

Another project that is contained in H.R. 1495 is the further opening of the Ballard's Island Channel. The Army Corps completed its last dredging and stone removal at the Ballard's Island site in October 2003 with the intent to study the effects and ramifications. A significant time having passed, it may be time for the Corps to continue with opening up this channel which the Corps closed almost 60 years ago. Cutting through the very large riparian bar which has built up over 60 years and which now blocks the original channel may be a means to this goal. Doing so will divert water flowing into the channel as the result of the Corps reopening.

Both the Illinois & Michigan Canal and the Ballard's Island Channel projects aid the surrounding communities both in environmental restoration and economic revitalization. I look forward to the successful completion of these projects and the important economic benefits these communities will see as a result.

The WRDA legislation not only includes provisions that will assist specific communities in my district but also contains a mandate to update the lock and dam system on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. This project will replace seven key 600-foot navigation locks with seven new 1,200-foot locks. Improvements to the inland water transportation system are long past due. Many structures were built over 60 years ago, when barge tows were less than 600 feet long. Today's barge tows are nearly 1,200 feet long, creating vast backlogs at many locks, and slowing the speed with which Illinois products can be shipped abroad. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, construction of the 7 locks will provide at least 3,000–6,000 jobs per year for the construction period, an estimated 12–20 years.

Farmers in Illinois and my district are dependent on the riverways to ship their products to international markets. Passage of H.R. 1495 will mean shorter shipping times, resulting in decreased costs and increased profit. I am pleased that we are finally joining in a bipartisan manner to assist American farmers in competing on the global level.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, provides a building block for many communities not only in my district but in every state and region in our country.

In closing, I want to commend Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA for producing a good bipartisan bill again and I am hopeful that this year we can finally get this bill to the President for his signature.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF GENESEO

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and delight that I rise today to recognize and celebrate the Village of Geneseo on its 175th Anniversary.

From its lush and beautiful landscape to its historical and picturesque architecture, from its tradition of excellent education and thriving agriculture to its wonderful and generous people,

the Village of Geneseo has much to celebrate on its 175th anniversary.

Located in the pleasant Genesee Valley in Livingston County, Geneseo has from the very beginning charmed onlookers and visitors with its natural beauty and landscapes. Centuries ago, Seneca Indians discovered a peaceful, rolling valley near a river that was bordered between the Finger Lakes to the east and waterfalls, which would become Letchworth State Park, to the west. They named the land *jo-nis-hi-yuh*, meaning beautiful valley, which would come to be spelled Geneseo. Thus Geneseo's very name captures its beautiful landscape of hills, grand oak trees, waterways and green fields that continue to captivate.

In 1790, two brothers, James and William Wadsworth purchased the "beautiful valley" from the Senecas, and Geneseo was founded. They built homes on both ends of Main Street, many of which still stand today. It was the beginning of what today is one of the most scenic and quaint Main Streets in America. Only one of 24 communities in the country to have its historic district recognized as having national significance, Geneseo's Main Street Historic District reflects the beauty of the area's landscape with unique and delightful architecture nestled in a picturesque, small-town community.

In 1832, the settlement was chartered and would from then on known as the "Village of Geneseo." This important moment marked the official formation of local government and village boundaries, which now mark their 175th year. Later, another important charter would be enacted when in 1897 the New York State Legislature chartered the Wadsworth Normal School at Geneseo, a school that would become SUNY Geneseo. Today, with a reputation as one of the nation's best public liberal arts schools, SUNY Geneseo is an integral part of the community, educating and preparing thousands of young people through its tremendous programs and resources.

Beyond its landscape, history, architecture, and educational tradition, possibly nothing is as inseparable from Geneseo as farming and agriculture. More than just a vital industry that helps feed our nation, farming in Geneseo is a way of life that has shaped the region and sustained its economy. Combined with Geneseo's academic, architectural and natural jewels, this tradition of farms and fields create a dynamic mix that makes the village truly unique.

Finally, Geneseo's most tremendous resource and vital characteristic is its wonderful people. In Geneseo, you find generous, down-to-earth, friendly people who are willing to lend a hand and always wish you well. More than anything to celebrate on this 175th anniversary is the good-hearted and gracious people of Geneseo.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of its history, its natural beauty, its charming architecture, its educational excellence, its agricultural tradition and its wonderful residents, I ask that this honorable body join me in celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Village of Geneseo.

REMEMBERING CAITLIN
HAMMAREN

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, on Monday, April 16, 2007, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute was struck by one of the most heinous acts of violence our Nation has ever witnessed. This sense of loss has resonated throughout our country and around the world. It has affected the entire Virginia Tech community and led to an outpouring of sympathy and support from all Americans. It has touched families across the Nation, especially those in my home district in the Hudson Valley, where we lost an outstanding young woman, Caitlin Hammaren.

Caitlin was a young person from Westtown, New York, who graduated from Minisink Valley High School in 2005. She was the section leader in the high school chorus, loved to ride horses, and was kind and generous to all who knew her. As a Resident Assistant in her dormitory at Virginia Tech, she looked over and protected her fellow students and guided them through their daily experiences as young people just learning how to become independent adults. Caitlin will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and the campus community that she was such an important and cherished part of. I know all of my colleagues join me on this day of mourning in sending our thoughts and prayers to Caitlin's family and friends.

