

her life to preserving wilderness and wildlife in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. We mourn the loss of such a treasured conservationist and pioneer in the Washington state environmental movement. She spent four decades organizing for conservation, working for groups including the Alaska Coalition, Sierra Club, Olympic Park Associates, Wild Sky Working Group, Washington Wilderness Coalition, and Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition. Her activism spanned many years, crossed state lines, and extended as far as Chongqing, China, where she dedicated herself to developing a strategy to address environmental degradation in Asia as a board member of the Seattle-Chongqing Sister City Association.

Born in Altadena, California, Karen grew to cherish wilderness at an early age, spending her childhood hiking the Sierra Nevada Mountains with her family. She continued this passion, earning a degree in geology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Formally beginning her long legacy of protecting our wild forests, Karen first went to work for the Sierra Club in the 1970s, fighting for roadless forest preservation. In 1979, she cofounded the Washington Wilderness Coalition, an organization dedicated to empowering Washington state citizens to preserve and restore wilderness areas through grassroots advocacy and public education.

Karen once said, "We will continue to work on these issues as long as there is wild land left in the country." Friends have described her as selfless, caring, inspirational, effective, dedicated, wise, humble and relentless in organizing and empowering people to speak up for the wild places in America and around the world. Karen was the epitome of the dedicated and effective activist. She touched the lives of countless individuals throughout the Northwest. She had a knack for recognizing everyone's ability to make a difference, and encouraged people to stand up and speak out for what they believe in. She was never the loudest person in the room, but often the most effective voice at bringing people and ideas together to advance the protection of wilderness and the wild creatures that depend on it. She delighted in walking in wild, unspoiled places and bringing others out to experience the serenity, joy, and splendor of wilderness. Because of her work, the conservation community in Washington has been left with an immense knowledge of what is at stake as we fight to protect the wilderness areas that remain in the United States.

Karen was instrumental in passing the 1984 Washington State Wilderness Act, which sets aside over one million acres of new wilderness. She also initiated the efforts to preserve Wild Sky. She organized to protect the Owyhees Canyonlands in Idaho and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Finally, she organized in support of a bill that is close to my heart, The National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act. Passage of this bill is vital to protect areas in the national forest deemed as roadless and ensure that they remain free from development or devastation. As the original sponsor of this bill, I encourage you to support the protection of our national forests.

This spring, Karen's ashes will be spread among some of her favorite wilderness areas in the North Cascades and Sierras Nevadas, areas that continue to need protection to this day. Here in the U.S. Congress, I cannot imagine a better way to honor Karen's con-

servation legacy than for my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 866, the Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2007, which will be marked up in the Natural Resources Committee this week. This bill would serve to protect and expand the federal wilderness of the Skykomish River Valley in Washington State and ensure that ecosystems and stunning vistas in this area are enjoyed by people and wild creatures for generations to come. Passage of this legislation would be the perfect tribute to Karen's legacy.

If Congress could merely echo the unwavering efforts of this woman, we would no doubt be doing a great service to our children and grandchildren in ensuring there are wild lands for them to enjoy far into the future.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE "TORTURE OUTSOURCING PREVENTION ACT"

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**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce, for the third time, legislation to prohibit the outsourcing of torture by the United States government. I am hopeful that this Congress the House will finally take up legislation on this matter.

I know that policy battles can drag on for seemingly endless lengths of time. I remember that Senator Proxmire spent nearly 20 years arguing that the United States needed to ratify the Convention Against Genocide before finally succeeding to rally the Senate to action. But I know too that we cannot delay any longer in addressing the Administration's practice of transferring detainees for interrogation or other purposes to countries where there are substantial grounds for believing that the transferred individuals could face torture. I feel a rising optimism that we can end this repugnant and counterproductive practice of so-called extraordinary rendition soon, and certainly within the timeframe of this Congress.

There is no doubt that the United States is greatly challenged by violent extremists, and the terrible attacks of September 11 were not so much attacks upon our country as upon the values of liberalism, openness and democracy that we champion throughout the world. But there is a right way and a wrong way to conduct ourselves as we defend the United States from murderous criminals and terrorists.

The wrong way is to lower our standards of conduct further and further for the sake of expediency. The wrong way is to compromise our core values of human rights and dignity for all people in the face of an enemy who disdains such ideals. The wrong way is to undermine and destroy international treaties guaranteeing all people security from cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment; especially when these treaties are the last line of defense for our soldiers and personnel overseas unfortunate enough to be captured on the battlefield.

The right way is to proudly and publicly hold the United States to the highest standards and prove again that our nation is founded upon the rule of law.

