

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

SANDER M. LEVIN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2010.

Hon. SANDER M. LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter indicating the Committee on Ways and Means' jurisdictional interests in certain provisions of the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 3534, the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010.

I acknowledge your jurisdictional interests in the bill. I appreciate your willingness to forego seeking a sequential referral of the legislation and understand that this action will in no way waive your Committee's jurisdictional interests or serve as a precedent for future referrals. I also understand that you reserve the right to seek to have conferees named from the Committee on Ways and Means on these provisions, and would support such a request if it were made.

A copy of our respective letters regarding H.R. 3534 will be entered into the Congressional Record.

Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you and Majority Leader HOYER for introducing this resolution and for honoring the memory of those who perished in 9/11, including the nearly 300 men and women from my district.

Many of us lost family and close friends in the attacks. Their memories are kept alive through the devotion and steadfast commitment of their strong families and kind-hearted friends. 9/11 will never be forgotten, but we must continue to recognize not only all who we lost, but the bravery of so many on that tragic day.

We will never forget the tearful wishes of loved ones speaking their final goodbyes and comfort to their spouses and children, and we will never forget those who heroically ran into the buildings or stayed behind to help others.

In the brutality of those attacks, we saw the heart of the American spirit and the bravery of all Americans.

In particular, I would like to recognize the thousands of emergency service workers and volunteers in New York City who rushed to the pile to aid the rescue and recovery to save lives, with little care for their own health and safety.

To this day, these brave men and women, which include people like Martin Fullam, a 30-year veteran FDNY lieutenant from Staten Is-

land, still suffer from medical complications from the air in the days following the attack, which was thick with toxic smoke and debris.

On each anniversary of the attacks, we hear many touching tributes to the heroism of the innocent victims of that faithful day and of course, the brave men and women who rushed to Ground Zero.

But, remembering the legacies of those who are no longer with us and fulfilling our promises to those who are still here perhaps will be the greatest tribute to all to all those affected by this tragedy—both the victims and survivors of the worst attack on U.S. soil in the history of this great country.

To all the other first responders who are struggling with 9/11-related illnesses, I say we will help you.

To reiterate this significance of this day and of the work that goes unfinished, I would like to tell the story of another young man in my district by the name of Stephen Siller.

Stephen was on his way home when he heard on his scanner news of the attack on the Trade Center and he immediately turned his car around and drove back to Manhattan through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel.

With tunnel traffic at a standstill, Stephen got out of his car, strapped on his gear and ran towards the burning towers. He eventually met up with his squad members as they rushed into the World Trade Center, where he helped save tens of thousands of office workers.

But sadly, Stephen and his entire squad were never to be seen again. Stephen's family and the people of New York City honor his memory and bravery with a 5K "Tunnel to Towers" run that retraces Stephen's steps. Stephen's memory also lives on in the good works the family has done by building Stephen's House and Home for orphans.

So in Stephen's honor, and in respect for the memory of the nearly 3,000 others murdered on that fateful day nine years ago, I urge my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 1610.

HONORING ELVAN AND ELEANOR NEWCOMB

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Elvan and Eleanor Newcomb for receiving the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award. They have lived a long and distinguished life, adhering to extremely high standards of quality and integrity.

The Newcombs moved to California's Central Valley from Oklahoma in 1941, the year they married. Elvan started his career as a tractor dealer, salesman, partsman, and mechanic at a dealership in Madera and has expanded his management and ownership since his first job.

Elvan and Eleanor are well connected within their community. They have been involved in Warner Pacific College, Fourth Street Church of God, Madera Valley Bank, Cattlewomen's, Cow-bells, Republican Women, Madera Historical Society, and Women of the Church of God of the Central Valley. In 2007, Elvan and Eleanor were honored as Old-Timers Day's King and Queen and have been faithful and

generous leaders at their church, and are committed to historic California events, such as Mule Days in Bishop, California, where they have attended festivities for over 50 years.

Elvan and Eleanor are proud parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents of three children, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. It is clear that they will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Elvan and Eleanor Newcomb for a life well-lived and wishing them the best of luck and health as he continues setting the standard.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HARRISON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize John Harrison, a World War II Army veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. John Harrison was recognized on Tuesday, July 20. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: JOHN HARRISON

(By Alexander Hutchins)

John Harrison, 84, a former Army Staff Sergeant, was raised on a farm south of Perry in the midst of the depression.

"Back in those days we were just coming out of the depression, and we didn't have anything, but we had plenty to eat," said Harrison.

He worked throughout his youth and contributed to his family's income in tough times. This spirit of hard work and the necessity of duty would shape his life as much as his time in the Army during World War II.

Harrison spent much of his youth working on the family farm and for other farmers in the area.

"I vividly remember the summer of 1936, when we'd throw a mattress out under the shade tree in the yard and just hope and pray for a little breeze," Harrison said.

He trained in carpentry in high school, a skill that he would employ in a brief career after the war. He married his first wife, Betty, before joining the service, though she has since passed away.

Harrison was inducted into the Army in September of 1944, took his basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, and went overseas in January of 1945.

"I was on the island of Saipan until they got a convoy together, then we went to Okinawa," Harrison said.

When deploying to the island, the sister ship of Harrison's vessel was hit by a Kamikaze pilot. The soldier above Harrison on the rope dropped his rifle, and Harrison would sport the dent in his helmet for the rest of his time in the service.

He served with the 34th Combat Engineers, primarily building Bailey Bridges and other infrastructure, but did fire and was fired upon by Japanese forces.

