

what they need. That includes dogs. I will be happy to raise the money to pay for them but I can't ship them to any unit. You can believe me when I say that I've tried. My son completed one year in Afghanistan and two in Iraq. I thank God every day for his return. Parents can purchase and ship lots of things. I can buy a bomb sniffing dog. I just can't ship the dog. And the dog needs a handler. It's not something that a unit soldier can learn on the job.

I want Stryker Force and every other unit to have two dogs with handlers. And I want it now. The military can do it. They just need the proper motivation. What will it take?

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF
SIMI VALLEY'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the City of Simi Valley's 40th birthday.

On September 20, 1969, the people who lived in the unincorporated Ventura County, California, communities of Simi Valley and Santa Susana voted 6,454 to 3,685 to incorporate. On October 10, 1969, the combined communities officially incorporated into the city of Simi Valley.

Simi Valley lies on the far eastern end of Ventura County. Ventura, the county seat, lies on the far western end. It is a long drive to obtain governmental approval, and the quest for local control is what drove incorporation.

Since incorporation, the people of the city have worked tirelessly to structure a safe, balanced, family-friendly and business-friendly community. It was done by embracing citizen involvement. Neighborhood Councils, the Youth Council and the Council On Aging were established as part of the government infrastructure, ensuring that residents of all ages have an opportunity to be heard and to be involved in government decisions at a grass-roots level.

Today, Simi Valley maintains more than 20 citizen advisory boards and commissions that advise the City Council on a variety of community issues.

Obviously, in any city differences of opinion arise. But unlike in some cities, Simi Valley's elected leaders have a well-earned reputation for discussing issues vigorously and then, once a vote is taken and the decision is made, having all sides come together behind that decision. I believe that is very much the result of empowering the community to shape the issues before they come to the City Council.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of my role in helping to shape Simi Valley. I served on the City Council as a member and appointed mayor, and as the city's first elected mayor, from 1979 to 1986. During that time, we began bringing jobs into what was then primarily a bedroom community, and there was much debate on how to accomplish that.

One of the issues that came from that debate was the creation of the city's first hillside ordinances, which we passed while I was mayor. The issue was framed by many as preservation vs. development. I was seen as being on the side of development. Then-Councilwoman Ann Rock was seen as being on the side of preservation.

Either side could have dug in their heels and accomplished nothing. Instead, working together, and with the help of many other conscientious people, Ann and I crafted an ordinance that worked for both sides. In the process, Ann and I also became dear friends. Ann has since passed away, but her handiwork can still be seen in much of Simi Valley.

Simi Valley shows the handiwork of many, many others, too. From the burgeoning farming community that incorporated in 1969, Simi Valley has grown into a balanced city of about 120,000 people with homes, schools and churches alongside upscale retail centers and clean industry. Since 1993, it has been among the top 10 safest cities in America, and topped the list several times. It is the home of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum and the gateway to Ventura County. I am proud of the city I have called home since before it was a city.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me wishing Simi Valley, California, a happy 40th birthday and congratulate its citizens on a job well done.

WATER TRANSFER FACILITATION
ACT OF 2009

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, due to overwhelming response from water users in the Central Valley, I am compelled today to introduce additional letters of support for the Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009. The bill would grant authority to the Bureau of Reclamation to approve voluntary water transfers between sellers and buyers in the San Joaquin Valley and streamline environmental reviews for Central Valley water transfers.

The bill is supported by a great number of water users across the Central Valley, including the following: Friant Water Users Authority; San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Authority; Delta-Mendota Canal Authority; Westlands Water District; Metropolitan Water District; Glen Colusa Irrigation District; Northern California Water Association; Banta-Carbona Irrigation District; Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority; Association of California Water Agencies; Placer County Water Agency; Conaway Preservation Group; and Reclamation District 2035.

Thank you.

PCWA.

October 6, 2009.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
1314 Longworth House Office Building, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

Re Support of Central Valley Project Water Transfer Legislation.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a programmatic approach to promote and manage water transfers in California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater regulatory certainty for the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) water supplies for water users.

