

the food bank and its Operation Fresh Express program, which provides fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income families.

Mr. Shaver served his country in the U.S. Army, built a successful career, and at a time when he could sit back and enjoy the fruits of his labor, he set out to help those in need.

Mr. Shaver says he began growing vegetables for the food bank because, "Business was good. I went to country clubs, I was even flying my own airplane, but I just didn't feel right. My daughter suggested that maybe I ought to try to help somebody." His determination to "help somebody" has resulted in the donation of over 145,000 pounds of fresh vegetables over the years, greatly assisting Westmoreland County Food Bank and its service to 6,000 local families.

Madam Speaker, in a struggling economy where millions of Americans have lost their jobs and are struggling to make ends meet, it gives me great pleasure to honor people like Mr. Shaver and the volunteers of the "Hunger Garden." Their extraordinary work and generosity has a tremendous impact on the lives of many, and are an inspiration to us all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2009

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Amendments Act of 2009. The Morris K. Udall Foundation is an independent federal agency based in Tucson, Arizona, which operates exceptional educational programs focused on developing leadership on environmental and Native American issues. It also includes the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, the only program within the federal government focused entirely on preventing, managing and resolving federal environmental conflicts.

The legislation I introduce today would enhance the Foundation's programs and operations, and at the same time honor one of the greatest public servants and conservationists in history, Stewart L. Udall, by adding his name to the Foundation with that of his late brother, Morris K. Udall.

The Udall Foundation was established by Congress in 1992. Initially, the Foundation's mission was to provide educational opportunities for studies related to the environment and Native American tribal policy and health care. In 1998, Congress amended the Udall Foundation's enabling legislation to add a new mission: resolving conflicts related to the environment, natural resources and public lands through services including mediation, facilitation and training. The work of the Udall Foundation has become even more important today, as the nation seeks long-term responses to climate change, sustainable energy supplies, and a sustainable economy for all Americans.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Through its education programs, the Udall Foundation identifies and educates tomorrow's

leaders in fields that are critical to the energy, climate change and economic issues facing our nation. The programs include:

The premier college scholarship and doctoral fellowship for studies related to the environment and a scholarship for Native Americans studying tribal policy or health care. The Obama Administration has committed to creating five million new jobs by strategically investing \$150 billion over the next ten years to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future. The 1,000-some Udall Scholar alumni, who are chosen in part for their demonstrated commitment to public service, will clearly be in the forefront of clean energy and climate change response activities both in the private sector and government.

The Native American Congressional Internship program placing gifted undergraduate and graduate students in Congress, the Council on Environmental Quality, and Cabinet offices to learn first-hand how Washington impacts their tribes and communities. My own Washington office has hosted a Udall Native American intern each summer since I first came to Congress in 2003, and I can testify to the talent and commitment of these interns, many of whom have already gone on to positions of leadership in their tribal communities, government and nonprofit organizations. More than 150 young Native leaders will have completed the Udall Congressional internship through this summer.

Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management and Policy (NNI), which serves as a self-determination, governance, and economic development resource for tribal nations. Through the impact of its tribal executive leadership program, Indian nations are rebuilding their economies. NNI has three primary program areas: Leadership and Management Training, Strategic and Organizational Development, and Research and Policy Analysis. NNI's activities in these three areas have made it the leading provider of nation-building services and education to the senior leadership of Indian nations and a world-class center for applied research on how indigenous peoples can meet the practical challenges of nation building.

The Parks in Focus program, which connects underserved youth to nature through the art of photography, instilling in them a long-lasting understanding of and appreciation for national parks and other public lands.

THE U.S. INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Udall Foundation includes the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, the only entity in the federal government dedicated to resolving federal environmental conflicts. The Institute is funded by an annual appropriation from Congress and fees for services. Since its inception in FY 1999, the Institute has been involved in hundreds of conflicts around the country, providing services such as assessment, mediation and facilitation. The Institute also provides leadership on conflict resolution within the federal government and training to federal managers and stakeholders, providing practical hands-on tools to better prevent and manage disputes and engage in collaborative problem-solving. Each year, the Institute engages thousands of stakeholders directly in agreement-seeking processes representing many thousands of constituents. Services are provided by the Institute's small staff, as well as by contracted mediators who

are listed on the Institute's national roster of almost 300 conflict resolution professionals.

