else. Throughout many years of hardship, our communities endured because of our "pioneer spirit." The same strength and spirit that enabled generations before me to survive the Great Depression and two world wars, is still alive today. For all of these reasons, I am happy to highlight the Centennial Celebration of Oklahoma.

MRS. JULIA AGNES WASHINGTON BOND

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to honor the life of Mrs. Julia Washington Bond, a gracious daughter of the South who contributed significantly to the cultural and academic life of metropolitan Atlanta. Mrs. Bond is perhaps best known today as the mother of Julian Bond, the Chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), my former colleague in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and a stalwart advocate for civil rights and social justice in America.

For decades, Mrs. Bond helped form the center of cultural life in Atlanta. She was born in Nashville, Tennessee on June 20, 1908, and attended Fisk University, like her parents before her. There she met and eventually married a young instructor who would become one of the foremost educators of his time, Horace Mann Bond. Dr. Bond led several prominent institutions of higher education as their president—Fort Valley State College in Georgia and Lincoln University in Pennsyl-

vania, and served as the first dean at Dillard University. In 1957, he was named the Dean of the School of Education of Atlanta University, and he and his wife became pillars of the Atlanta community.

In the 1950's and 60's, African Americans, regardless of their prominence, could not stay in hotels or motels in the South. So, when they traveled to Atlanta, they had to stay in homes around the city. As the first lady of many universities and the wife of a leading educator, Mrs. Bond hosted some of the greatest artists and thinkers of the Harlem Renaissance—W.E.B. DuBois, Arna Bontemps, Langston Hughes, W.C. Handy, Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Duke Ellington and a host of others. Her elegant style and manner offered a unique, intimate atmosphere for students and educators to engage these celebrities and help knit their bond to Atlanta society. She was kind almost to a fault, in the most genteel Southern tradition, and her beauty inspired an iconic painting by a principal artist of that period, Aaron Douglass.

In 1964, she returned to college and received a degree in library science from Atlanta University. During her tenure, she assisted hundreds and thousands of students. She worked in the university library system there until she retired in 2000. The people of the 5th District mourn the passing of Mrs. Julia Bond. She died at the age of 99 on November 2d. She raised three successful children—Jane Bond Moore, Horace Julian Bond, and James Bond. She also had eight grandchildren. She will be deeply missed.

A TRIBUTE TO W. CODY ANDERSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize W. Cody Anderson, who has been a strong voice on the radio airwaves for decades. He holds the belief that everyone deserves to be heard, and he has worked hard to make that a reality for people from all walks of life.

He began his career in radio as vice president and general manager of WDAS radio in Philadelphia. He continued on to purchase and operate WHAT radio, and then started a public relations firm with his two sons. Mr. Anderson also worked with Dr. and Mrs. Walter Lomax to make 900 AM WURD radio accessible to the African American community in the Philadelphia area.

Mr. Anderson has also taken the time to travel to several prisons to speak with inmates who have been separated from their families and give them a chance to tell their stories. He is an extremely compassionate individual who has respect for everyone from the top celebrities and politicians to the everyday working man. He and his wife have taken this respect south to New Orleans to help Katrina victims, and across the ocean to Africa, where he was honored by being enstooled as a chief in Senegal.

W. Cody Anderson's friendly and engaging personality and his love of communication have made him one of the most sought after speakers in the Tri-State area and a constant