

My wife Barbara and I, my sons Councilman Joe Baca Jr. and Jeremy, and my daughters Natalie and Jennifer cherish their friendship, and are appreciative of all they have done over the years to create positive change in the Inland Empire.

In fact, I gave Eloise Reyes a "Woman of the Year" award in 1993, when I was in the California State Legislature. She was recognized for all her great work in the community, and for being a true trailblazer as the first Hispanic, female attorney in the Inland Empire.

Madam Speaker, my good friend Frank Reyes has lived a true life of service. He is a perfect example of what one can achieve with hard work, dedication, faith in God, and love in family and friends. My family and I congratulate him on a wonderful career, and wish him nothing but the best in retirement.

WHITMAN HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER OF COLVILLE, WASHINGTON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Whitman Hospital and Medical Center in Colville, Washington. Whitman Hospital, founded in 1893, has carried out its mission of providing medical care to members of the rural community in Northeast Washington for over 115 years.

Whitman Hospital and Medical Center is dedicated to assuring medical service is provided in accordance with its core values of respect, compassion, teamwork, stewardship, and responsiveness to the community. In addition to emergency services and surgery, the Medical Center operates a variety of clinics to support non-critical community health, such as allergy, cardiology, neurology, and ear, nose and throat conditions. The Whitman Hospital and Medical Center also provides opportunities for health education through classes, programs, and training seminars. The hospital proved its resilience by winning the "Top 100 Benchmark Hospital" award in 1994 and 1995 despite nearly closing due to financial difficulties in the late 1980s. Whitman Hospital and Medical Center's employees have contributed to providing the rural counties of Northeast Washington the kinds of healthcare options often only available in large urban centers.

Currently in the second stage of a \$19 million building and expansion project, the hospital and medical center continues to strive to provide better and more varied healthcare options. In its first stage of construction, the hospital constructed a new facility to house a 25-bed inpatient center, labor and delivery rooms, and radiology clinic. The current construction stage, scheduled for completion in late summer, 2009, involves remodeling several current operations, such as the respiratory therapy clinic and pharmacy.

Madam Speaker, I believe the ongoing efforts to provide excellent medical assistance to the counties of Northeast Washington make the Whitman Hospital and Medical Center worthy of recognition before this body. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Whitman Hospital and Medical Center by observing over 115 years of continuing dedication to community health services and education.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the manager's amendment put forth by Chairman DICKS to H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. This manager's amendment incorporates an amendment I offered to allow funds appropriated to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to be used as the non-Federal share of the cost of certain environmental restoration projects that repair acid mine drainage from coal abandoned mines.

For many years, the Interior Appropriations bill authorized OSM to provide matching funds for federally-funded projects related to treatment or abatement of acid mine drainage from abandoned mines. The language was inadvertently removed from the appropriations bill several years ago and today I am pleased that Chairman DICKS agreed to collect this oversight by restoring this important provision in the fiscal year 2010 legislation.

Communities that are impacted by environmental damage related to abandoned mines tend to be in economically distressed areas of the country. These communities have small budgets and little, if any, money for environmental restoration projects. Furthermore, the economic downturn has caused budget shortfalls for many municipalities and providing basic services such as police and fire protection takes precedent over environmental restoration.

Permitting OSM to use these funds to serve as the local match will help meet the department's mission of ensuring that citizens and the environment are protected during mining and that the land is restored to beneficial use when mining is finished. This provision will not cost the federal government any additional dollars.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman DICKS for including my amendment in this legislation and urge my colleagues to support this manager's amendment.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROOKFIELD ZOO, COOK COUNTY, IL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Located in Cook County,

just outside Chicago and in my district, Brookfield Zoo has consistently been a leader in cutting edge animal science, zoo management and education programs. The zoo has been and will continue to be a wonderful resource for the people of metropolitan Chicago, the State of Illinois and beyond. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Brookfield Zoo on the occasion this distinguished anniversary.

Brookfield Zoo, owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and managed by the Chicago Zoological Society, has a stated mission to "inspire conservation leadership by connecting people with wildlife." It plays host to 2.1 million visitors annually, and cares for 3000 animals representing 450 different animal species.

Brookfield Zoo first opened to the public in 1934. Following the overwhelming approval of a referendum by the people of Cook County, construction began on the Zoo in 1926. While the onset of the Great Depression hindered progress, the federal Civil Works Administration (CWA) assisted in completing construction of the Zoo, and today many of the original, historic CWA buildings remain in use at the Zoo.

