

RECOGNIZING WINIFRED "WINN"
BUNDY

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Winifred "Winn" Bundy, who has been named a 2009 Arizona Culturekeeper for her commitment and dedication to upholding the traditions, rituals and culture of my State.

For thirty-five years, Winn has operated the Singing Wind Bookshop near Benson, Arizona. Time magazine called Singing Wind "one of the warmest bookshops on Earth" and a national travel writer said it was "the most unique book-buying experience of my life."

Winn did not start out planning to run a book store. In 1956, she earned a degree in history and English from the University of Arizona. That year she and her husband bought the Singing Wind, a working cattle ranch.

Winn's love of literature led her to start selling books from the living room of her ranch home. Winn soon developed a reputation for featuring a rich selection of regional authors and topics that draw readers from around the world. Since then, Winn's ranch house has become a must-visit destination for lovers of Southwestern literature who come from far and wide by car and tour bus. Winn now has 150,000 titles in stock on everything from Indian rock art to ghost towns to the Jewish Western experience.

Since 1974, Winn has helped hundreds of Southwestern writers get their start. She specializes in small press books that do not appear in big chain stores and connects authors with publishers to get their works in print.

Winn also cultivates the love of literature and the humanities through the many community activities she sponsors. From its inception, Singing Wind has offered a bookmobile, school programs, book discussions, author readings and writers' festivals.

Earlier this year, Winn received the Juliana Yoder Friend of the Humanities Award from the Arizona Humanities Council. On December 20, 2009 she will be named an Arizona Culturekeeper, an award presented by the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, in conjunction with the Sharlot Hall Museum, the Arizona Historical Society and Marshall Trimble, Arizona's official state historian.

I am proud of the work that Winn has done to preserve Arizona's culture and to bring literature to a wide audience. She is truly a deserving recipient of the Culturekeeper Award and I join with the award committee in commending her for all that she has done for the people of Arizona and for readers across the country and around the world.

VFW POST 2055 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2055 in Centralia, Illinois, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary on December 18.

Post 2055 began in a renovated church in 1934 and was followed a year later by the chartering of the local VFW Ladies Auxiliary. The post has grown from its original membership of 56 to a high of more than 600 members.

The men and women of the Centralia VFW post have continued to serve their community and our nation long after their terms of active duty military service have ended. Post 2055 members assemble and send care packages to service men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Members of VFW Post 2055 are dedicated to serving their community. They regularly volunteer at the local Veterans Administration hospital, teach firearms safety courses and participate in cancer research fundraisers.

I would like to thank the men and women of VFW Post 2055 in Centralia, Illinois, for their service to our nation, their continued support of America's soldiers and their dedication to their community.

TO COMMEMORATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS OF NUMONYX

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, tomorrow in my district—in Folsom, California—Numonyx will establish its North American headquarters. Numonyx is a leading semiconductor technology firm that specializes in memory products.

Approximately 450 members of the Numonyx global workforce will be located in nearly 100,000 square feet of building space on its new campus. The campus will house product research and development, business management, testing labs, validation labs, sales, marketing, and more.

Folsom was chosen as the new home for Numonyx due to its business-friendly environment, highly skilled and educated workforce as well as being a family-oriented community. Numonyx will play an important role in the ongoing growth of the workforce, economy and technical skill within the greater Sacramento region.

Beyond the obvious business, employment, and economic benefits, Numonyx's impact reaches the community at large with "Numonyx in Your Neighborhood" campaigns. These campaigns assist in meeting the needs of individuals and charitable organizations within the Sacramento region.

I am pleased that this leading-edge and high impact company has chosen California's 3rd district as its home.

THE TALKING WATER GARDENS PROJECT IN OREGON IS AN EXCELLENT USE OF RECOVERY ACT FUNDS

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an example of Recovery

Act funds that have been invested wisely. The "Talking Water Gardens" is a high-priority wastewater treatment project in Albany and Millersburg, Oregon that received Recovery Act funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund. Those funds will be used to construct 39 acres of treatment wetlands and reuse the treated water to improve riparian habitat. Unfortunately, a report by two members of the Senate entitled, "Stimulus Checkup: A closer look at 100 projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," inaccurately and unfairly criticized this project. Had the two Senators who authored the report called these two Oregon cities to inquire about the project they would have learned that the Talking Water Gardens is a shining example of how Recovery Act funds can be used to improve our aging infrastructure, mitigate environmental damage, and create good-paying jobs. The project also illustrates how a successful public-private partnership can work. I respectfully submit this letter from the City of Albany, which further explains the inaccuracies in the "Stimulus Checkup" report on this important project.