The U.S. Institute's work is particularly needed right now, given the need for infrastructure projects, natural resource management, and other important priorities with environmental impacts. Major initiatives by the new Administration related to energy policy and climate change most likely will require considerable multi-sector dialogue and consensus building. The Institute has a 10-year track record of facilitating such dialogue, particularly where multiple federal, state, local and tribal governments are involved. The need for Institute services has already been growing, and will continue to grow with these new energy and climate initiatives.

It is appropriate for Congress to provide solid support for the Udall Foundation's important programs through the legislation I introduce today, while simultaneously recognizing the unsurpassed contributions of Stewart L. Udall by adding his name to the Foundation's title. Stewart Udall served in this House of Congress with distinction from 1955, representing an area that included what is now my district, until he was appointed Secretary of the Interior in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. As Secretary of Interior, Stewart Udall had an unmatched record of environmental leadership, overseeing the creation of 4 national parks, 6 national monuments, 8 national seashores and lakeshores, 9 recreation areas, 20 historic sites, and 56 wildlife refuges. He continued to make substantial contributions to environmental and Native American policy as a lawyer and author following his tenure at Interior.

With the legislation introduced today, the name of the Foundation would change to the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation. The legislation also would support the Udall Foundation's important programs into the future by authorizing funding for the education trust fund and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution in such amounts as Congress determines is necessary.

HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 154, which honors JOHN DINGELL for being the longest serving member of the House of Representatives.

JOHN DINGELL came to Congress in 1955 at the age of 29 and in his more than 53 years in the House, including 16 as the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, has represented energetically and effectively the constituents of his southeastern Michigan district.

Longevity alone, however, does not distinguish JOHN DINGELL, and the Dean of the House has been at the center of almost every major legislative accomplishment of this body since his earliest days in Congress. In 1965,

Representative DINGELL presided over the House chamber when the House passed the Social Security Act of 1965, creating Medicare. Years later, the one-time forest ranger, and avid outdoorsman, helped usher through Congress the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Clean Air Act of 1990.

Throughout his distinguished career, he has led the fight to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable health care, fought to close corporate loopholes, investigated government waste of taxpayer dollars, and advocated for the safety of consumers. Most recently, Representative DINGELL played a key roll in the passage of the Consumer Products Safety and Improvement Act, which was signed into law last August.

In my few years in the House, I have been honored to have served beside JOHN DINGELL. I have learned a great deal from such a thoughtful, serious legislator, and I look forward to working with him as Congress continues to address the country's economic, health care, and climate challenges.

I join my colleagues in honoring an institution in the House of Representatives, JOHN DINGELL, for his service to his constituents, the Congress, and the country.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SONORA
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Sonora United Methodist Church was founded in 1808 and convened for its first 15 years without a proper church building eventually worshipping in a log structure only as recently as 1823, and

Whereas, the congregation celebrated its 200th anniversary with special services, a potluck dinner, and a performance by the Greater Zanesville Singers on September 21, and

Whereas, the Sonora United Methodist Church operated continuously for 200 years as part of a charge, or cluster of parishes serviced by one pastor, making it part of a larger worshipping community that prided itself in good works and devotion to the Gospel; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Sonora United Methodist Church for 200 years of service and dedication to southeastern Ohio, the community of churches encompassing the charge and, an adherence to the teachings of Jesus Christ. The congregants, past and present, of Sonora United Methodist Church have exemplified the quality of Christian service to the community and deserve the recognition that comes with such dedication.

NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT OF
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank Representative LLOYD DOGGETT for his leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

As a Senior Member of the House Judiciary Committee, I understand the importance of protecting one of America's treasures: the elderly. I fully support the goals of this legislation in helping to keep America's elderly safe from harm.

Last year during the second session of the 110th Congress, Representative DOGGETT introduced, H.R. 6064, the "National Silver Alert Act." I fought hard to amend H.R. 6064 to include language that would strengthen the National Silver Alert Act. My language was incorporated into that bill and it was successfully reported out of the Judiciary Committee.

