

he was the first African American to serve as Health Educator for the District of Columbia Health Department. He was the first African American to be elected to the Montgomery County, Maryland Board of Education and served for many years on the Board of Visitors for the Maryland School for the Deaf.

From 1966 to 1994, Mr. Daugherty worked for the U.S. Public Health Service in a variety of positions. He was committed to improving the Nation's health care, particularly the underserved—rural and urban poor and minorities, coal miners, migrant workers, and incarcerated individuals. For his dedicated and tireless efforts, he received numerous awards and recognition, including the U.S. Public Health Service's "Administrator's Award for Excellence." The Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association honored Mr. Daugherty for his "dogged determination and work with divergent groups in a leading role to establish many community health centers throughout Mississippi and the South in the 1960s and 1970s—a time when racial injustice was one of the main barriers that separated black Americans from adequate health care."

In 1975, Mr. Daugherty was one of five co-founders of "Blacks in Government" and served as the first chairman of the national organization. This organization was formed to address the needs of African Americans in public service with the goal of promoting excellence in public service, equity in all aspects of American life and opportunity for all Americans.

Montgomery County, Maryland, declared July 28, 2009, "James Harden Daugherty Buffalo Soldier Day." Mr. Daugherty also was recognized for his contributions by Maryland's Governor and was recently interviewed by Smithsonian Magazine and National Public Radio.

Mr. Daugherty is a man of courage and integrity who has been a role model through his inspirational life of service to our Nation, especially to the underserved and needy. Mr. Daugherty's desire to share his story in his memoir allows all of us to benefit from his experiences.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. James Harden "Pat" Daugherty for his life of achievement and service.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am submitting the following: in regards to my bill, H.R. 1854 to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 to modify an environmental infrastructure project for Big Bear Lake, California.

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Big Bear Department of Water and Power

Address of Requesting Entity: 41972 Garstin Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Description of Request: The city of Big Bear Lake delivers its potable water from 70 year old 2-inch diameter pipes that have led to declining water quality at the faucet, massive unaccounted for water loss, and most dangerously—low water pressure.

Because of this lack of water pressure the city does not have the capability to effectively fight a fire of size within city boundaries. Big Bear exists within the San Bernardino National Forest one of the most high risk zones for wildfire in the State of California. It has also led to rampant power consumption to move water through the system making Big Bear Lake the second highest rate payer in the region.

This bill will modify an existing authorization for Big Bear Department of Water and Power and reduce the previously authorized amount by \$3,000,000.

Amount: \$9,000,000

RECOGNIZING THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE TENNESSEE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 278TH AR- MORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, two days ago, thousands of Tennessee's finest men and women boarded buses and began the first leg of a long journey that will eventually lead them to the other side of the globe. Tennessee's largest National Guard unit, the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, has received its orders and begun its deployment—first to Camp Shelby, MS, and then on to Iraq.

The 278th has proven itself to be an essential part of our Nation's Army. Without the citizen-soldiers that make up today's National Guard, our ability to defend ourselves and our allies would be severely diminished. A long deployment is very difficult, however, and for many of these soldiers this is not their first deployment. I hope these soldiers know how valuable, essential, and honored their service to our country is.

I specifically think today of Troop A, 278th Support Squadron, based in Lobelville, Tennessee. These fine men and women were appropriately honored by their community on December 4, and I know will fulfill the high expectations placed upon them by their commanders and perform admirably.

I ask my colleagues to lift up the 278th ACR in prayer, to honor the sacrifice their service represents, and support their families in every way possible.

IN HONOR OF LEE MATHEWS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Lee Mathews, the Director of Edison Job Corps Academy in Edison New Jersey, who passed away November 29, 2009 at the age of 57. Mr. Mathews served as an anti-drug advocate and spokesman for youth issues in his position as Director of Edison Job Corps Academy, and previously in his position as Director of the South Bronx Job Corps Center. Both institutions were nationally recognized, and Mr. Mathews had himself been recognized with the

National Award for being involved with the most innovative Job Corps Program in his last 3 years with Edison Job Corps.

