

President Wilson's career began with the Clayton Fire Company in 1974 where he eventually became Chief and served on the Board of Directors. Throughout his distinguished career, President Wilson has served the community in a number of capacities. He is a past President of the Kent County Fire Chief's Association, the Kent County Volunteer Fireman's Association, and the Delaware State Fire Chief's Association. President Wilson retired from the Delaware State Police (DSP) after twenty years of service, and currently serves as a civilian investigator in the DSP Sex Offenders Unit.

As President of the DVFA, Kevin's strong leadership guided the organization through a tough economy. President Wilson worked tirelessly to ensure DVFA was properly funded and provided the same wonderful firefighting and emergency response that the DVFA is known for.

As President Wilson steps down I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for everything he has done for the DVFA and the State of Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO THE BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Battle of Plattsburgh during the War of 1812 on the event's recent 198th anniversary. The conflict took the lives of 104 American soldiers, injured 116 more, and marked the end of the British invasion of the region during the war.

More than a skirmish during wartime, the memory and annual commemoration of the Battle of Plattsburgh preserves our precious local history and the vital role the region played in the end of the War of 1812.

This year's celebration of the North Country's heritage coincided with the anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, providing us another chance to observe the bravery our men and women in uniform have exhibited in two different eras.

Madam Speaker, I thank all those involved in the annual commemoration of the Battle of Plattsburgh for working to preserve the rich heritage our area holds in the North Country. The event truly represents the contributions Upstate New York has provided for the direction of our entire nation.

BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH ASSOCIATION

Kristina Parker-Wingler, Museum Manager;
Keith Herkalo, President.

BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE
OFFICERS & MEMBERS

Christopher Booth, Co-Chair; Gary VaCour, Co-Chair; Iris McLean, Secretary; Kate Besaw, Treasurer; Bill Arthur, James Bailey, Jack Barette, Sharon Bell, Sally Booth, Martha Bachman, Beth Brumfield, Ann Brady, Diane Brockway, Deb Brunner, Jane Claffey, Donna Coughlin, Anne Cutaiar, Don Craig, Carol Czaja, Mike Doe, Nancy Douglas Vickie Demarse-Giroux, William Glidden, David Graham, Bob Heins, Ellen Hogan, Dennis Hullbert, Mary Joyce, Bruce Kokernot, John Krueger, Carol Lunn, Keith Lunn, Betty Miller, Athena Moore, Bruce Moore, Art Norton,

Helen Nerska, Michelle Powers, Chris Ransom, Stan Ransom, Philip Rice, Richard Rogers, Craig Russell, Bud Smith, John Tanner, Louise Tanner, Gerry Tetreault, Brenda Towne, Dick Ward, Linda Ward, Mike Wayne, Lynn Wilke, Josh Wingler.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RE- SEARCH ON ITS 50TH ANNIVER- SARY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Center for Atmospheric Research on their 50th anniversary. NCAR was created in 1960 as a program of the National Science Foundation and operated by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, a consortium of universities.

The mission of the National Center for Atmospheric Research is to: understand the behavior of the atmosphere and related physical, biological and social systems; to support, enhance and extend the capabilities of the university community and the broader scientific community nationally and internationally; and to foster transfer of knowledge and technology for the betterment of life on Earth.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research has provided a platform for collaboration by the larger university research community and has provided the community with tools, facilities, and scientific expertise for 50 years.

As Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology, I would especially like to recognize the National Center for Atmospheric Research for its profound impact on the understanding of atmospheric processes and systems and its long partnership with the National Science Foundation.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating the National Center for Atmospheric Research on its 50th anniversary.

LEGISLATION TO CODIFY A NEW TITLE 54 U.S. CODE—NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and I are introducing a bill to codify into positive law as title 54, United States Code, certain general and permanent laws related to the National Park System. This bill was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, as part of its ongoing responsibility under 2 U.S.C. 285b to prepare, and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary one title at a time, a complete compilation, restatement, and revision of the general and permanent laws of the United States.

