

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BUCK YOUNG

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul Edward Moore, better known to his friends as Buck. Buck's untimely death in a motorcycle accident is a tragic loss to his family, community, and indeed the nation.

Buck was the founder of Riders Against Illegal Aliens, an advocacy group dedicated to immigration reform and preserving American sovereignty. Buck led numerous rallies protesting the influx of illegal immigration, the unjust incarceration of Border Patrol agents Ramos and Compean, and the government's lack of will to enforce immigration laws. He will be missed.

Madam Speaker, I want to express my sincerest condolences to Buck's friends and family. He was a dedicated patriot and will not be forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF MENDOTA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO MINNESOTA STATEHOOD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, as Minnesota celebrates its 150th anniversary of statehood this year, I rise to pay special tribute to the place where it all began.

Without the town of Mendota, there would be no Minnesota. Almost 200 years ago, Fort Snelling, the first U.S. outpost in the region, was established at this confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. As trappers and Native Americans came to the fort to conduct trade and commerce, a settlement sprang up outside its walls. The settlers called their community "Mendota," a Dakota word meaning "where the waters meet."

Mendota was one of the first permanent communities in Minnesota, and its residents would play a pivotal role in the path to statehood and the following 150 years of State history.

Henry Sibley arrived in Mendota in 1834 and built the first stone house in the State, which still stands today. Mr. Sibley became a leader in local politics, going to Congress and guiding Minnesota to territory status by 1849, then leading the push toward statehood. When Minnesota became a State in 1858, Mr. Sibley served as the first governor.

St. Paul, the city which I call home, also owes a special debt of gratitude to another, more colorful Mendota resident. In 1832, Mr. "Pig's Eye" Parrant established an infamous distillery in Mendota, but was soon kicked out

of the town for selling liquor to Fort Snelling soldiers and Indians.

"Pig's Eye" headed about five miles down the Mississippi River to start a new settlement, named in his own honor. Over the following decades, that community would blossom into Minnesota's thriving capital city—and thankfully receive a new name: St. Paul.

The city of Mendota has thrived throughout Minnesota's history. Today, it remains a unique, vibrant, close-knit community, overflowing with historic landmarks. Our sesquicentennial celebrations would not be complete without recognizing Mendota's contributions to Minnesota's story.

I know that visitors will be delighted by what they discover and learn in Mendota through many more State sesquicentennials to come.

HONORING BILL SANTUCCI

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bill Santucci, who sadly passed away on May 7, 2008. Bill was a lifelong resident of Roseville, CA, and served his community for over 20 years as an elected official. His vision and leadership in the city of Roseville and Placer County enabled the region to accommodate a period of rapid growth and improve the quality of life for residents in the area.

In Roseville, Bill served on and chaired both the Roseville Project Review Committee and the Roseville Planning Commission. He also served for a year on Roseville's personnel board. Bill was first appointed and then elected to the Roseville City Council for two terms, including four years as Mayor. In 1988, after raising over \$30,000 for their work, the American Cancer Society named Bill Man of the Year. Then in 1990, the Roseville Sons of Italy Lodge named Bill Citizen of the Year.

Bill Santucci was first elected to the Placer County Board of Supervisors in 1995. He served on the board for 12 years, serving as board chair twice. Bill's effectiveness and support were evident, as he ran unopposed for reelection in 1998 and 2002. As a county supervisor, Bill consistently championed the needs of his constituents while also being a strong advocate for the interests of the county as a whole. Bill's impact as a community leader was immediately apparent, as he aided residents whose homes were flooded shortly after he took office by raising the elevation of homes in flood zones and ensuring that new homes would not be vulnerable to flooding. Bill understood the importance of a solid infrastructure, helping the smaller towns he represented to install sewer lines and working to secure Federal funding for important transportation projects. He was also an advocate for the preservation of open space throughout the county, working to construct new parks.

On June 25, Bill will be honored as the new Justice Center in Roseville is dedicated in his name. This is a fitting tribute to a man who spent his life making Placer County a better place to live, work, and visit. My thoughts and prayers are with Bill's wife, Norma and his son, David. Bill's accomplishments will carry on, and his example will benefit the region for years to come.

MOURNING THE VICTIMS OF CYCLONE NARGIS IN BURMA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart after receiving news of the devastating Cyclone Nargis which struck Burma this past weekend.

As of today there have been over 100,000 reported dead or missing in Burma, and millions more remain in dire conditions as a result of the storm. Especially concerning is the capability of the nation's ruling military junta to assist the populace in transmitting much needed food, water, and medical supplies within a reasonable time frame. There have already been reports that the repressive regime has been slow to provide this needed assistance.

The United States and the international community must expedite humanitarian assistance to Burma and press the government to open up to aid from the global community and assist in its distribution. A rapid response can help ensure this tragedy does not expand into a national catastrophe for the people of Burma.

At this time I urge my colleagues to support any measures which extend aid to the people of Burma. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of Burma who must mourn the loss of so many loved ones, and must now rebuild their lives and their country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RIO GRANDE PUEBLOS IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVE- MENT ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Mr. TOM UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, my district in Northern New Mexico is home to a number of Native American tribes. Stretching through the Rio Grande Basin are 18 Pueblo Indian communities who for centuries and countless generations have depended on that precious and rare commodity in the west—water. Water has always been an essential component of the traditions and day to day practices of these rich cultures, but as communities have grown and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

new peoples have come to also rely on New Mexico's scarce supply of water, new approaches to its management have become necessary. Recent reports from the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Government Accounting Office have identified a state of disrepair among the Pueblo irrigation networks, and a gap in the Bureau of Indian Affairs' capacity to maintain these systems. The Rio Grande Pueblos Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Act seeks to address this issue of fundamental importance to New Mexico tribes.