IN CELEBRATION OF HARRY
DAVIDIAN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I join my colleague Mr. DEVIN NUNES, and rise today to celebrate the 80th birthday of Mr. Harry Davidian, a wonderful husband, father, and community member.

Harry has an interesting life story. He was born on April 23, 1927 to Agavnie and Giragos Davidian. As the son of immigrants of Armenia, Harry looked out for his siblings, John and Hozanna. All three children attended Dinuba High School in Dinuba, CA. After high school, Harry served in the United States Army as a medic for 2 years and in 1948 received an honorable discharge.

In 1948, Harry met and married Laura Balakian. Throughout the years Laura has remained by Harry's side as his soul mate, confidant, and life partner. Together they had three beautiful daughters: Janice, Phyllis, and Rebecca.

As a life long entrepreneur, Harry furthered his interest in farming and created a partnership with George Zarounian, which became known as Zee & Dee. They became the largest shippers of Vine Ripe Tomatoes in the Nation. After much success they joined the Four-some Development Company in Monterey, with partners Ted Balestreri and Bert Cutino. The ultimate American dream was realized when they developed the Historic Cannery Row.

Family, friends, and travel are the great joys of Harry's life. He has been a philanthropist for various organization and communities, such as St. Mary Annenian Church in Yettem. Harry takes pride in being a strong community leader and godfather to Sharon, Karon, Aron, Michael, Debra, and Kevin. Throughout the many roads he has traveled here and abroad we thank him for the many lives he has touched along the way. It is for these reasons that we join Harry Davidian's family and friends in wishing him a blessed 80th birthday and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS HIGHLIGHTED THROUGH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 293, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week. This bill recognizes the beneficial effects of volunteerism in our Nation, and thanks the millions of individuals who have generously donated their time for charitable efforts.

Volunteerism is a hallmark of a civil and compassionate society, and since 1974, National Volunteer Week has consistently encouraged and supported the charitable and selfless contributions of America's volunteers. From the men and women feeding the hungry at the Chicago Food Depository to the volunteers that master information about Chicago's museums and cultural institutions, these individuals deserve our thanks for all of their hard work.

Last year alone, over 61 million Americans offered their time and effort to volunteer in a myriad of ways. These individuals recognized the vital importance of lending a helping hand to beneficent causes and donated their time and efforts in order to make a difference in their communities.

The striking importance of volunteerism was highlighted in the recovery efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast. The communal effort extended after these disasters exemplified the American spirit of fellowship and altruism, and provided the crucial support necessary to begin rebuilding homes and business in this battered region.

National Volunteer Week promotes these selfless acts and raises awareness of the need for personal involvement within America's communities. For this reason I celebrate and support this institution.

Madam Speaker, as we observe National Volunteer Week, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation for all of the efforts of our Nation's volunteers. Their work reflects the gracious and humanitarian character of the American Nation, and provides countless hours of service to valuable community organizations. I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H. Res. 293, in order to recognize the volunteers of America and National Volunteer Week.

HONORING SHULAMIT HOFFMANN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Shulamit Hoffman, a remarkable woman who has enriched my district as the founder and artistic director of Viva la Musica!, a 70-voice community choir. Since its inception in December 2001, this Bay Area based choir has performed a major work from the choral-orchestral repertoire each season, as well as traditional and multi-cultural choral selections. The choir has performed throughout the country and undertook its first European tour in December 2006 in illustrious venues in Vienna and Salzburg.

Ms. Hoffmann has held a litany of prestigious posts, most recently she was appointed as the conductor of Los Altos United Methodist Chancel Choir in 2002. In addition to singing regularly for Sunday services, LAUMC Choir has performed several major works in

concert and has undertaken two tours to the 2004 Kathaumixw in Canada, the 2005 Vermont International Choral Festival and, in 2006, an Alaskan singing cruise with Sir David Willcocks and Duaine Wolf.

As a music educator, Ms. Hoffmann has served as an adjunct faculty member of the College of San Mateo since 2002. She has been a member of the music faculties of the University of Notre Dame de Namur University in California, Idaho State University, Brigham Young University Extension in Idaho and University of Cape Town and University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. Several of her students are pursuing careers in music. Ms. Hoffmann holds a Master of Arts in Conducting and a Master of Music in Piano Performance. She has earned Licentiate Diplomas in Music from the University of South Africa and from the Royal Schools of Music in London.

She has served as president of branches of the Music Teachers' Association of California and of the National Federation of Music Clubs and she is a frequently invited competition judge and guest clinician.

Madam Speaker, the concerts Shulamit Hoffmann presents are generally sold out and appreciative audience members are enthralled with the musical quality of Viva la Musica! President and Mrs. John Oblak, of Notre Dame de Namur University, praised the excellence of the concerts when they were quoted as saying, "Viva performances exceed all expectations of choral music—they are creative, professional, stimulating and magical—and an absolute treat. We enjoy them personally and we are very proud to introduce friends of the University to this outstanding group."

Ms. Hoffmann's performances—as pianist and conductor—span a broad repertoire from Mozart to multi-cultural music, from the Renaissance to Prepared Piano. A particular interest of Ms. Hoffmann's is multi-media presentations of art, music and poetry. She is known for the skill, authority, imagination, daring, dazzle, and that dash of irresistible playfulness she brings to her musical endeavors. In her hands the conductor's baton becomes a magic wand, coaxing, coaching, and demanding the best of singers and orchestra alike.