When ResCare took control of the Edison Job Corps Center in November 1995, the center was rated 100 out of 109 and had an exceedingly poor image in the community. Mr. Mathews was able to improve the performance of the center to over 110 percent of the Department of Labor standard. Under the helm of Mr. Mathews, the program rose to prominence, ranking 21st out of 123 in the country.

By establishing relationships with companies like Aamco Transmission, Roto Rooter, and AT&T, Mr. Mathews revolutionized Edison Job Corps Academy's vocational training and made it into a model program that Job Corps programs nationwide are seeking to imitate and follow.

While the death of Mr. Mathews comes as a great loss to Job Corps, it comes as a greater loss to the State of New Jersey. His efforts and advocacy for youth issues will be greatly missed, though his legacy will live on through his accomplishments and work.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Lee Mathews, as our State remembers his determination and excellent service.

HONORING RONALD McDONALD CHARITIES OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ronald McDonald Charities of the Central Valley upon 25 years of service. The organization will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the Third Annual Red Heart Ball held in Fresno, California.

Ronald McDonald Charities of the Central Valley operates the Central Valley Ronald McDonald House that is affiliated with Children's Hospital Central California. The current house was built in 2001 and is adjacent to Children's Hospital. The 3-winged home has 18 bedrooms with multiple recreation and relaxation rooms. The house provides services for the families of the patients at Children's Hospital. These services include home cooked meals, private bedrooms and bathrooms, playrooms for children, recreational activities, toiletries and laundry materials, emotional support and clothing when necessary. It has been found that being just steps away from their sick child, along with the services offered, reduces a tremendous amount of stress for families and the patients. Further, children who are near their families while ill are more likely to heal faster.

Currently, the Ronald McDonald House runs at 99 percent occupancy. In recent years, hundreds of families have been turned away. With fundraisers, amazing support from the community and a recent 8-acre land donation adjacent to Children's Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House is looking to create a larger home in the future to meet the increasing demands for the services that they provide.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ronald McDonald Charities

of the Central Valley upon its 25th anniversary of service to the community and the families of patients at Children's Hospital Central California. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ronald McDonald Charities many years of continued success.

HONORING GABRIEL AND LOUISE AMATO AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to join the many family and friends who have gathered to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Gabriel and Louise Amato—quite a milestone for this wonderful couple. Gabe and Louise are more than just my dear friends—they are family—and I am so happy to have this opportunity to congratulate them on this golden anniversary.

Gabe and Louise met as teenagers—Gabe was 17 and Louise was 14—at a Catholic Youth Organization. It wasismet and the two soon became inseparable. They later married on Halloween in 1959. Louise was an educator for more than 25 years and Gabe, after serving in the United States Army for 2 years, worked for the APA Transport Company for nearly 30 years. Together they raised three beautiful children, Laurie, Cheryl, and Marc.

Some of my fondest memories include my cousin Gabe and his wife Louise—they are both so energetic, vibrant, and full of life. Gabe continues to be an active athlete playing basketball and bowling every week. He once won the golden ring for bowling a 300 game and just last week came close to repeating that feat when he bowled a 299. And, though she retired a few years ago, Louise is still engaged in the community.

Anyone who knows them can tell you that Gabe and Louise are a special couple. They are fierce friends—never far from those who need a helping hand. I cannot think of a time when I could not turn to them when I was in need and I have no doubt that you would hear similar stories from all of those fortunate enough to have benefitted from their friendship over the years.

Today, as Gabe and Louise celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary and reflect on the life they built for themselves, they can be proud of the many ways in which they have touched the lives of others. Parent, friend, mentor, and, most importantly, spouse, Gabe and Louise have supported each other and all of those around them with a generosity, kindness, and compassion that is impossible to describe—it can only be felt.