A 2000 report by the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs entitled Pueblo Irrigation Facilities Rehabilitation Report determined that a significant percentage of Pueblo irrigation works are in disrepair. Additionally, a recent GAO Report (GAO-06-314) on Bureau of Indian Affairs' irrigation program also made clear that the agency has not had the financial and technical resources to maintain irrigation systems on Indian land. The lack of financial and technical resources within the Bureau of Indian Affairs is further compounded by the Department of the Interior's view that maintenance of Indian irrigation systems is not an obligation pursuant to its trust responsibility. The result is continued degradation of agricultural systems in Indian Country and no identifiable program to address irrigation infrastructure problems on Pueblo land.

Because a significant percentage of Pueblo irrigation works are in disrepair, and because of the Pueblos' inability to use land that was historically irrigated, there is an inefficient use of the limited water supplies available to the Pueblos. In the arid west, water inefficiencies impact everyone negatively. If the Pueblos lose this precious resource due to inefficiencies, it is a loss for the surrounding communities as well, and to New Mexico as a whole.

The Rio Grande Pueblos Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Act will direct the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to work with the 18 Pueblos in the Rio Grande basin to first assess Pueblo irrigation infrastructure, and then initiate projects to rehabilitate and repair such infrastructure on Pueblo lands. It will be left to the individual Pueblo Councils to determine their interest in partnering with the Department of Interior to carry out a study of irrigation infrastructure and to carry out rehabilitation projects.

This legislation requires the Bureau of Reclamation to work with the Pueblos, rather than the Bureau of Indian Affairs, because of the lack of relevant resources within the BIA, as well as its historical lack of attention to this issue. The Bureau of Reclamation has a technical expertise in water infrastructure that will be invaluable to the Pueblos. Moreover, the activity authorized in the bill is consistent with Reclamation's Water 2025 program. While the expertise at the Bureau of Reclamation is key to filling the technical gap in irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation, it is recognized that there are limited resources available within Reclamation, and that every initiative functions better when the flexibility of collaboration and cost sharing is a possibility. As such, the bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers to identify opportunities to use the authorities of those agencies to collaborate on projects satisfactory to all involved.

As America moves into an era of climate change and resource scarcity, it is essential that areas such as the arid west mobilize creative new initiatives to address the new water resources needs. The Rio Grande Pueblos Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Act is one piece of the water puzzle that impacts New Mexico, and our nation as a whole.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 8, I missed the vote on rollcall No. 302. Had I voted I would have voted "aye."

HONORING CHIEF STANDING BEAR ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1043, which honors the life and legacy of Chief Standing Bear on the 100th anniversary of his death.

Chief Standing Bear is an important figure in our Nation's civil rights movement. He was born in what is now Nebraska, where his tribe, the Ponca, was forced to leave by a Federal treaty in 1878. The young chief led his tribe to the Indian Territory of Oklahoma, an inhospitable region that killed many of his members, including his own son. Determined to bury his son on Ponca soil, Chief Standing Bear returned to Nebraska, where he was arrested by Federal authorities.

His case went to Federal court in 1879, where prosecutors argued that Native Americans were not considered people under the Constitution. Impressed with Chief Standing Bear's impassioned defense, the judge ruled he was indeed a citizen with full Constitutional rights. Thanks to this significant legal precedent, the Ponca were allowed to return home and better lands were given to Native American tribes.

Chief Standing Bear's story won the attention and sympathy of many throughout the United States. At a time when tribal rights were ignored and abused, Chief Standing Bear stood up for justice.

On this 100th anniversary of Chief Standing Bear's death, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to honor this man of courage and integrity and his important role in our Nation's continuing struggle for justice and equality.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS IN ANNISTON, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the dedicated workforce of the Center for Domestic Preparedness, CDP, in Anniston, Alabama, who on June 3 will celebrate the facility's 10th anniversary.

On June 1, 1998, the Center opened its doors to America's first responders. Over the past 10 years, the more than 1,000 men and women of the CDP have offered cutting-edge training to first responders from all 50 States and every U.S. territory. Through the years, the Center's unique training capabilities have focused on mission-critical emergency management skills and training using live hazardous materials. CDP's hands-on approach builds skills and confidence that can save American lives in a homeland security crisis.

Since its inception, the Center has expanded its facilities and mission to better meet the needs of first responders. The addition of the Noble Training Facility, NTF, in 2007 gave CDP the only medical facility in the United States dedicated to training health care professionals in disaster response. NTF adds new training resources and two prototype mass casualty decontamination lanes to the Center's training arsenal. Today the CDP serves an essential role within the Department of Homeland Security for helping provide unique training that ultimately helps keep our communities safe.

I am pleased to recognize the staff of the Center for Domestic Preparedness today for reaching this important milestone, and look forward to witnessing its next decade of growth and service to our Nation.

HONORING THE ST. PAUL CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Science Bowl team at St. Paul Central High School for their outstanding achievements at the State and national level. The students and coaches of Central High School deserve our congratulations.

In February, the team won its first-ever State championship. Coach Randy Knoche and his students, Daniel Monahan, Elwood McCreary, Jennifer Wei, Jon Schellengberg and Martin Camacho, are to be commended for their dedication and competitive spirit. As Minnesota State champions, the team qualified for the National Science Bowl in Washington, DC.

The 4-day competition that ended on May 5 was a benefit for the students and our community. Renewing student interest in science,