The bill gathers provisions relating to the establishment and administration of the National Park System, outdoor recreation programs that the Secretary of the Interior administers,

and the responsibility of the Secretary to preserve historic sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities—all of which are currently found in various places throughout title 16 of the United States Code—and restates these provisions as a new positive law title of the Code. The new positive law title, along with conforming provisions, replaces the former provisions, which are repealed by the bill.

This bill is not intended to make any substantive changes in the law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of non-substantive revisions are made, including the reorganization of sections into a more coherent overall structure, but these changes are not intended to have any substantive effect.

The bill, along with a detailed section-by-section explanation of the bill, can be found on the Law Revision Counsel website at <http://uscode.house.gov/cod/t54/>. Interested parties are invited to submit comments to Tim Trushel, Senior Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-303 Ford House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-6711, (202) 226-9058, as well as to the Committee.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize California State University, Stanislaus on their Founders Day, celebrating 50 years of service and education to the San Joaquin Valley.

California State University, Stanislaus was established as Stanislaus State College in 1957 as the 15th campus in the California State University system. The new college conducted its first classes at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds in 1960.

The State of California and private donors have invested nearly \$200 million in new building projects, infrastructure and campus improvements since the move in 1965 to the University's now beautifully landscaped 228-acre site in Stanislaus County.

The institution gained university status and its current name as one of the 23 California State University campuses in 1986. CSU Stanislaus serves a six-county area, including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties.

Since opening in 1960 with 15 faculty and less than 800 students, 25 of whom graduated in that first year, CSU Stanislaus has grown to an enrollment of over 8,600 students and confers degrees to over 2,000 of them each year. Over 41,000 students have been awarded bachelor's and master's degrees since the first commencement ceremony in 1961.

From a modest start with six undergraduate degree programs, the University has expanded its academic offerings to now include six colleges, 40 undergraduate degree programs, 25 graduate degree programs, and 13 school credential and certificate programs.

CSU Stanislaus has seen its academic reputation grow, with the University ranked by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best 373 colleges—the only institution in the CSU system included in that elite ranking.

CSU Stanislaus has also been recognized by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities as one of 12 campuses nationwide for outstanding graduation and retention rates. CSU Stanislaus generates more than \$300 million annual impact on the regional economy.

Today, on Founders Day, CSU Stanislaus marks a half-century of excellence as students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends celebrate the University's 50th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF LORRAINE MADDEN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute today to Lorraine Madden, the outgoing President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (LADVFA).

President Madden has been a life-long member of the Bowers Fire Company Auxiliary. Like many other members of the Auxiliary and Fire Departments, President Madden's father was the Fire Chief, and her mother was President of the Auxiliary. Prior to being elected to this new post, President Madden served as President of the Auxiliary at Bowers and was also the President of the Auxiliary to the Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association. Her record of service and leadership is commendable, and is a reflection of the organization itself.

When called to action during alarms, LADVFA assist the firemen by serving meals or snacks while the companies are fighting fires or assisting with other emergencies. The services they provide both the fireman and the community are invaluable.

The LADVFA serve such an important function in our community, and to be as effective as possible, they must have dedicated and organized leaders. President Madden has been exactly that over the past year and the State of Delaware and our nation are greatly indebted to her for all of her past and future hard work. Congratulations on a job well done!

HONORING FRAGER'S HARDWARE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Frager's Hardware, located in Washington, D.C., for 90 years in business.

Throughout its 90 years in business in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, Frager's, as it is commonly known, has remained an indispensable fixture of the community and serves as a prototype of quality customer service.

The community embraces the ownership of Frager's Hardware and appreciates commemorating the anniversary with a week-long Customer Appreciation Event.

The expansion of Frager's Hardware to include a garden center, rental store, and a paint shop demonstrates its commitment to

serving the changing needs of the community and the residents of the District of Columbia.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 90th anniversary of Frager's Hardware.

