

The detailed daily snapshots provided by QuikSCAT allow climatologists, meteorologists, and oceanographers to better understand global weather abnormalities and to improve weather forecasting. In one day, QuikSCAT collects data covering 90 percent of the Earth's surface. Without the data provided by QuikSCAT, hurricane forecasting would be 16 percent less accurate 72 hours before hurricane landfall and 10 percent less accurate 48 hours before landfall. This decrease in accuracy would lead to larger stretches of coastline under evacuation warnings and more local resources utilized.

That is why I helped author H.R. 2531, which authorizes \$375 million to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the design and launch of an improved QuikSCAT satellite. The new, next-generation satellite would maintain weather forecasting and warning capabilities and improve data capabilities for future weather-related disasters. The bill also requires that NOAA provide annual reports on the status of the satellite to ensure that Congress has sufficient time for authorizing and funding a replacement when necessary.

As a Member of Congress with over 70 miles of coastline in my district, I feel it is my responsibility to ask NOAA how we got to this point where a valuable satellite is on its last legs, and why our taxpayers are footing the bill for a PR campaign when hurricanes remain a daily threat to Florida and the entire region. I join in the celebration of NOAA's accomplishments for the last 200 years, but I urge them to be responsible with resources so that they can be effective for the next 200 years and beyond.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support for the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 3887). I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 3887, which will provide new tools to protect against modern slavery, both in the immigrant community and among American citizens.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act was originally enacted in 2000 to combat trafficking in persons, ensure the prosecution of human traffickers, and protect the victims of trafficking. The 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the U.S. State Department estimated that approximately 15,000 to 20,000 people were trafficked to the United States annually. Victims were trafficked for forced labor and debt bondage in areas such as agriculture, sweatshop manufacturing, and domestic service. This legislation would direct the U.S. State Department to establish an office to monitor and combat human trafficking. It would also authorize the President to support international efforts to combat trafficking and to rescue and care for victims.

In California, Maria Suarez is one of the brave survivors of modern slavery who is

working to protect others from cruel mistreatment. At the age of 16, Maria was sold as a sex slave to a 62-year-old man in California. He was killed by a neighbor and Maria was convicted of murder for her limited role in covering up the killing of her captor. Consequently, Maria served 22 years in jail before being pardoned.

When Maria was released from prison she was detained by the immigration service as a convicted felon. I led efforts in Congress, along with community activists, to provide relief to Maria and release her from immigration detention. In 2004, Maria was granted a T visa, which is a visa for victims of trafficking and provides legal status for them to remain in the U.S. for 3 years. After 3 years, T visa holders can apply for permanent resident status. This legislation would allow for the reunification of victims and their families, and would help Maria Suarez and others like her by making the immigration service recognize that victims should not be held responsible for what they are forced to do while they are enslaved.

I applaud Chairmen LANTOS and CONYERS for their hard work and continued dedication to this issue. Congress must continue fighting on behalf of those who have been forced into servitude and slavery and give these people a voice. I am hopeful that this legislation will give immigrant survivors of domestic violence and trafficking victims, such as Maria Suarez, a genuine opportunity to explain their circumstances before Federal authorities.

RECOGNIZING BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure I congratulate the Golden Eagles of Big Walnut High School as the Division III Football State Champions!

Head Coach Scott Wetzell, in his twelfth year leading the Golden Eagles, found his team tied 10–10 in the fourth quarter. With less than 10 minutes to play, Joe Reed scored on a 54-yard interception return which clinched the title for his team in the 17–10 victory over Licking Valley.

This season brought many firsts for this team, high school and county. This was Big Walnut's first-ever championship game appearance, and also the first time a Delaware County high school earned a state title! This 2007 football team advanced further than any other team in school history.

I'm proud to congratulate this team and community and join with them in celebrating the history made with their State Championship title!

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JANE MAURY DENTON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire Nation recently

lost a special lady, and I rise today to honor Mrs. Jane Maury Denton and pay tribute to her memory.