Brookfield Zoo has been an innovative leader among zoos. Notably, the zoo was one of the first "bar-less" zoos in North America. A revolution among zoos began in Europe in 1900, where cramped cages were disdained in favor of spacious enclosures, surrounded by moats and landscaped in natural settings. This was based on the belief that 'animals should be exhibited in as near natural conditions as possible', for the benefit of both the animal and the viewing public. Brookfield Zoo was designed with this modern concept in mind, and creatively overcame the challenges involved in maintaining safe, cageless environments in the northern climate of Chicago. Today, exhibits maintain their modern approach through a focus on ecosystems, incorporating native plants into animals' habitats.

Another "first" was the creation of a specific Children's Playground at the Zoo in 1937, which was later formalized into the Children's Zoo in 1953. This facility provided children not only with a location to play, but also enabled them to interact with animals, including goats, ducks, and lambs. Following the successful development of these facilities, Brookfield Zoo became the first zoo in North America to exhibit giant pandas in 1937, to breed black rhinos (1941) and okapi (1959) in captivity, and created the first inland "Dolphinarium" in 1960. It was also among the first to open a zoo animal hospital and to launch animal nutrition programs.

Just like millions of others, I have fond memories of Brookfield Zoo from my childhood. Growing up in Chicago, I was a member of the zoo for many years when I was in grade school and high school. It was a fun and safe place to go at all times of the year. Although I did not think about it at the time, I received a great education at Brookfield Zoo, including learning about not only animals and habitats around the world, but also the environment and environmental stewardship.

Education is something that Brookfield Zoo is strongly committed to. Last year, 250,000 students participated in school field trips to Brookfield Zoo, and more than 1,700 teachers participated in training and certification programs there as well. Facilities such as Brookfield Zoo are important sources of informal

science education, which can develop interest among children in future technological and scientific scholarship and careers. Brookfield Zoo has a remarkable research and professional training program organized under the Center for the Science of Animal Well-Being. Through the Chicago Zoological Society, field programs are sponsored and undertaken, now including long-term research on bottle nose dolphins, western lowland gorillas, and African lions, among other species.

I would like to commend Brookfield Zoo, as well as the Chicago Zoological Society, on their successful completion of 75 years of operation, and their continuing efforts to promote conservation leadership through education, research and family enjoyment. Congratulations on this notable anniversary, and I wish Brookfield Zoo and its dedicated staff and leadership many more years of success, effective research, and valuable education and outreach.

STATEMENT ON JANE MARGARET O'BRIEN AND TORRE MERINGOLO

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the efforts of two individuals who have been key in the success of St. Mary's College of Maryland. Unfortunately, both of them have chosen to move on to new challenges and will be leaving this summer, so I wanted to reflect on the incredible contributions they have both made to the College.

Jane Margaret O'Brien leaves as the president of St. Mary's College of Maryland, having served in that capacity since 1996. Maggie is a personal friend and I want to salute her years of leadership as President, along with Torre Meringolo, who has served during much of that time as Vice President for Development. Together, they brought to St. Mary's College a strong reputation for excellence in scholarship, research, and community engagement.

Dr. O'Brien received her bachelor's degree from Vassar College in 1975 with a major in biochemistry. She completed a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Delaware in 1981. In her early academic career she was a member of the chemistry and biochemistry department at Middlebury College where she also served as dean of the faculty. She was president of Hollins University from 1991–96.

Dr. O'Brien received a Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship from 1989–92, served as an International Fellow with the American Association of Colleges and Universities in 1990–91, and was an Eisenhower Fellow to Malaysia and Hungary in 1999. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the science honors society Sigma Xi. After stepping down as president, Dr. O'Brien will continue to work for the College with the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Oxford, England.

Dr. O'Brien assumed her post in July 1996 and dedicated herself and the College to the newly adopted Honors College Curriculum. She provided critical guidance to the College's external relations and fundraising, which included the \$40 million Heritage Campaign in support of the faculty's academic leadership, the extension of the residential college, and

the enhancement of community programs. Fundraising during Dr. O'Brien's tenure reshaped the College's scholarships, professorships, lecture and learning series, and arts, athletic, and community programs. External support made possible the Paul H. Nitze Scholars Program, the annual River Concert Series, over 40 new scholarships, nine endowed professorships and chairs, and many student and faculty awards presented at the annual Awards Convocation.