It is with the warmest of hearts that I rise today to join their children, Laurie, Cheryl and Marc; their eight grandchildren, Christopher, Lindsey, Justin, Sydney, Erica, Sera, Marc, and Katie; as well as the multitude of family and friends who have gathered today to wish them a very happy 50th wedding anniversary and all the best for many more years of love and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO A CALIFORNIA WATER ICON: THOMAS J. GRAFF

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas J. Graff, who passed away on November 12, 2009, after a courageous battle with cancer. Tom will be remembered as the dynamic force that helped shape the way that the State of California and the Federal Government manage water and protect the environmental resources of the State. Tom worked for and founded the California office of the Environmental Defense Fund in Oakland. His water achievements were based on an ability to work effectively with water users, legislators, conservationists, economists, and the public. He was known for his insightful thinking, writing and ability to translate complex water issues into understandable dialogue that legislators and the public could understand.

The water and environmental communities have lost a valuable champion, a true leader and a good friend. In a world today where hard feelings and rhetoric seem to capture the headlines, Tom worked to find the common ground and opportunities for sound water management. Tom's shoes will never be filled, but we can set a path to continue to follow his philosophy of finding solutions for our complex water issues.

"Along with much of California, I have been informed and inspired by Tom Graff since the mid-1970s," said Tim Brick, chairman of the board of directors for Metropolitan Water District, Los Angeles, California. "Tom truly recognized the value of water and fought to ensure that the environment gets its rightful share. Long before others, he was a beacon in promoting conservation, water transfers and environmental protections as solutions for California's great water systems, the Colorado River, the Central Valley Project, and the State Water Project. The development of policies and programs to ensure a sustainable Bay-Delta will be his greatest legacy."

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Graff, and I wish to express my sincere sympathy to his family as well as the extended family who have endured the loss of their loved one. I ask that all Members join me to honor this icon for his life's work.

INTRODUCTION OF PERSONAL HEALTH RECORD ACT OF 2009

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will expedite the adoption of electronic medical records throughout the health care sector nationwide. Creating an interoperable information technology network for health care will decrease health care costs and increases patient safety. While the implementation of electronic medical records were an internal feature of this act, another new and innovative technology, the personal health

record (PHR), has emerged to further strengthen the health care system by engaging individuals directly in their health care experiences. Active consumer engagement promises better patient health outcomes, reduction in health care costs, and greater patient safety. For these reasons, I am proud to introduce the Personal Health Records Act of 2009 today with my colleague Representative DAVID REICHERT.

We are all concerned with rising health care costs. Portable, Internet-based PHRs can be a critical piece of the process of improving the quality and efficiency of the health care system in this country. With PHRs, patients can both electronically import and export pertinent medical information to their health care providers. As a patient travels between multiple health care facilities, the patient's complete medical record can be easily accessed at the nearest computer, thus decreasing health care cost through limiting the number of repeated laboratory and diagnostic tests.

PHRs also engage patients in their medical care decisions by allowing them to personalize their medical history, medication lists, and allergies from a click of their mouse at their home. Patients can avoid repeatedly having to fill out the proverbial office room clipboard repeatedly. Additionally, PHRs can give patients a vehicle for personalized communication with their providers, thus allowing them to receive reminders, as an example, for preventive care, or receive information about medications they have been prescribed.

In order to maximize the potential of PHRs, the Personal Health Records Act of 2009 would define the critical components to be included in PHRs, including past medical and surgical history, medications, and allergies. The legislation also requires the Office of the National Coordinator to develop guidelines regarding the technological standards for interoperability between PHRs and electronic health records, and makes recommendations for the incorporation of PHRs into community and behavioral health programs. As health care provider adoption of PHRs is paramount to their success, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act would be available for providers that demonstrate meaningful use of electronic medical records through the interoperability of electronic medical records with PHRs.

Since PHRs will change the landscape of how confidential, health care information is obtained across the nation, issues of privacy, security, and patient safety are incorporated into PHR development from the onset. While the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 addresses many of these issues, the Personal Health Record Act further evaluates issues pertaining to PHR privacy, utilization, and patient safety.

The Personal Health Record Act aims to empower individuals to have a greater involvement in their medical care decisions. This engagement will lead to better health outcomes, not only by giving health care providers a more complete picture of a patient's medical history, but also by providing a tool through which the consumer can actively engage in their health care.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation.