

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TAMPA BAY WATCH CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESTORING THE BAY EVERY DAY

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Tampa Bay Watch is a community based habitat restoration and education program that has helped us bring back to life the waters of Tampa Bay and its surrounding tributaries. This year marks the 15th anniversary of its great environmental work and I want to commend the staff, the members of the board, and most importantly the thousands of volunteers of all ages who give their time for this cause.

Peter Clark, Tampa Bay Watch's Executive Director, helped bring a vision to life and has mobilized more than 65,000 volunteers in what is the first environmental organization of its kind in the Southeastern United States. Together, these dedicated individuals helped a dying bay recover from decades on neglect.

Tampa Bay Watch's staff and volunteers coordinate a variety of coastal restoration events throughout the year such as salt marsh plantings, oyster dome and reef construction, coastal cleanups and storm drain markings.

The largest one-day salt marsh planting in Tampa Bay's history took place on September 29, 2007, bringing together 425 volunteers who planted 34,000 salt marsh grasses over 32 acres of newly constructed wetland habitat. Another milestone event took place on August 16, 2008 when more than 150 volunteers found 624 scallops at the Great Bay Scallop Search, the most scallops ever found in a single Tampa Bay Watch event.

Next to its enthusiastic volunteer base, one of Tampa Bay Watch's greatest assets is its Marine and Education Center constructed next to its Tierra Verde offices at the entrance to Fort De Soto Park. The education center, built in 2005 with funds provided by the House Appropriations Committee through an Economic Development Initiative, includes classrooms, outdoor wet labs, and two 5,000 gallon touch tanks that are used year-round during school field trips, summer camp programs, and community groups. It is home to the Estuary EDventures program, which builds environmental literacy and encourages environmental stewardship while educating students about estuarine and habitat restoration. More than 180 field trips have been held there during which 3,000 students contributed 14,600 hours to learn about and help restore Tampa Bay.

Madam Speaker, Tampa Bay Watch brings together families and neighbors to take care of our environment and to take pride in our environment. Nowhere is this more important than Florida where we are surrounded by water and Tampa Bay remains the linchpin linking the waterways of our entire region.

As Tampa Bay Watch celebrates its 15th anniversary, I want to salute three current and former board members who first brought this

program to my attention. Ed Alber, whose passing was a great loss to Tampa Bay Watch and our entire community, Angelo Catani, and Bob Hite have all invested considerable time and energy into restoring Tampa Bay and educating youth of all ages about the need for environmental stewardship. Other board members who have contributed so much of their time to the cause include Chairman Lawrence Weiner, Secretary/Treasurer Steve Stanley, Past Chairs Doug Williamson and Steve McCreary, board members Paul Avery, Matt Bisset, Rick Bourkard Jr., Leiza Fitzgerald, Mike Flynn, Richard Happle, Richard Hatcher, Debbie Kraujalis, G. Lowe Morrison, Robert L. Paver, Dr. Honey Rand, Stephen Reynolds, Joseph Saunders, John Semago, Nadine Smith, Ray Smith, and Dr. Richard Wilkes.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues in the House join in congratulating Tampa Bay Watch for remaining true to their simple mission statement to Restore Tampa Bay Every Day.

**MS. MARTHA MORGAN-NAYLOR'S
100TH BIRTHDAY**

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Ms. Martha Morgan-Naylor on a momentous milestone, her 100th birthday, which will be on January 22, 2009. Martha will be celebrating this milestone with family and friends on Sunday, January 18, 2009, at the First Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana. For 42 years, Martha's presence in the Gary school system allowed her the opportunity to touch the lives of countless members of her community.

Martha Morgan-Naylor was born on January 22, 1909, in Auburn, Alabama. She was the youngest of five children born to Clem and Amy Morgan. In 1917, the family relocated to Gary, Indiana, in search of better employment opportunities and school systems for their children. In 1926, Martha graduated from one of only a few integrated high schools in the state of Indiana: Froebel High School. Martha's passion for education led her on to graduate with a bachelor of science degree in physical education from Indiana State Normal School, now known as Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. Martha then decided to return to Gary to pursue a teaching career. She went on to teach physical education for 32 years at Roosevelt High School. Her career continued and she went on to teach for 11 years at Beckman Middle School until her retirement in 1974. Martha's many years of service as an educator have been a blessing to the youth and families in the Gary community, and she is worthy of our deepest admiration.