As you may be aware, PCWA has participated in water transfers in the past to help meet the needs of water users within the CVP and is intimately aware of the impacts

diminished water deliveries cause to farmers and communities. Because of PCWA's experience with previous water transfers, we also would like an opportunity to meet you and your staff to discuss additional regulatory improvements to Reclamation law that would streamline future transfers.

Because of below average precipitation and regulatory requirements placed upon the CVP and its water users through the requirements established by the recent National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinions for endangered smelt and salmon, the impact to water users is severe. Your legislation will provide much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the State of California.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY,

GRAHAM L. ALLEN,

Chairman, Board of Directors.

CONAWAY PRESERVATION GROUP,

Woodland, CA, Oct. 2, 2009.

Re Support for water transfer legislation:

Hon. JIM COSTA,

House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the Conaway Preservation Group, LLC (CPG), thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility in the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) and other water supplies to help meet unmet needs critical to the future of the State of California.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of three years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP. Further, the language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to develop the necessary long-term environmental documentation addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake is a critical and necessary near-term next step.

CPG owns the Conaway Ranch in Yolo County. The Conaway Ranch property covers more than 17,000 acres on the west side of the Sacramento River between the cities of Davis and Woodland. Conaway Ranch has been operated for many years to meet goals of agricultural production and waterfowl/wildlife habitat. Approximately 40 percent of the Ranch is located within the Yolo Bypass and the remainder lies west of the bypass. Conaway Ranch's water rights and Bureau of Reclamation Settlement Contract are held by CPG. CPG's Settlement Contract water is a major contributor to the Conaway Ranch water supply during its annual summer operational term of April 1 through October 31.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation

and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

TOVEY GIEZENTANNER,
President and CEO,
Conaway Preservation Group, LLC.

RECLAMATION DISTRICT 2035,
Woodland, CA, October 6, 2009.

Re Support for water transfer legislation.

Hon. JIM COSTA,

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of Reclamation District 2035, thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. Reclamation District 2035 (RD 2035) was formed in 1919 to provide flood control and water delivery for approximately 22,000 acres in Yolo County, California. While RD2035 does not own water rights, it is responsible for the delivery of CVP water to its agricultural customers whose crops represent the top three agricultural commodities in Yolo County.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of three years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP. Further, the language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to develop the necessary long-term environmental documentation addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake is a critical and necessary near-term next step.

We look forward to working with you and your staff on this important legislative effort.

Sincerely,

REGINA J. CHEROVSKY,
Chairperson.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL J.
SANTORO UPON RECEIVING THE
2008 CHENEY AWARD

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CPT Daniel J. Santoro, a member of the Tampa Bay community for receiving the 2008 Cheney award for distinguished service in the United States Air Force.

Captain Santoro is a C-130E instructor pilot, assigned to the 37th Airlift Squadron, 86th Operations Group, 86th Airlift Wing, at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Captain Santoro was born in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 1977; he attended the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, graduating in 2000 with a Bachelor's of Science in Human Factors Engineering.

After graduation, Captain Santoro continued his pilot training at Whiting Field Naval Air Station, in my home State for Florida. His service to our country has taken him to numerous States: Oklahoma, Arkansas, and North Carolina where he constantly worked to improve

his skills to keep our country safe. Often recognized for his leadership and tireless dedication, Captain Santoro was assigned to Ramstein Air Base in Germany, where he would serve bravely in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, among others.

In 2008, as the Chief Tactics and Instructor Pilot, his squadron completed 29 missions and delivered 211 tons of humanitarian cargo, including food and hygiene kits, to the country of Georgia. It is because of these heroic actions that Captain Santoro is receiving the 2008 Cheney Award; which is given for an "act of valor, extreme fortitude, or self-sacrifice in a humanitarian interest, performed in connection with aircraft, but not necessarily of a military nature, by an Air Force officer or enlisted member." The award is named after Lt. William H. Cheney, who was killed in an air collision in Italy in 1918.

