

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, July 22, 2008.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I write to you regarding H.R. 3957, the "Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act." This legislation authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a research and development program to promote water use efficiency and conservation technologies and practices.

H.R. 3957 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forego a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 3957.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 3957 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Committee Report on H.R. 3957 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House Floor.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, July 22, 2008.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: Thank you for your July 22, 2008 letter regarding H.R. 3957, the Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction in H.R. 3957. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 3957 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD S. CHAMPION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and achievements of a great military officer and constituent of the Sixth District of Maryland—LTC Donald S. Champion. After over 29 years of long and distinguished service Colonel Champion will retire from his present position as Chief, Congressional Outreach Program in the Office of Air Force Reserve, Policy Integration Directorate, AF/REI, Pentagon, Washington DC. For the past 3 years Colonel Champion has been responsible for all legislative outreach as well as all legislative matters concerning Reserve Plans and Programs and Operations for the Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve Command.

Colonel Champion graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University receiving a bachelor of arts degree in communications and public relations. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1979. He attended undergraduate navigator training at Mather Air Force Base, California. Following graduation he attended F-4 Replacement Training Unit at Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, where he was a distinguished graduate. In 1984 he was selected to attend undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

After earning his wings he attended lead-in fighter training at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, where he was selected as Air to Air Top Gun. He was assigned to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia following training to fly the F-15C. There he served as a flight commander. He returned to the training world where he served as a T-37 Instructor Pilot at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. He went on to become a T-38 instructor pilot at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Throughout his distinguished career, Colonel Champion was consistently recognized for his outstanding performance and dedication to duty. For the past 3 years Colonel Champion has served as a liaison to the United States Congress where he well and faithfully represented the Air Force Reserve to the House and Senate. He was personally helpful to me and my staff during his tenure on the Reserve Staff at the Pentagon. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank Colonel Champion, and his daughters Kelsey and Lindsay, for their commitment and sacrifices made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an outstanding and successful career in service to our great Country.

HONORING ASBAREZ NEWSPAPER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Asbarez newspaper upon the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

Asbarez newspaper began publication in August of 1908 in Fresno, California. The publication began as a weekly paper that was committed to providing news and information to the Armenian-American community. In 1908, the focus of this community was the instability of the homeland. Throughout the years, Asbarez has reported on the ever-changing, and fragile, conditions of the Republic of Armenia. The paper covered the tragedy of the Armenian genocide, the triumph of the first independent republic, the growing pains of a community, the catastrophic earthquake, the fall of the Soviet Union, the Nagorno-Karabakh liberation struggle, the rise of the independent Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and the realities of the people of Javakhk in southern Georgia. Asbarez provides news, information, commentary, criticism, and thought.

On May 1, 1970, Asbarez began publishing its English section. During the early 1970s the offices and publishing headquarters moved to Los Angeles. Today, Asbarez is the largest and only bilingual newspaper serving the 750,000 plus Armenian-Americans in the western United States. It is published five times per week, Tuesday through Saturday. The newspaper also serves as voice for the community and is a source of information for Congress, libraries around the Nation and newsrooms of major media outlets. In 1997 Asbarez launched its Web site, keeping Armenians even more up to date with the issues that interest them the most. Asbarez has become a trusted source for news about the evolving Armenian realities.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Asbarez newspaper on 100 years of business. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Asbarez newspaper many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB THOMAS, SR.

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw our colleagues' attention to a gentleman and outstanding citizen who has demonstrated that long-term success is possible in America if one has a vision and is willing to work hard to turn it into reality. This gentleman has also devoted himself to the principles we celebrate here in our country—freedom to build a successful business, and loyalty to family and community.

Today I pay special recognition and honor to Bob Thomas, Sr., of Baker County, OR, a genuine "up by the bootstraps" livestock producer who never lost his vision for what the Angus cattle breed could become; a dedicated husband to his wife, Gloria, with whom he raised four very successful children; a leader

in his church, community, and industry—and a gentleman whose friends and neighbors have always been able to rely on.

Bob and Gloria moved to the Baker Valley of picturesque eastern Oregon in the early 1960's from New York, via Iowa. With them came their treasured seed stock for their line of Angus beef cattle. In the winter, Gloria fed the cows with young son Rob in the pickup. Bob was also working as a sales representative for Powder River Equipment, selling gates and ranch equipment to supplement their ranch income. They worked very hard to achieve their dream—a high quality herd of registered Angus cattle.

Their first purebred Angus sale was held in October, 1973 and throughout the years Bob and Gloria always made everyone feel like they were special to them because, in fact, they were special to them. Now, nearly 35 years later, that same high quality Angus breeding stock is sold in a 2-day sale in October, as well as a spring sale in March.