CITY OF ALBANY,

Albany, OR, December 14, 2009.

Hon. PETER DeFAZIO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN DeFAZIO: On December 10, 2009, we learned that Senator John McCain and Senator Tom Coburn named "Talking Water Gardens," our wastewater treatment and water reuse project, in a report that questions the validity of 100 projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This project is an important, necessary, and high-priority wastewater treatment project for the State of Oregon that received funding through the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund program. This project provides sustainable benefits for the community, the economy, and the environment. We offer this letter in rebuttal to the "Stimulus Checkup" report dated December 2009.

No one from Senator McCain or Senator Coburn's offices have ever contacted the City of Albany or the City of Millersburg regarding the project. The information sources referenced in the report were never verified with us for accuracy. It appears that our project was singled out simply because of the whimsical name, "Talking Water Gardens." The project will construct roughly 39 acres of treatment wetlands and reuse the water to improve the riparian habitat on land that is the blighted site of two defunct lumber mills adjacent to the old oxbow of the Willamette River. This land has significant elevation differences, so the treated wastewater from the Albany-Millersburg Water Reclamation Facility and the ATI Wah Chang treatment facility will enter the project at elevations above the wetlands, creating several waterfalls that will aerate the water. Waterfalls are often referred to as "talking waters" and the name was chosen with children and the Native American Kalapuya/Willamette River heritage in mind.

The conclusions of the McCain-Coburn report are inaccurate and misleading:

(1) The report states that a non-competitive contract was issued for the construction. This is false. In accordance with the Oregon Revised Statutes, the cities employed a construction manager/general contractor (CM/GC) procurement method that is allowed and, in fact, encouraged by the State to lower public project costs. The process followed a Request for Proposal and interview process that included evaluation of both cost

and non-cost elements. Of six proposals received, the selected contractor represented the best qualified and least costly.

(2) The report fails to mention that the Willamette River, one of the 14 American Heritage rivers, has new thermal load restrictions placed upon treatment plants to protect and recover threatened and endangered salmon fish species as well as other water quality regulations.

(3) The report fails to mention that the wastewater treatment plant serving the cities of Albany and Millersburg and ATI Wah Chang must construct additional wastewater treatment capital facilities to comply with the regulations.

(4) The report failed to note that the project is a unique industrial/municipal partnership, between the cities of Albany, Millersburg, and ATI Wah Chang with the industrial partner contributing its share of capital.

(5) The report failed to note that this project provides a secure and environmentally-sound wastewater treatment solution for ATI Wah Chang, a major local employer and significant rare metals industry in the United States. This project protects the jobs at this industry that would have been put at risk had a cost-effective treatment solution not been found.

(6) The report fails to mention that the project is the least-cost alternative that requires the smallest ratepayer increases to comply with the regulations.

(7) The report failed to mention that this project received an Honor Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers for Excellence in Environmental Engineering.

(8) The report failed to say that the project will provide employment for an estimated 100 people in diverse sectors: electricians, mechanics, pipe layers, and excavators; surveyors, engineers and construction managers; raw material and equipment suppliers for the pipe, pumps, rock, concrete, asphalt, wiring, steel and other materials; landscapers and nurseries. These jobs are needed in Linn County, where 15.1% unemployment far exceeds the U.S. (10.2%) and Oregon (11.3%) seasonally adjusted rates as reported in the December 2009 Benton/Linn Labor Trends Report for October.

Talking Water Gardens is a shining example of how to balance the needs of the environment with the needs of cities and American industries to preserve jobs in these tough economic times. Many, many people have worked hard to make this project happen and singling it out for criticism without verified foundation is shameful at a time when we all need to be working together.