This term, Representative DOGGETT has included the language from H.R. 423, the "Kristen's Act Reauthorization" into the present National Silver Alert bill. Thus, strengthening the protections in the bill.

Thousands of vulnerable older adults go missing each year as a result of dementia, diminished capacity, foul play or other unusual circumstances. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America estimates that over five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and that sixty percent of these are likely to wander from their homes. Alzheimer's disease and other dementia related illnesses often leave their victims disoriented and confused and unable to find their way home. According to the Alzheimer's Association, up to 50% of wanderers risk serious illness, injury or death if not found within 24 hours. The problem can be exacerbated greatly by national disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, that can, in a matter of hours, increase the number of missing persons by the thousands.

At least eight states, along with non-profit organizations such as the National Center for Missing Adults, Project Lifesaver International and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, have developed programs to address various aspects of the problem of missing adults, but the need for a coordinated national approach, similar to the Amber Alert Program for children, still exists. In addition, financial support is needed for existing and new local and state programs.

The Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, administered by the Department of Justice, is the only federal program that currently provides grant funding to locate vulnerable elderly individuals who go missing. Authorization for this program ceased in 1998, but Congress has continued to appropriate some monies for it through fiscal year 2008, when it appropriated \$940,000. Another federal law, Kristen's Act, had authorized annual grants in the amount of \$1 million for fiscal years 2001 through 2004 to assist law enforcement agencies in locating missing adults and for other purposes. Between fiscal years 2002 through 2006, Kristen's Act grants were

made through the Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants Program, primarily to the National Center for Missing Adults, a non-profit organization. In 2006, Congress appropriated \$150,000 for this purpose.

A. H.R. 632, THE "NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT"

H.R. 632 sets forth a comprehensive national program. It directs the Attorney General to establish a permanent national Silver Alert communications program within the Department of Justice to provide assistance to regional and local search efforts for missing seniors. The bill requires the Attorney General to assign a Department of Justice officer as a Silver Alert Coordinator.

The Silver Alert Coordinator acts as a nationwide point of contact, working with states to encourage the development of local elements of the network, known as Silver Alert plans, and to ensure regional coordination. The bill requires the Coordinator to develop protocols for efforts relating to reporting and finding missing seniors and to establish voluntary guidelines for states to use in developing Silver Alert plans. The bill requires the Coordinator to establish an advisory group (1) to help States, local governments and law enforcement agencies with Silver Alert plans, (2) to provide training and educational programs to states, local governments and law enforcement agencies, and (3) to submit an annual report to Congress. The bill also requires the Coordinator to establish voluntary minimum standards for the issuance of alerts through the Silver Alert communications network.

H.R. 632 directs the Attorney General, subject to the availability of appropriations, to provide grants to States for the development and implementation of programs and activities relating to Silver Alert plans. The bill authorizes \$5 million for fiscal year 2009 for this purpose. The bill also authorizes an additional \$5 million for fiscal year 2009 specifically for the development and implementation of new technologies. The Federal share of the grant may not exceed 50% and amounts appropriated under this authorization shall remain available until expended.

Importantly, the bill seeks to accomplish three purposes: the creation of a grant program, the promotion of best practices, and an increased awareness of the need for coordinated efforts to locate missing individuals. The bill authorizes a grant program for State-administered notification systems to help locate missing persons suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other dementia related illnesses. The grants are to be used to establish and implement Silver Alert systems or to make improvements to existing Silver Alert programs.

C. H.R. 423, THE "KRISTEN'S ACT REAUTHORIZATION"

Importantly, H.R. 632 includes the language from H.R. 423, the "Kristen's Act Reauthorization." H.R. 632 reauthorizes Kristen's Act (P.L. 106-468), which had authorized annual grants from 2001 through 2004 for the purpose of finding missing adults. Because of the incorporation of Kristen's Act into H.R. 632, grants are not limited to States, but may be awarded to public agencies and nonprofit organizations. The grants are to be used to (1) maintain a national resource center and information clearinghouse; (2) maintain a national database for the purpose of tracking missing adults who are endangered due to age, diminished mental capacity, or when foul play is suspected or the circumstances are unknown; (3) coordinate public and private programs that locate missing adults and reunite them with their families;