HONORING THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT EASTERN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the faculty and students at Eastern Technical High School of Baltimore County, which has recently been designated as a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School. The National Blue Ribbon Award recognizes public and private schools whose students have achieved at very high levels or have made significant progress and successfully closed achievement gaps, especially among disadvantaged and minority students.

Eastern Technical High School is a magnet school that provides 10 different career path programs for students which will help prepare them to become productive members of the workforce in the future. Education is so important in setting our youth up for success and Eastern Technical High School provides a phenomenal example of how to effectively do so. In fact, Newsweek Magazine ranks Eastern Tech as among the top 5% of high schools in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the faculty and students at Eastern Technical High School. It is their hard work and dedication that have won them the recognition of the National Blue Ribbon Award. The school's consistent outstanding performance is an indicator of the faculty's perseverance and the student body's drive. It is with great pride that I congratulate Eastern Technical High School on its exemplary service.

COMMEMORATING SEA OTTER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today as I do every year, to call attention to the 8th Annual Sea Otter Awareness Week, September 26–October 2, 2010, sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife. This week-long event provides the opportunity to educate the broader public on sea otters, their natural history, the integral role they play in the near-shore marine ecosystem, and the conservation issues they are facing.

In the early 1700's, before wide-scale hunting began, sea otters ranged across the North Pacific rim from Japan to Baja California. The worldwide population estimates for that time range from the hundreds of thousands to more than one million. Before the hunting began, there were approximately 16,000–20,000 along California's coast. But killing these animals for their fur all but decimated the popu-

lation until they were thought to be extinct off the coast of California by the early 1900's.

However, in the 1930's a small population of less than 100 animals was discovered in a remote cove on a coastal ranch in Big Sur, on the Central Coast of California. Since that time, groups such as Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Sea Otter and Ocean Conservancy have raised public awareness and helped protect this important species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The presence of the California sea otter has become an icon of the state's coastal environment and culture, and these charismatic animals bring significant tourism revenue to Californian coastal communities.

Still, sea otter populations remain threatened. This year's three year population average, counted by the U.S. Geological Survey, totals only 2,711 animals, a 3.6 percent drop in overall population, and 11 percent drop in otter pups since 2009. This is the second year in a row that the population has been in decline. The annual survey saw a decrease in otter numbers throughout their range, and particularly in areas where much of their reproduction occurs. These latest numbers are of great concern and researchers have begun to identify indirect hazards for sea otters such as non-point source pollution, pathogens, and entrapment in fisheries gear that are causing their population growth to reverse. Data also suggests that breeding-age females are dying in higher than usual numbers from multiple causes, including infectious disease, toxin-exposure, heart failure, malnutrition, and shark attacks.

Each day, research is uncovering additional causes of sea otter population declines. A recent study reveals that microcystin, a toxic algae that forms in reservoirs, lakes and stagnant freshwater ponds, is responsible for the deaths of at least 21 sea otters in the Monterey Bay area and researchers state that this is the first ever documentation of a freshwater algal bloom being transmitted to upper-level marine mammals. Such realizations support the need for continued research and preventive measures to respond to these issues, while continuing to ward against the direct killings and takings that still occur.

Sea otters are integrally important to the ecosystem in which they live. For this reason, the decline of southern sea otters off the California coast not only impacts the species itself, but it affects other marine populations and the surrounding ecosystem. The demise of sea otters allows their prey, sea urchins, to proliferate unchecked leading to the alarming overgrazing of kelp beds—one of the oceans nursery grounds for many marine animals. Research shows that the absence of sea otters has a direct link to the sharp decline of kelp along portions of California's coast. Further, the sea otter is effective at monitoring toxins and diseases in the marine environment, which can affect the health of humans and other wildlife.

California took the first step toward addressing these emerging concerns by signing Assembly Bill 2485 into law. This bill establishes a state fund for sea otter conservation where Californians have the option of donating a portion of their tax returns to sea otter conservation. I want to emphasize that this means that Californians voluntarily pay a little more on their tax return to help protect these animals.