The practice of extraordinary rendition is a travesty, and it is illegal under any reasonable reading of U.S. and international law. The

Convention Against Torture, ratified by the Senate in 1986, provides that the United States may not "expel, return, or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture." And in 1998, this Congress passed the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act (FARRA), which states that "it shall be the policy of the United States not to expel, extradite, or otherwise affect the involuntary return of any person to a country in which there are substantial grounds for believing the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture, regardless of whether the person is physically present in the United States."

Both the Convention Against Torture and FARRA prohibit the transfer of an individual to a state where there are "substantial grounds for believing" that the individual will face torture. How has the Administration gotten around this prohibition when sending detainees to countries like Syria, Jordan, Uzbekistan, and Egypt; countries which our own State Department reports are habitual abusers of human rights? The Administration has received, and accepted, so-called "diplomatic assurances" from these torturing countries that they will not abuse transferred detainees. It is shocking that the Bush Administration has repeatedly and cynically accepted the word of known torturers without any mechanism to ensure that these promises were not broken.

The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act will require that the Secretary of State compile an annual list of all countries in the world known to use torture; it will be illegal to transfer individuals to the countries on this list, regardless of the citizenship or physical location of the individuals. Furthermore, the Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act will close the loophole of "diplomatic assurances" which the Administration has exploited to outsource the torture of prisoners to countries such as Syria.

The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act provides waiver authority over the prohibition to the Secretary of State when it is certified to the appropriate Congressional committees that the country in question no longer practices torture and there is a verifiable mechanism in place to assure that the person transferred will not face torture.

The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act does not inhibit treaty-based extraditions in any way. In those cases, current law already provides that an individual facing extradition may challenge the extradition in the courts with an assertion of their rights under the Convention Against Torture.

Madam Speaker, it is past time for the Congress to end the practice of extraordinary rendition. I urge adoption of this important legislation.

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RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES C. METTS, JR. UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE AMERICAN CENTER OF POLISH CULTURE AWARD

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**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the American Center of Polish Culture today presented

Dr. James C. Metts, Jr. an award to recognize his research on the fate of General Casimir Pulaski's remains. Dr. Metts, coroner of Chat-ham County, Georgia, served as the chairman of a 10-year investigation to positively identify General Pulaski's remains. Mr. KINGSTON and I want to congratulate Dr. Metts upon receiving this award.

The birthday of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski in George Washington's Continental Army was marked for the first time on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, the 262nd anniversary of his birth in Warsaw, Poland.

To celebrate the occasion, the National Polish Center (also known as the American Center of Polish Culture of Washington, DC) sponsored a birthday breakfast at the Rayburn House Office Building. Among those who came were sponsors of the resolutions to make Pulaski an honorary U.S. citizen and other notables from Congress and the Polish-American community. The featured speaker, Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, was president of the Piast Institute in Detroit, Michigan, and former president of St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Dr. Metts was recognized for his leadership and report on General Pulaski, whose remains were found September 1996. They had been buried in a crypt under the Pulaski Monument in Savannah, Georgia, since 1853, though Pulaski had been widely rumored to have been buried at sea.

Edward Pinkowski, internationally known authority on General Pulaski, was the chief sponsor of the Pulaski identification project.

Pulaski's remains were examined by forensic specialists in Savannah since 1996. Dr. Metts said the remains are "consistent in remarkable detail with the physical appearance, life history, and cavalry lifestyle of Casimir Pulaski."

Pulaski's remains were re-interred in October 2005 in front of the monument in Savannah's Monterey Square.

At the Washington event, a wreath was laid at the heroic-size marble bust of Pulaski located in the Capitol Building. The bust was carved by Henry Dmochowski (1810–1863) from Carrara marble and moved to Capitol Hill in 1882.

According to Jack Pinkowski, Ph.D., vice chairman of the National Polish Center, "this first birthday celebration at the Capitol is important because it identifies Pulaski's correct birth date as March 6, 1745. It also gives us an opportunity to recognize the 10 years of work of Dr. Metts and his team in Poland and in the United States.

Casimir Pulaski was born and raised in Warsaw, the son of Count Joseph Pulaski, a member of the Polish parliament (Sejm). The young Pulaski won his reputation as a guerilla fighter in Poland's struggle for independence.

Political intrigue forced him to leave Poland in 1772, and he spent time in Turkey, Germany, and France. He went to America in 1777 with a letter of recommendation from Benjamin Franklin, who was solicited by Pulaski's friends. Pulaski was commissioned by the Continental Congress as a brigadier general to command four cavalry regiments and later formed the Pulaski Legions.

