

She earned a Masters of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh in 1985 and continued on as a distinguished graduate from military and health programs such as Health Services Administration, Squadron Officer School, Contingency Wartime Planning, and Joint Medical Planning. She also attended programs such as the Air Command and Staff College, Air War College, and Interagency Institute for Healthcare Executives at George Washington University.

Throughout her career, Colonel Ebling enhanced medical services in the U.S. military by working in numerous positions of medical services, support, management, operations, and planning. She is currently the Director of Medical Readiness for the Office of the Surgeon General, Headquarters United States Air Force at Bolling Air Force Base and the Pentagon, Washington, DC. Prior to serving with the Air Staff, she worked as Commander of the 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from 2004 through 2006. During this assignment, she also served as Commander to 332nd Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron and Administrator to the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, deploying to the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Prior to entering the Air Force, Colonel Ebling engaged in clinical practice as a Certified Physician Assistant from 1977–1986, working in Family Medicine Clinics in rural Pennsylvania, Industrial Medicine at the United States Steel Corporation, and Internal Medicine Services at the University of Pittsburgh. She also volunteered for medical mission work in rural areas of Haiti during 1984 and 1985. In 1986, Colonel Ebling received a direct commission to the Air Force as a Medical Service Corps Officer. She has served at Air Staff, MAJCOM, MacDill Air Force Base, and in various chief administrative and operational assignments, including AFSOC, AFMOA, 16th Operations Group, and joint special operations.

To recognize Colonel Ebling's extensive experience and powerful influence on medical support to the United States Air Force, she has received numerous awards. She is the recipient of the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal (6 OLC), the Air Force Achievement Medal (2 OLC), and the Air Force Commendation Medal. She is also the recipient of the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (OLC), Humanitarian Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air & Space Campaign Medal, and Iraqi Campaign Medal. She is also a member of Delta Omega, Omicron Chapter, a national society of academic excellence and leadership in public health, and was inducted into Thiel College's Athletic Hall of Fame. Due to her profound commitment and hard work, the United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) recognized her as the Medical Readiness Officer of the Year in 1988. She also earned the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) Commitment to Service Award in 1999, and the Air Combat Command (ACC) Commitment to Service Award in 2001.

Madam Speaker, COL Linda Ebling is a woman of the highest regard who has dedicated her life to the medical support and operations our brave men and women need out on the battlefield and when they return home. I am sure that I join many others in applauding

her significant contribution to the Air Force Medical Services throughout her 22-year career.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 106-392 TO EXTEND THE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE UPPER COLORADO AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today that will extend authorization of the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin fish recovery programs. I am pleased to be joined in doing so by Representatives MARK UDALL, JOHN SALAZAR, JIM MATHESON, MARILYN MUSGRAVE, DIANA DEGETTE, and HEATHER WILSON.

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program were established under cooperative agreements as multiagency partnerships in 1988 and 1992, respectively.

This bill will allow the continuation of two already very successful programs. Established in 1988 and 1992, the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program are run as partnerships between water users. These partners include the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; Bureau of Reclamation; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Western Area Power Administration; Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Southern Ute Indian Tribe; Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; Jicarilla Apache Nation; Navajo Nation; environmental organizations; water users; and power customers. The cooperation and compromise that emerges from the union of such diverse parties has been key to the past success of these programs, and to the preservation of western fish species.

State, tribal, and community partnerships have allowed these fish recovery programs to succeed without compromising the rights and wellbeing of surrounding communities and water users. Recovery programs have actually helped 1,600 Federal, tribal, and non-Federal water projects meet Endangered Species Act, ESA, compliance in their consumption of three million acre-feet of San Juan and Colorado River basin water per year. Passage of this bill would help ensure the recovery of endangered fish and the continued compliance of water users to ESA standards. Water and fish habitat, so scarce in the arid West, can only properly be managed through the kind of cooperation and coordination that is made possible by the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Improvement Act.

Upper Colorado and San Juan River basin recovery programs focus on four fish species, including humpback chub, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker. Successful restoration projects have included the construction of fish passages, fish screens, hatcheries, flood plain and instream habitat, and even a reservoir to provide flow augmentation.