"I do remember when we were moving forward we would see trucks going by carrying dead soldiers," Harrison said. "[They] had new combat boots on that didn't even have

mud on them yet. We lost a lot of men there."

"Then as soon as the war ended in Okinawa, they loaded us on LST's and they took us to Korea. We went in on the west side at a place called Inchon. They loaded us on a narrow-gauge railway train, and every little hill that we'd go up, we'd have to get out and help push the train," Harrison said.

His unit, now the 42nd Engineering Construction Battalion, was deployed near Seoul, Korea, in late August, 1945, to help build the Temple Airfield.

"I remember the first time I went up the streets of Seoul, you could go across the Han river and look straight ahead to the capitol and it looked like a beautiful city, and from the front side of the street it did, but you'd go around the back to the alleys and maybe a cow or a pig would be sticking its head out the window," Harrison said.

He was in Korea until July, 1946. He earned a bronze battle star, three overseas service bars, an Asiatic/Pacific Theater ribbon, a victory medal, an army of occupation medal and a good conduct medal.

"When I came home from the service, first I worked [to] help building Quonset huts for the veterans over at Iowa State College," Harrison said. "Then I went to work for Otis lumber yard, doing carpentry work. I did that until 1956, and then I went on the fire department."

Harrison would spend 28 years with the fire department, and in 1985 he began working at the county courthouse as Director of Veteran's Affairs for 20 years. When working as a carpenter, Harrison helped build 16 new homes in Boone.

"Growing up, everyone worked, so I always did work. If I were younger I'd still work today. That was drilled into me when I was a young kid, that if you wanted something out of life you had to work for it and I still feel that way today," Harrison said.

Harrison has undergone knee replacement surgery, but stays active and walks each day. He has a daughter living in Boone, two sons, seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Harrison said he has no significant regrets from his time in the Army, and he appreciates accoutrements for veterans such as VA hospitals.

"Back in those days, you knew when it came your time to go into the service and you were old enough, you went. You just didn't make a fuss about it," he said.

Harrison said he feels remorse for soldiers from the current conflict, facing a war that is so different from the one he participated in.

"I wish all the young men and women in the service the best," Harrison said.

People today are fairly savvy to modern wars, he said, and modern soldiers thankfully have the option to remain in contact with family and friends without relying on censored mail, as was the case in World War II.

Harrison will board an Honor Flight next month on August 19, and will visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

I commend John Harrison for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on September 14, 2010 I was absent for two rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall vote 519 and "yea" on rollcall vote 520.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, September 14, 2010, I was unable to cast votes on rollcall votes 519 and 520. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 519 and 520.

COMMENDING BRANDON ACADEMY'S DESIGNATION AS A 2010 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Brandon Academy of Brandon, Florida, for winning the prestigious 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools award. This recognition of incredible accomplishment was bestowed on the Academy by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Brandon Academy is a private school in Hillsborough County that provides for the intellectual development of 227 pre-kindergarten through 8th grade students. It boasts one of the most well-balanced curriculums in the nation, offering exceptional instruction in math, science, writing, and the arts. Thus, the Academy equips its students with the skills they need to become upstanding, productive, and well-informed citizens. The high achievement of the Academy's student body is in no small part due to the involvement of parents in their children's education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools award is considered the highest honor an American school can obtain. Schools singled out for this national honor reflect the goals of our nation's education reforms for high standards and accountability. Specifically, the Blue Ribbon Schools program is designed to honor public and private schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

I applaud Head of School Robert Rudolph and Principal Sondra Cliggitt, as well as the teachers and students of Brandon Academy for their hard work and commitment to excellence. A good education is essential to ensuring that future generations lead more successful, fulfilling lives. They are making a true difference in the lives of so many, and building communities that improve students' learning.

IN HONOR OF FIRE CHIEF
TIMOTHY A. POTTS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Fire Chief Timothy A. Potts on the occasion of his retirement from the Olmsted Falls Fire Department. He honorably served the people of Olmsted Falls with unwavering dedication for 35 years as a paramedic, firefighter and fire chief.

Chief Potts joined the Olmsted Falls Fire Department on April 14, 1975, and two years later he graduated as a paramedic. Throughout his tenure as a firefighter and paramedic, Chief Potts' motivation to study, and then later teach, never diminished. In 1981, Chief Potts became a river rescue instructor and his expertise in this area of rescue became sought after by numerous departments across the state of Ohio. Throughout the 1980s, he travelled throughout the state to teach courses on river rescue and rope rescue.

In 1988, Chief Potts was sworn in as lieutenant and, in 1990, he began teaching all areas of pre-hospital emergency medical care to firefighters and paramedics at Southwest General Hospital. Throughout his career, Chief Potts sought to strengthen and enhance the Olmsted Falls Fire Department. He wrote grants for his department totaling nearly \$1 million, and helped other fire departments secure more than \$4 million in funding. In addition, Chief Potts was instrumental in designing the new Olmsted Falls Fire Department building and firehouse. He was sworn in as fire chief in June of 2004.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Fire Chief Timothy A. Potts for his focus and dedication to keeping the people who live and work in Olmsted Falls safe and secure. His work and accomplishments as chief, firefighter, paramedic and instructor reflect integrity, excellence, expertise and heart. His efforts will continue to enhance the foundation of safety and well being throughout Olmsted Falls and will provide a shining example for all who will follow in his path.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2010 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2010 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition (NECO), the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. Since NECO's founding in 1986, more than 2,000 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six American