Among his exploits in the American fight for freedom were saving George Washington's life and the successful defense of Charleston in May 1778. He was wounded at the Siege of Savannah on October 9, 1779, and died on

board the ship *Wasp*. He was secretly buried on Greenwich Plantation next to Thunderbolt Bluffs on the banks of the Wilmington River next to the plantation where the *Wasp* was tied up to a finger wharf and where Samuel Bullfinch, captain of the *Wasp*, wrote a letter that notified General Benjamin Lincoln of Pulaski's death. He said that Pulaski died on board his ship on October 15.

Pulaski remains a symbol of Polish courage, Polish initiative, and Polish friendship for the United States.

We thank Dr. James C. Metts, Jr. for his efforts to remind us of this American Revolutionary War hero, and congratulate him on his receipt of the American Center of Polish Culture award.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE FEDERAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

##### HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Ms. HERSETH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation comprised of three sections to improve federal nutrition assistance.

The National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs are two of the Nation's most successful and popular programs. Each day almost 30 million children participate in the lunch program and 9 million in the breakfast programs. Yet, there are children who are eligible for the programs who cannot participate.

Children from families with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty line are eligible for reduced price meals. A reduced price breakfast costs 30 cents per meal per child and a lunch is 40 cents per meal per child. While it may be hard to imagine, this modest fee appears to be a barrier to low income working households.

In 2004, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act (P.L. 108–265) authorized a pilot program to determine for sure whether it was the reduced price fee that was keeping children from the program or whether there might be other reasons for the lack of participation. I believe the time has come to finally fund this pilot and I propose that the Congress take this action as a part of the farm bill.

USDA has suggested that a valid pilot could be implemented for approximately \$23 million, \$10 million per year for two years, plus the cost of evaluation. This amount would not allow for a five state, state-wide pilot as was authorized but it would provide for a valid test of whether the fee is the barrier that is keeping the children from the program.

Evidence has clearly proven that hungry children cannot learn. Therefore, if we are going to educate our children in America to compete effectively in a world market, we must provide for sound nutritious school meals. As the Congress restructures our farm programs, and reauthorizes the food stamp program, we should also fund this small but important school meal pilot.

Most of the school boards in South Dakota have endorsed funding for this pilot, as has the South Dakota Farmers Union and the Argus Leader, our largest newspaper. Nationally, the pilot also enjoys wide support. The

School Nutrition Association, the Military Impacted School Association, National Farmers Union, the National Association of Elementary School Principals all support funding the pilot. The National School Boards Association has gone further and supports gradually eliminating the reduced price category, expanding the free meal category to the WIC income guideline. In short, if a family qualified for free WIC benefits, the family would also qualify for free school meals. Many state and local school boards agree with this policy.

Additionally, I'd like to acknowledge the administering State agencies and school districts that work so hard to ensure that every school meal these children receive meets the nutrition standards set forth in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans as required by law. To allow the USDA to better support school food professionals in their efforts, this legislation provides for a survey of foods purchased by school food authorities to be conducted once every 5 years. This data would also help the USDA to better manage the commodities that the Department purchases on behalf of schools, and also assess the economic impact of school food purchases on different commodity sectors. The most recent data on school food purchases is over a decade old and I believe this worthwhile investment is overdue.

Finally, this legislation would increase the minimum spent for food program administration in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). FDPIR provides commodity foods and education to low-income households that reside on Indian reservations so that they can maintain a nutritionally balanced diet with foods they might not otherwise have access to where they reside. There are approximately 257 tribes that receive commodity foods through FDPIR and an increase in the distribution of administrative funds is in order to better reflect the actual participation rates in this critical program.

I encourage my colleagues to support this beneficial and important legislation. It sets forth modest proposals that could make a world of difference to children and families most at risk of severe hunger.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. DANIEL HACKMEIER

##### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute a late American hero from my district. Mr. Daniel Hackmeier served our Nation with honorable distinction during World War II. Mr. Hackmeier passed in July of last year. This week, the City of Houghton, local military organizations, and community groups in the Houghton area will come together to honor Mr. Hackmeier and pay tribute to his service to our country.

Mr. Hackmeier enlisted in the United States Air Corps (which later became the Air Force) in April of 1939. He was first stationed at Selfridge Field in Mt. Clemens before being deployed to Nichols Air Force Base in the Philippines. While stationed at Clark Field, Mr. Hackmeier was promoted to Staff Sergeant Major for the 24th Pursuit Group.

When hostilities with the Japanese began, Mr. Hackmeier became part of the 71st Provisional Infantry. On April 9, 1942, when Bataan