Sincerely,

SHARON KONOPA,
Mayor.

JUNIOR SERVICE CLUB 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of an important community organization in Collinsville, Illinois.

The Junior Service Club has worked for three quarters of a century to better the lives of the children in the community. The group's volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide fun activities for the community's youth. Over

the decades, they ensured the children had a good meal during the holidays and have taught them the value of service to one's neighbors.

The club's fundraising efforts have gone to benefit hospitals, fire victims, community parks, senior programs and scholarships for graduates of Collinsville High School. Today, the club consists of about 50 members. Many of the volunteers are teachers who represent the third generation of their family to belong to the Junior Service Club.

I want to join with the members of this House in congratulating the members of the Collinsville Junior Service Club on celebrating their 75th anniversary and thank them for their service. I want to wish them another 75 years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, December 15, 2009, I was unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote 971. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 971.

THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF CHARLES A. TEALE, SR., FROM THE HARTFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Charles A. Teale, Sr., of the Hartford Fire Department who is retiring after serving 27 years—9 of those as its chief.

In his years of service, Chief Teale has gained a reputation as a fair, no-nonsense administrator who helped to restore order and stability to the Hartford Fire Department. Under his watch, the Hartford Fire Department maintained its Class 1 status, a designation shared by only 41 of 38,000 departments across the country. Among Teale's many accomplishments is his emphasis on attaining high educational and professional standards. Due to the department's educational outreach, the number of structure fires in Hartford decreased from 366 in 2001 to just 80 in 2008.

In one of his proudest accomplishments, Teale showed a dedication to the community he served that extended far beyond his duties as fire chief. He worked as co-chairman of a committee that raised \$125,000 to create a memorial to the 168 people who died in the Hartford circus fire of July 6, 1944. Motivated by the conviction that a memorial had to be created before the generation that remembered one of Connecticut's worst disasters passed on, Teale dedicated the beautiful memorial in 2005, on the 61st anniversary of the fire.

Chief Teale's own story is truly remarkable. He dropped out of school at age 14, but returned and excelled, thanks to the mentoring

of legendary Hartford educator Walter "Doc" Hurley. He went on to earn multiple advanced degrees, including a master's in public administration from the University of Hartford. Chief Teale's passion for learning is everlasting, and after retirement he plans to pursue a doctorate in psychology, which will help him empower Hartford's young men to make smart choices as they enter adulthood, just as Doc Hurley influenced him.

The residents of Hartford and Connecticut's First Congressional District are indebted to Chief Teale for his extensive efforts to serve the Greater Hartford community. His dedication to Hartford and its history, as well as his ability to lead, have made him not just an outstanding fire chief but an exceptional ambassador for the city. His fire boots will be hard to fill, but we wish him well on his admirable goals of returning to school and serving as a mentor to the young men in Hartford.

JUDGE DOROTHY SPOMER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Dorothy Spomer, who broke barriers as she served on the bench in Southern Illinois. Judge Spomer was recently honored at Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Inspiring Women Gala.

Judge Spomer graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1943, at the age of 22. Throughout her historic career, she set an example for other young women as the first female judge in Alexander County, the first female circuit judge in the First Judicial Circuit and the first woman to sit on the appellate court in the Fifth District.

A dedicated public servant, Judge Spomer came out of retirement in 1977, when Illinois Supreme Court Justice Joseph Goldenhersch called on her to serve on the appellate court in Mount Vernon.

Judge Spomer's example inspired her son, Judge Stephen Spomer, to carry on the proud family tradition of public service as he presides over the same Fifth District Appellate Court.

I would like to join Southern Illinois University Carbondale, as they honor her at their Inspiring Women Gala, in thanking Judge Dorothy Spomer for her lifelong service to Southern Illinois.

HONORING LIAM McLAUGHLIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Liam McLaughlin is leaving the Yonkers City Council after serving four terms, representing the Fourth District since 1999. He served as Majority Leader of the City Council and is leaving as the Minority Leader and Chair of the Budget Committee and the Environmental Policy & Protection Committee.

He also served on the Education Committee, the Real Estate & Economic Development Committee, the Municipal Operations