The Center for the Study of Democracy was established with a \$2 million NEH grant and challenge matches. Private funds now support the William Donald Schaefer Internships, the Ben Bradley Lectures, the Andrew Goodpaster Lecture Series and the Patuxent Defense Forum.

In honoring the successful accomplishments at St. Mary's College under Maggie's leadership, we should also recognize the accomplishments of Torre Meringolo, who has been instrumental in carrying out much of Maggie's vision for the College. Torre also leaves this month after serving most of his 15 years at St. Mary's College as the Vice President for Development. He has accepted the position of vice president for university advancement and external relations at the University of Maryland Washington.

Torre leaves a proud record of accomplishment at St. Mary's. Hired originally as director of the library and information services, he directed a comprehensive modernization effort that encompassed library partnerships with the University of Maryland System, raised \$2 million for library endowment, and provided the foundation for a contemporary IT system. Torre's previous employment at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Penn State University, and UNC Charlotte brought a strong knowledge of information systems to St. Mary's, which he deftly adapted for a smaller-scale campus with modest resources.

In concert with Trustee Terry Rubenstein, chair of the board's development committee, Torre led a professional development team that successfully completed a \$40.4 million campaign. During his time, endowment funds at the College grew to over \$24 million. Torre worked to create a modern, professionally run Foundation, which granted over \$16 million for the College's programs over the past 10 years. His passion for supporting students with financial needs made possible the graduation of many alumni.

Under Torre's leadership, the Alumni Office now serves 11,000 proud alumni with regular events and mailings to keep alumni involved and informed. His work has led to the creation of major campus events such as Reunion Weekend, Governor's Cup, Madrigals, and now the River Concert Series on the Townhouse Greens, all successful programs that bring thousands of alumni and friends to the College annually.

As Maggie O'Brien and Torre Meringolo depart, St. Mary's College is today a nationally recognized leader. Newsweek has called it "an Ivy-level College with a public-school price tag." It is now consistently ranked as one of the best liberal arts schools in the nation by U.S. News and World Report, and the Princeton Review named it a "best value college" this year.

I want to congratulate Maggie and Torre for their contributions to higher education. Their accomplishments at St. Mary's College of

Maryland have greatly benefitted their community and our State of Maryland. Both of them will be sorely missed.

HONORING CAPTAIN MARK GINDA FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Mark S. Ginda, who, after three years of service as Commanding Officer at Naval Submarine Base New London, will be moving on to his new position at the Defense Liaison Division in Washington, DC.

Captain Mark Ginda has served our nation through his service in the Submarine force since 1982, when he graduated from the United States Naval Academy. He went on to serve on the USS George C. Marshall (SSBN 654), USS Alexander Hamilton (SSBN 617), USS Sand Lance (SSN 660) and commanded the USS Pasadena (SSN 752). Back on shore, Captain Ginda served as an instructor at Naval Nuclear Power School, flag aide to the Commander of the Atlantic Fleet, directed readiness preparations at Submarine Squadron FIFTEEN in Guam, helped to coordinate intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) resources at the United States Strategic Command.

In August 2006, Captain Ginda became the 48th Commanding Officer of Naval Submarine Base New London. Since then, he has overseen one of our nations most historic and important naval bases, which covers 680 acres, serves as home to 70 tenant commands, and supports the officers and crew of nearly one-quarter of our attack submarine fleet. He has done so with enthusiasm, with passion and with a dedication not only to strengthening the base for the future, but with a renewed commitment to our nation's most important asset: the young Americans who serve our nation.

In his three years there, Captain Ginda has overseen a flurry of activity unmatched in the recent history of SUBASE New London. From a new crane facility at the waterfront, to a long-needed renovation of the Liberty Center for bachelor sailors, the completion of an initiative to improve housing options and a number of other critical projects, there isn't a corner of the base where Captain Ginda hasn't had an impact. Under his leadership, SUBASE embarked on one of the most ambitious demolition projects in the Navy, pulling down more than 35 buildings and structures through a more than \$18 million undertaking of projects that will trim down the excess infrastructure at the base and lower operating costs. He's also been a commander who takes things into his own hands, and recently manned the controls of a backhoe and helped demolish buildings.

More important than the bricks and mortar, however, has been Captain Ginda's efforts to improve the quality of life for the sailors, and their families, stationed at SUBASE New London, and breath new life into the base not just as a military facility—but as a home to its residents and a contributing member of the southeastern Connecticut community.

Not too long ago SUBASE New London was threatened with closure. While advocates and