Madam Speaker, Captain Santoro is a true testament to the bravery and the sacrifices made by the men and women in the Armed Forces. His accomplishments are significant and an inspiration.

CONGRATULATING ALICIA SEIDEL

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of a brave young girl in my district, Alicia Seidel, and congratulate her for being named an honoree at the 2009 Arthritis Walk happening this Saturday in Bellevue, Washington, and for living her life so bravely while battling her disease.

Alicia, a ten-year-old fifth grader from Sammamish, Washington, was diagnosed in 2007 with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Immediately before and for some time following the diagnosis, Alicia struggled to do something as simple as holding a pencil. Thankfully, the wonderful doctors, specialists and staff at Swedish Medical Center and Children's Hospital in Seattle worked to alleviate the pain Alicia was under, which allowed her to act like the vivacious girl she is. My office had the opportunity to meet Alicia and her mom, Cynthia, more than a year ago to discuss Alicia's ailment and a photo from that meeting is proudly displayed in our office; her infectious nature and sweet disposition made a lasting impact.

The Arthritis Prevention Control and Cure Act, H.R. 1210, of 2009 is legislation I'm proud to have co-sponsored. At this time, the legislation is in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and I encourage the entire House to act on it as quickly as possible because it is an important bill. The bill would, among many other things, focus attention on juvenile arthritis research by creating a juvenile arthritis database and provide financial incentives to encourage more health professionals to enter the field of pediatric rheumatology. Additionally, I will continue to work on behalf of young people like Alicia to urge Congress to make a long-term, sustained investment in medical research through the National Institutes of Health because it represents our greatest hope for finding cures and treatments for debilitating conditions like arthritis and freeing Alicia and her family from the constraints of arthritis.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I extend our sincerest congratulations to Alicia, for her courageous spirit and the inspiration provided to 300,000 other young people struggling with this disease today, and our best wishes in the 2009 Arthritis Walk.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL
ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to join Representative BOBBY SCOTT and Chairman JOHN CONYERS in introducing the Civil Access to Justice Act of 2009. This important legislation will expand civil legal services to low-income families and individuals.

In 1974, Congress established the Legal Services Corporation ("LSC") to operate as a private, non-profit corporation to promote equal access to justice under the law and to provide grants for high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income persons. LSC distributes more than 95 percent of its total funding to 137 independent nonprofit legal aid programs to represent low-income individuals and families in every congressional district. Programs receiving LSC grants help the most vulnerable, such as families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures, displaced persons attempting to obtain federal emergency assistance, and women seeking protection from abuse. In fact, many programs have been besieged recently with requests for foreclosure assistance because of the subprime mortgage crisis.

The current economic downturn will likely lead to more families and individuals needing legal assistance. According to a recently released study commissioned by LSC's Board of Directors, Documenting the Justice Gap in America, many recipient programs of LSC funds must turn away half of all individuals who qualify and seek their assistance because of the lack of resources. Unfortunately, state, local, and private funding and pro bono support have been unable to help close the access to justice gap. The underfunding may result in a potential catastrophe for millions of low-income families and individuals throughout the country who need, but are unable to obtain, legal assistance in matters relating to their housing, employment, and access to health care. Currently, LSC is funded at \$390,000,000, which is insufficient to provide legal representation to all of the impoverished in need of legal assistance. This legislation authorizes an increase in funding for LSC of \$750,000,000, which represents an inflation-adjusted funding level from fiscal year 1981. This funding will help close the justice gap and provide civil legal assistance to all potential eligible clients.

Additionally, the Civil Access to Justice Act eliminates certain restrictions that have significantly limited the ability of legal aid attorneys to represent all low-income families and individuals. First, the bill would remove many restrictions on the use of state, local, and private money by LSC-funded programs. Second, it would eliminate restrictions on the ability of LSC-funded attorneys to represent clients in class action cases. Also, the bill would provide