In addition to her impressive career, Martha serves her community as an active member and deacon at First Baptist Church of Gary.

Fully devoted to her congregation, she serves as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee at First Baptist, and is also a member of the Matron's Welcoming Committee. A lifelong teacher, Martha participated in the Purdue University/Hammond High School Oral History project in October 2008. The students involved researched "The Great Depression" and interviewed Martha on her reflection of living during that time. The interview was recorded and transcribed for historical records. Martha believes that she is blessed by God's grace and has always felt compelled to help others. It is this belief that has enabled her to enrich the lives of many people throughout the community.

Martha has many friends and loved ones who share a common respect for her commendable qualities, including her energy, wisdom, sharp mind, and her calmness in stressful situations. Martha's selfless devotion to education and the community of Gary is to be commended. She is truly an inspiration and a role model for us all.

Madam Speaker, Martha Morgan-Naylor has always given her time and efforts selflessly to the youth and the community in Gary throughout her illustrious life. She has taught her friends and members of her community the true meaning of service to others. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Martha a very Happy 100th Birthday.

**IN CELEBRATION OF KOREAN
AMERICAN DAY**

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Korean American Day on January 13, 2009.

The Dallas Korean Society, Korean American Foundation, and Korean American Coalition collaborated to designate this special day to celebrate the Korean community in Dallas. Their unique traditions and customs add to the growing diversity of Dallas and culturally enrich our neighborhoods. These organizations provide valuable assistance in helping immigrants assimilate to American culture and serve as a vocal and powerful advocate on behalf of the Korean community. They empower individuals to actively engage themselves in American society and participate in various civic organizations. While we celebrate our cultural differences, we are united as Americans and our firm belief in freedom and democracy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating the Dallas Korean Society, Korean American Foundation, and Korean American Coalition on their dedication and efforts to making this event a success.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING MELANIE BARKER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melanie Barker as the outgoing President of the Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors. Ms. Barker will be recognized at the annual installation luncheon for the Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors on November 21, 2008 in Oakhurst, California.

The Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors (YGAOR) was first known as the Mountain Co-Op in 1998 with a group of eight volunteers. Today, the group has paid professional staff and ownership of the Association's building. YGAOR was responsible for developing one of the first computerized Multiple Listing Systems, which continues to operate with the latest technology. They work very closely with the California Association of Realtors by providing leadership at regional and statewide levels. YGAOR provides educational opportunities for members and fundraising activities that benefit local non-profit organizations and scholarship programs.

Under Ms. Barker's leadership, YGAOR had a very successful year. The 8th Annual Monster Rummage Sale was held earlier this year and raised over \$70,000, the highest since its establishment. The proceeds were donated to local non-profit charities. Over the years, the YGAOR Scholarship Golf Tournament has raised over \$84,000 for college scholarships for high school seniors from local high schools. Ms. Barker has been instrumental in the establishment of the Women's Council of Realtors. She was able to establish an "Affiliate Committee" to give the Association direct communication to the Office of the President. The committee structure within YGAOR has become stronger with her leadership by prioritizing structure and establishing goals to be discussed at biannual meetings. Ms. Barker has successfully brought the Senior Real Estate Specialist designation to the area through the efforts of the Education Committee.

With Ms. Barker's role at YGAOR, she has been a strong leader by providing a voice of optimism for local real estate. She has involved herself with many speaking engagements and editorial opportunities. Her goal was to provide a positive realtor image in the community and has accomplished this through her leadership during one of the toughest housing markets this nation has ever seen. She has been able to develop and build upon relationships with fellow realtors throughout the region and the state. She has also committed three weeks a year to further her education on the real estate industry and in turn, teach other members of YGAOR. Ms. Barker, the committee chairs and all of the volunteers have made 2008 a very successful year.