Born in Mobile, Alabama, on March 22, 1926, Jane Maury was educated at The Convent of Visitation School in Alabama and Mary Washington College in Virginia. She married Mobile native, Jeremiah Denton, on June 6, 1946, the day he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy.

Mrs. Denton and her husband reared seven children while living in many states and Europe during her husband's distinguished military career; unfortunately, for almost 8 years, she reared their children alone. On July 16, 1965, while serving in the Vietnam War, then-Captain Denton's plane was shot down over the city of Thanh Hoa. He was held as a prisoner-of-war for eight long years in Hanoi, Vietnam.

During her husband's imprisonment, Mrs. Denton helped found the National League of Families of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Her tireless work on behalf of all American airmen held prisoner in North Vietnam is credited with obtaining a more humane treatment and ultimate release.

Jerry Denton returned home a true American hero; obviously, he and Jane had so many years of their lives for which to catch up. In 1980, Admiral Denton successfully ran for the U.S. Senate from Alabama. As a senator's wife, Jane became a true champion for the improvement of America's mental health facilities.

In recognition of her life-long support for her husband's naval career in addition to her work as an advocate for POWs, Mrs. Denton was given the honor of sponsoring and christening the USS *Mobile Bay*, a Ticonderoga Class Cruiser in 1985. The day she christened the ship, she said, "The event will be a real highlight of my life. My pleasure at receiving this honor is multiplied by my love for the Navy, my concern for our national defense, and my pride in having a fine ship named for Mobile Bay."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama, as well as a wonderful wife and devoted mother. Mrs. Denton will be missed by her family—her husband of 61 years, Senator Jeremiah Denton; their children, Jeremiah Denton III, Donald Denton, James Denton, William Denton, Madeleine Doak, Michael Denton, and Mary E. Denton; her sister, Madeleine McPhillips; her 14 grandchildren; and her three great-grandchildren—as well as the many countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING AL DAVIES FOR PLACING SECOND IN THE MANCHESTER UMBRO INTERNATIONAL CUP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Al Davies competed in England's largest youth soccer tournament; and Whereas, Al Davies showed hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Al Davies has broadened her abilities and skills in the sport of soccer; and Whereas, Al Davies was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Al Davies always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Al Davies on placing second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTH FORK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OF PENDLETON COUNTY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor South Fork Volunteer Fire Department of Pendleton County, West Virginia which will be celebrating its 45th anniversary.

South Fork Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated December 6, 1962. Those serving as the first officers were President: Herald Williams, Vice-President: Fred Williams, Secretary: Carl Nesselrodt, and Treasurer: Orville Gum; and the original members also included Marvin Hartman, Albert Joseph, Sheridan Layman, Harold Miller, Harold Wilson, and Mervin Zirk. The formation of the fire department would not be possible without community involvement; the land and materials used for the construction of the original firehouse were all donated, many by the original members and officers.

South Fork Volunteer Fire Department has expanded its facilities, equipment, and operations over its 45 year span. Construction was completed on March 20, 2004 for a new firehouse located on Route 21. South Fork Volunteer Fire Department now boasts 35 volunteer members, 15 auxiliary members, and has a fleet of six vehicles.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the past and current members of South Fork Volunteer Fire Department for providing safety to our citizens in times of emergency and dire need. Our first responders and volunteer fire departments represent the best of our communities.

I extend congratulations to South Fork Volunteer Fire Department and all of those who have been involved with 45 successful years of serving and protecting the community of Brandywine.

LAMAR UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED FOR DOCUMENTARY TEXAS WETLANDS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor the students and faculty of the Lamar University Department of Communication for their work on Texas Wetlands, a

documentary film underlining the importance of Texas Wetlands to our nation's ecosystem. This film was recently awarded first place in the student/amateur category at the North American Association for Environmental Education/Pierce Foundation Environmental Education Film and Video Festival. This prestigious award granted the documentary the opportunity to be premiered last week at the NAAEE's Annual Conference.