These facilities, costing approximately \$100 million to date, will require rehabilitation and replacement into the future as the natural impact of floods and debris wears on them. Extended authorization and increased funding, as included in this bill, will allow for continued upkeep of these facilities, and completion of other habitat preservation projects.

With bills such as this, we are clearing a sound path for addressing our future water scarcity issues. Through the programs authorized in this bill, western water users are able to gain access to this vital resource while not compromising the habitat and survival of the species who share that water.

HONORING SEAN CHARLES DOBBINS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Charles Dobbins of Kansas City, Missouri. Sean is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1271, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean Charles Dobbins for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOHN "JACK" PATRICK GILLESPIE

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of the late Jack Gillespie. This American, immigrant, veteran, and patriot passed away on April 17th, 2008. Today would have been his 87th birthday and, in his honor, I would like to submit for the record the eulogy his son Ed read at his funeral on April 22nd of this year.

In November 1929, young John Patrick Gillespie—called Sean at the time—left his home by the Eanybeg stream at the base of Carnaween Mountain to head into Donegal Town with his mother and brothers and sisters.

He was beginning a journey to a new life in a wonderful place where he would find happiness, achieve glory, and eventually discover waiting for him there the woman he was meant to be one with.

By the time he came to be called "Jack" in his new country, he had figured out what success in America required.

He may have read some tips on board the *Lititia*, the steamer on which he spent two

weeks crossing from Ireland to Ellis Island. Many of the boats that sailed that route posted in their galleys a notice with the heading, "Advice to Irish Emigrants."

The posting included these words: "In America, a man's success must altogether rest with himself—it will depend on his industry, sobriety, diligence and virtue . . . and he may rationally expect to raise himself in the world by his labour."

People who met Jack Gillespie quickly realized that their friend or coworker or fellow soldier was extremely diligent, very industrious, generally virtuous and—most of the time sober. And he certainly wasn't afraid of labor.

His high school sweetheart Conny Carroll noticed something else about him—something other pretty lasses tended to notice too. He was a strikingly handsome man.

She wrote to him regularly during the war, and clipped newspaper articles on the progress of the 28th Infantry—the famed and feared "bloody buckets"—and kept the clips in a scrap book.

Sergeant John Patrick Gillespie fought for the cause of freedom. He fought for the honor of his country. And though he never fought for the sake of glory, at war's end he was draped in it.

After landing in France, his Company L was among the first to confront the hedgerows that made a patchwork of the French countryside. His commanding officers spent days hunkered down trying to figure out how to advance over the thick, eight-foot-high lines of brush that separated them from an enemy whose size and strength they had no way of knowing.

Eventually a frustrated, impatient Sergeant Gillespie carved toeholds into the knotted hedgerow and told his lieutenant to listen for him after he went over the top.

When this fearless soldier dropped to the ground on the other side, he began firing his weapon to find—nobody firing back. Sixty years later, when asked what he did to get his Bronze Star, he laughingly said, "Nothing, really."

Of course, it wasn't for nothing. Nor was his subsequent Silver Star for Valor in Combat, earned saving a wounded platoon mate, or the Purple Heart for the bullets that ripped through both his legs in the Hurtgen Forest.

He was a successful salesman and a savvy entrepreneur willing to take risks—but calculated ones. He said he never took a chance in business unless he assessed better-than-60 percent odds for success. And he won a lot more often than he lost.

He was an opinion leader in his community. Bobby Kennedy was once asked how his brother Jack won the Democratic nomination in 1960. He said that when other campaigns went in to organize a town, they'd ask, "Who's the Mayor?" or "Who's the county party chairman," or "who's the Chamber of Commerce President?" And we always asked, "Who's the man to see?"

For a long time in this community, Jack Gillespie was the man to see.

What he cared most about was his family—his wife and children.

He was a devoted husband. As a father, he was a disciplinarian who gave the greatest gift you can give your children: unconditional love.

And sage advice. If Jack Gillespie said "that's a good house," you should buy it. If he said "you can't trust that guy," you couldn't. If he said "you ought to marry that girl," you ought to.