In 2008, Ms. Barker was also elected as Assistant Region 12 Chair for the California Association of Realtors and will become the Region 12 Chair in 2010. Prior to being named as President of YGAOR, she was the first Local Government Relations Chair and Government Affairs Director for YGAOR. In 2006, Ms. Barker became a California Golden R.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Melanie Barker upon her

achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Barker and the Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF
THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES
ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 43—Recognizing the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day. Of the many legacies left behind by this great leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of community building is one that resonates with us today.

Martin Luther King Jr. recognized that in striving toward equality, the true work begins in the neighborhoods and streets of our communities. King demonstrated power of service through his work spreading his message across the United States. We not only pause on January 19, 2009, Martin Luther King Day to remember his legacy, but we use this as a day to promote his message of service. Volunteers across this great nation are working on service projects to commemorate his vision and teachings. In addition to asking Americans to serve, President-elect Obama, Vice President-elect BIDEN, and their families will participate in service activities. President-elect Barack Obama leads by example as a former Chicago community organizer, helping people one at a time. When he calls for progress and change he asks the American people to participate in that change. Martin Luther King Day should inspire us all to participate in serving our communities throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration and celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In addition, in the coming days and beyond, I encourage my fellow Americans to both celebrate great change that has come and strive to be the change that we need as we progress towards King's vision of the "beloved community."

COAL ASH RECLAMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY ACT OF 2009

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, years ago a coal miner from West Virginia wrote a letter to me noting that every single federal law regulating coal was penned in blood. He was referring to the fact that it took an explosion claiming 78 souls in 1968 at a mine in Farmington, West Virginia, to give rise to the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. And that it took the failure of a coal slurry impoundment at Buffalo Creek, in Logan County, West Virginia, that killed 125 people, for the Congress to finally pass the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

Just a few weeks ago, in December, a facility owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) gave way, unleashing an avalanche of coal ash sludge that covered more than 300 acres. This time Heaven intervened, and thankfully no lives were lost.

This disaster—which could have been avoided if TVA had exercised appropriate engineering and monitoring regimes at its Kingston facility in Harriman, Tennessee—was a clarion call for action. Now is the time to take that action, before any lives are lost to a similar disaster.

Simply put, there are no federal standards for coal ash impoundments. They are constructed and maintained under a patchwork of State requirements, or on a voluntary basis.

Today I am introducing legislation to impose uniform federal design, engineering, and performance standards on coal ash impoundments. These standards are aimed at ensuring the structural stability of these impoundments, and requiring adequate monitoring and inspection regimes to avoid a repeat of what happened at Kingston, Tennessee, and what almost happened just last week at another TVA facility in Alabama.

Coal ash is a byproduct of the combustion of coal at electric utility powerplants. Some of the coal ash produced is recycled, usually as construction materials like concrete, Portland cement, and wallboard. However, the majority of coal ash is deposited in impoundments, landfills, or mines.

The larger issue here is how to regulate coal ash, and, in this respect, the track record is woefully inadequate. Back in 1980, former Representative Tom Bevill of Alabama and this gentleman from West Virginia successfully offered an amendment to what became the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1980 requiring the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine how to regulate coal ash.

I am sorry to say that after 29 years the EPA has yet to do so. Over the years, I have cajoled the agency to move forward. It came close to making a decision under the Clinton Administration, then retrenched under the Bush Administration. I called for a study by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences on this issue, which was completed in 2006. Following up on that study, last year our colleague, Rep. JIM COSTA, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Energy and Minerals Subcommittee of the Natural Resources Committee, held a hearing on coal ash. The study, and the hearing, all pointed to the pressing need for a federal regulatory regime governing the disposal of coal ash, whether in impoundments, landfills, or in mines.

I have no doubt that the Obama Administration will finally take action on this issue. In the meantime, however, the purpose of my legislation is to address the engineering aspects of the impoundments themselves.

For its part, the electric utility industry says it complies with voluntary guidelines in this matter. And some States claim they have adequate requirements. Yet, as it stands, one State might require strict standards for the construction of a coal ash pond, while the State next door largely ignores how coal ash ponds are constructed. Pennsylvania, for example, requires a solid waste permit for all surface impoundments that receive coal ash, while Illinois and Indiana are among the states that regulate surface impoundments as water