Wetlands can be found up and down the 360 miles of Texas' sprawling Gulf Coast. Many of these wildlife sanctuaries are located in or just outside the Second Congressional District. Lamar students and professors along with 42 middle and high school students traveled to wetland areas in the Big Thicket, Shangri La, and the JD Murphee Wild Life Management Area to capture footage for their award winning documentary. Students, with the guidance of their professors in the Communications Department, wrote, edited, did the videography and appeared as reporters in the film.

Lamar University and its students, who I am proud to represent, continue to achieve in all areas of higher learning. Recognizing the importance of Texas' natural resources, Lamar University has taken a proactive approach in preserving these wetlands. Soon our country will need to look to a new generation of leaders to help her face adversity, both foreign and domestic. I am confident that these leaders will emerge from the halls of Lamar University.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL WATKINS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carol Watkins for her 46 years of public service to the people of Northeast Ohio.

Carol began her career in 1960 at the Cleveland Downtown Social Security Field Office. She held many positions at the office over the years, including Clerk Stenographer, Executive Secretary, Management Analyst, Administrative Officer and Group Supervisor. In 1984, she accepted the appointment of Hearing Office Director at the Cleveland Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

During her tenure at the Cleveland ODAR, Carol has worked with over thirty Administrative Law Judges and has been recognized many times for her tireless dedication. Under her leadership, the Cleveland ODAR had received several national and regional awards as well as recognition from the legal and charity communities.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Carol Watkins for her lifetime commitment to serving the Cleveland community through her career with the Social Security Administration. May her dedication to public service serve as an inspiration for us all.

HONORING LARRY DITO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has literally changed the face of one of the largest cities in my district. Larry Dito has for 35 years directed the parks, recreation and community services program for the City of Novato. On a small budget, using good old-fashioned teamwork and cooperation, Larry has enriched the lives of skateboarders, dog owners, seniors and teens by creating new buildings, new parks and new opportunities, as well as renovating older ones and making them usable.

From his first days here, in 1972, Larry gather a small, loosely-banded group of rural folks and formed it into a community.

"He developed the mission of the department to enrich community life," says Jennifer Goldfinger, assistant to the city manager. "And that's really what he's been all about."

Larry accomplished this by convincing people to work together for the greater good. Members of Rotary, Elks, schools and neighborhoods pitched in to realize the vision of a community where all its citizens could enjoy living there.

"He is known for creating partnerships," Goldfinger explains. "He's very good at bringing people together." And those same people extol his virtues. He is universally liked and admired.

"I cannot think of a negative thing about him," notes Nancy Sangster, who, as a former parks and recreation commissioner, worked with Larry for years and still considers him a friend. "Any good word you can find in the dictionary, you can say about him."

High praise, perhaps, but Larry has earned it. Thanks to his work, Novato seniors have the Margaret Todd Senior Center. Because of Larry's ability to build consensus with other organizations, Novato teens have a place to hang out—the Novato Teen Center. With Larry's help and guidance in engineering a joint project, the City's children have the Novato Gymnastics Center, the skate park, the Hill gym, and a full complement of girls' sports programs and after school athletics.

But Larry has not just created new programs and facilities; he has also given new life to the old. He spearheaded the renovation of the Indian Valley College swimming pool, as well as the outdoor ball fields there.

Sangster adds to the list the Hamilton reuse projects at the old Hamilton Air Force Base. Here, Larry had the pool and amphitheater renovated for activities, programs and plays the entire county can participate in.

His tireless efforts have also resulted in a number of small alterations in the city—improvements that most people didn't notice, but that affected the lives of many. For example, it was Larry who convinced concerned homeowners that allowing the upgrade of neighborhood parks to make them ADA accessible would actually benefit them, as well.

"He always found groups to help build, so that much of the labor was donated," Sangster explains. "He knows how to bring out the best in everybody."

And this list doesn't begin to include all Larry's accomplishments.