The Thomas family still shows the same hospitality and personal attention today as they did at their very first sale. Following in the footprints of Bob and Gloria, son Rob and his wife Lori continue the Thomas tradition as highly respected leaders in their industry and community. They maintain the same unwavering commitment to the high quality of their Angus line and service.

Madam Speaker, I want to especially honor Bob for his many years of dedication to and support of the people of Baker County and the rural way of life in eastern Oregon. His fellow citizens greatly appreciate his high principles, commitment to high quality and standards, and his friendship. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Bob Thomas, Sr.

CONGRATULATING POLLY TADLOCK ON BEING THE NAMESAKE OF POLLY TADLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Polly Tadlock of Frisco, TX for her many contributions as an educator in the North Texas area and Frisco Independent School District. Mrs. Tadlock was recently chosen as the namesake of Polly Tadlock Elementary School, a new facility in Frisco ISD.

Frisco ISD recommended the naming of a new facility for a former employee whose contributions have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Mrs. Tadlock has been noted for going above the call of duty with her willingness to help her students inside and outside of the classroom. She is known for following her students as they left the classroom and entered adulthood, creating lifelong relationships. According to Polly, "the lifelong relationships with students are the greatest rewards of all." Mrs. Tadlock taught for a total of 24 years in the North Texas area. She served the district of Frisco from 1968 to 1989, when she decided to retire.

Mrs. Tadlock was born in Ponder, TX, later moving to Fort Worth to continue her education. After receiving her bachelor's and mas-

ter's from Texas Women's University, Mrs. Tadlock began her teaching career in Pilot Point, TX, later spending the majority of her 24 years as an educator in the Frisco Independent School District.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor today to rise in recognition of Mrs. Tadlock, whose dedication to the students and families of Frisco has made her truly deserving of such an honor. Her devotion to her community serves as an inspiration and as an example to us all, and I am proud to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of The Polish American Congress. On September 28, 2008, The Polish American Congress will hold a "Terrorist Attack Memorial Service" to honor and commemorate the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre, as well as pay a tribute to those who perished on September 11, 2001.

In addition to carrying out the overall mission of the Polish American Congress, the New Jersey Division chooses to hold a memorial for the victims of both the Katyn Forest Massacre and the September 11, 2001 attacks on our country. The Katyn Forest Massacre occurred during World War 2 as a result of the Soviet Union's persecution of thousands during the communist era. The September 11th attacks on the United States claimed more than 3,000 lives. The New Jersey Division of the Polish American Congress has taken it as their mission to commemorate the lives lost in both incidents.

The Polish American Congress is an umbrella organization, with over 3,000 clubs that exist to serve various levels and aspects of the Polish communities of the United States. They promote different areas of education and cultural programs to further the knowledge of Polish history, as well as to stimulate Polish American involvement in their community.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for the leadership, commitment, and service that the Polish American Congress has demonstrated in their existence throughout the community.

HONORING SISTER JOAN FOLEY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Joan Foley, who is the recipient of the Seven Springs Rotary Club's prestigious Paul Harris Award. Sister Foley has always put service above self in a lifelong commitment and passion to helping the communities around her.

Sister Foley joined the Medical Mission Sisters in 1954 to help solve health care issues in lesser-developed parts of the world. She began her mission in Pakistan, where she supervised a busy clinical lab and trained many

young Pakistanis. Sister Foley later became involved in several community health care networks focusing on rural and minority populations in the United States. She then served for 6 years as the Coordinator of Medical Mission Sister's Eastern District and currently is the Sector Coordinator in North America.

In 1991, Sister Foley sought out a new mission in Florida's Pasco County. She saw a need to help local jobseekers find employment regardless of age, income, background, or education. Sister Foley first started the Connections program in her car to help individuals manage their job search and connect with area employers. Today, the program has grown substantially but still offers free one-on-one assistance and many other resources to jobseekers. Sister Foley stepped down as director of Connections this past spring; however, her vision will continue to enrich the community.

Madam Speaker, I am truly honored to recognize Sister Foley's mission that has improved the lives of people all over the world. For nearly 20 years she has made Pasco County a better place by providing new hopes and better futures. The Paul Harris Award is a wonderful recognition of her hard work and devotion.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN ROBBIANO, RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mary Ann Robbiano, a dear friend and a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, The Heart of the Matter, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Mary Anne Robbiano was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the Award for her dedication to the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Mother of three adult children, Kay (SHP 1972), Paul, and Angie (SHP 1976), Mrs. Robbiano began her relationship with Sacred Hearts Schools when her oldest daughter entered kindergarten in 1960. She was the school nurse from 1968 until 1976, and dealt with many different problems and situations including comforting homesick, boarders, tending to skinned knees, broken bones, colds and flues. Each child was treated as if she were her own daughter. Oakwood, the home for the retired Religious of the Sacred Heart, was built in 1976 and Mrs. Robbiano was asked to be