Because of the guidance and advice he gave to me, I have been able to give guidance and advice to Congressmen, Senators, governors, Supreme Court Justices, prime ministers and, yes, the President of the United States of America.

Remarkable men and women, all. Yet I never felt intimidated in their presence.

You see, the most remarkable man I've ever known lies before us here today.

John Patrick Gillespie has left home again—on a journey to a new life in a wonderful place, where he will find happiness and achieve eternal glory. And waiting for him there, the woman he was meant to be one with.

Farewell, poor immigrant.

Farewell, successful businessman.

Farewell, brave soldier.

Farewell, loving husband, son, brother, uncle, grandfather, and friend.

Farewell, Dad.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND COULEE DAM

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the building of Grand Coulee Dam.

If you have ever visited Grand Coulee Dam you know just how impressive of a structure it is. It is the largest concrete structure in the United States with enough concrete to build a sidewalk around the world—twice. During the summer, you can learn the history of the Columbia River by watching a laser light show displayed on the dam.

Although Grand Coulee Dam initially helped us win World War II it continues to play a critical role in the national and economic security of the United States by providing vital electric power and water to grow our food.

The Pacific Northwest serves as an example of good energy policy. You can't get any better than clean, renewable hydropower. As the Ranking Republican on the Water and Power Subcommittee, I am working hard to tell the good news story about hydropower.

That is why I was so pleased to see the Today Show highlighting Grand Coulee Dam and the positive impact it has had in the Pacific Northwest and more specifically Spokane.

Hydroelectric dams across the West and especially in Washington State have provided us with an abundant supply of clean, affordable, and renewable energy. In fact, dams provide nearly two-thirds of our state's electricity. These dams have kept the Pacific Northwest's "carbon footprint" at half that of the rest of the Nation. Removal of the four lower Snake River dams would add 5.4 million tons of CO₂ to the atmosphere each year and it would take three nuclear, six coal-fired, or 14 gas fired power plants to replace their electricity generation.

At a time of growing energy demand, it makes no sense to throw this energy source away. I am committed, as we move forward with the debate on global climate change, and how to reduce our carbon emissions, that hydropower be recognized for the important role it has played in the Pacific Northwest.

In addition, the water provided from the Columbia Basin Project, supplies more than 500,000 acres of farmland and helps make Washington second only to California in the number of crops grown totaling more than 250 different commodities.

TRIBUTE TO PAT O'BRIEN, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues ELLEN TAUSCHER, BARBARA LEE, PETE STARK, and JERRY MCNERNEY in honoring Pat O'Brien for his many accomplishments and contributions to the East Bay Regional Park District, a world-class system of parks and trails throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Pat O'Brien has provided remarkable leadership as the General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, and our congressional districts have been greatly enhanced by his two decades of service. On the 20th anniversary of his leadership there, it is our great privilege to pay tribute to his work in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

His service to public parks and recreation in California began at the Southgate Recreation and Park District in the Sacramento area. Due to his innovative ideas and pioneering work at Southgate, he was hired as the East Bay Regional Park District's General Manager. Over the next 20 years, Pat has accomplished more than many could in a lifetime of service.

Under his leadership, the Park District has acquired over 32,000 acres of new parklands, and has added 17 parks and more than 100 miles of regional trails. The East Bay Regional Park District today includes 98,000 acres and 65 parks, a remarkable achievement in protecting and providing open space access to the citizens of one of the densely developed regions of the country. And while expanding to ensure that all of our communities are served, Pat O'Brien and the East Bay Regional Park District have built strong relationships throughout the region so that their important projects and initiatives have widespread support.

The East Bay Regional Park District during Pat O'Brien's tenure has been a wise steward not only over the parks, trails, and natural and cultural resources of the East Bay Area, but of the taxpayers' money as well. The Park District has brought in more than \$75 million in matching funds, and they have worked through ballot measures and assessment districts to provide stable funding for their good work.

Pat O'Brien's public service is an example to us all, and we are lucky to have his vision and his commitment in the East Bay. We have all benefitted by his leadership, and on behalf of all of our constituents, it is an honor to recognize Pat O'Brien on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District.

RECOGNIZING THE JERSEY CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Jersey City