

ISLAND ELDERLY HOUSING ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

HON. BILL DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Island Elderly Housing, an organization that has done an outstanding job of serving the people of Martha's Vineyard.

Island Elderly Housing (IEH) was formed in 1976 by local residents of the Island who were active in healthcare, housing, serving elders and the ministry to provide decent, safe and affordable housing for low and moderate income elderly and handicapped persons. Under the able leadership of Carol Lashnits, the agency has created twelve developments totaling 165 units, using both donated land and buildings and financing from the USDA and HUD.

IEH has grown to become a leader in the advocacy and provision of residential and related services for Island elderly and handicapped residents. Since 1981 when IEH received its first construction loan of \$1.9 million from the Farmers Home Administration's Section 515 program, the agency has received more than \$26 million in federal and state grants and loans, and private grants and donations.

As the nonprofit developer and manager for all of the units, IEH is responsible for the fiscal management for all of the development funds as well as the ongoing operating budgets.

Careful management of its funds and its fiscal responsibility has resulted in ongoing receipt of grants and contributions to IEH and its programs from foundations, local religious organizations, and area citizens.

In 2007, Carol Lashnits left her position as Executive Director for IEH and was replaced by Ann Wallace. Under Wallace, with the help of the larger community and a staff of fifteen, supportive services to aging residents have improved and increased and now include transportation, health, education, advocacy, community building, recreation, exercise, yoga, a meals program, spiritual opportunities, gardening and intergenerational activities.

At the present time the IEH's Board and Executive Director are analyzing the present and future needs of elders on the Island as it plans for its own future activities. It is my hope that its next 30 years will be as productive as its first 30 years have been.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 14–15, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for Rollcall No. 628–638. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 628—“yes”—Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site Designation Act.

Rollcall No. 629—“yes”—Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010.

Rollcall No. 630—“yes”—To direct the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Houston, Texas, to the Military Museum of Texas, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 631—“yes”—Harry T. and Harriette Moore Post Office.

Rollcall No. 632—“yes”—Expressing support for designation of January 23rd as “Ed Roberts Day”.

Rollcall No. 633—“yes”—Recognizing the 45th anniversary of the White House Fellows Program.

Rollcall No. 634—“yes”—Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office.

Rollcall No. 635—“yes”—Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2965.

Rollcall No. 636—“yes”—Congratulating Auburn University quarterback and College Park, Georgia, native Cameron Newton on winning the 2010 Heisman Trophy for being the most outstanding college football player in the United States.

Rollcall No. 637—“yes”—Congratulating Gerda Weissmann Klein on being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Rollcall No. 638—“yes”—Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010.

INTRODUCTION OF THE QUILEUTE TRIBE TSUNAMI PROTECTION ACT

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Quileute Tribe Tsunami Protection Act. This legislation will provide land to the Quileute Tribe to enable the re-location of many facilities outside the tsunami zone. Many of you may know that the Quileute Tribe is featured in the Twilight series of movies.

For people like the Quileutes living along the Pacific coast of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, a tsunami is a very real threat they face every day. The Quileute day care facility, the elder center, Tribal offices and Tribal members' homes are directly in the path of the tsunami that one day will surely come. Getting the Tribe out of danger is of great concern to all of us, and I am very pleased to introduce legislation to help the Tribe move their people and infrastructure out of the danger zone.

The Olympic National Park completely surrounds the one-mile-square Quileute Reservation, most of which is threatened either by tsunami or the Quillayute River flood zone. The only way to get the Tribe out of the danger zone is for the Park to transfer higher, safer lands to the Tribe. For many years there has been a dispute between the Park and the Tribe about the northern boundary of the Reservation, and this legislation resolves that dispute to the benefit of the Park, the Tribe and the general public. In addition to protecting the Tribe from tsunami threat, this legislation will permanently preserve public access to some of the most beautiful beaches on the Washington State coast, and will permanently protect as wilderness thousands of acres currently in the Olympic National Park.

I want to thank the Quileute Tribe, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis and Olympic

National Park Superintendent Karen Gustin for their hard work over many years to resolve this dispute. There must be Congressional approval for this settlement, so I ask my colleagues to consider the present danger to the Tribe and to support this bill.

HONORING NORMAN YOSHIO MINETA

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1377, a resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of a great American patriot, Norman Yoshio Mineta.

Mr. Mineta's life began like that of so many other Americans. He was born in 1931 in San Jose, California, the son of immigrant parents. However, unlike the typical American story, he and the Mineta family were forced to leave their home and live in the Heart Mountain internment camp near Cody, Wyoming, during World War II. Norm Mineta overcame this experience and went on to graduate from the University of California at Berkeley and serve his country as an intelligence officer in the United States Army.

Most of us know Norm Mineta as Secretary Mineta. In 2000, Secretary Mineta became the first Asian American to serve in a Presidential Cabinet when he was appointed Secretary of Commerce by President William J. Clinton. He continued to break new barriers when he became the first Asian American to serve as Secretary of Transportation in President George W. Bush's cabinet. He went on to become America's longest serving Secretary of Transportation.

For many of us, Norm will always be “Secretary Mineta” because of the respect and leadership which has become synonymous with his name. He is a true political trailblazer and leader of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. In 1967, he was the first Asian American to serve on the San Jose city council and he became the first Asian American mayor of a major United States city when he was elected to lead San Jose in 1971.

From 1975 to 1995, Secretary Mineta continued to serve the San Jose community as its Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his twenty years in the House, he championed legislation that established Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the seminal reparations bill where the United States Government officially apologized for sending families of Japanese descent to internment camps during World War II. He helped author the Americans with Disabilities Act, which became law in 1990. He also co-authored the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, which gave state and local governments control over highway and mass transit decisions. Under his leadership, then-Congressman Mineta founded and chaired the bicameral and bipartisan Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, which continues to promote and advocate Asian American and Pacific Islander concerns and issues.

To this day, Secretary Mineta remains a prominent leader within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community through his work with numerous civic organizations. He is a recognized expert on transportation and homeland security issues. He received the highest civilian award in the United States when he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2006.

Of course, we could spend a good portion of our lifetime reciting Norm Mineta's achievements. I, however, would like to close my remarks by simply heralding what I believe to be the true mark of this great American statesman: through thick and thin, Norm Mineta has carried his country on his shoulders. With Secretary Mineta, no one is left behind and America can never have a bad day. For that, Norm Mineta has earned our eternal affection and commands our grateful respect.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1377, a tribute to a distinguished former member of this body, Norman Yoshio Mineta.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS M. DIEMER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, and Congressman PETE STARK to recognize East Bay Municipal Utility District General Manager Dennis M. Diemer and congratulate him as he approaches his well-earned retirement.

Mr. Diemer's career in public service demonstrates his lifelong commitment to the citizens and communities of the East Bay. We are grateful to him for his service to our constituents.

He began his career with EBMUD in 1981 as a senior environmental engineer, and over the ensuing years he was promoted to positions of increasing responsibility at the agency. In 1995, the board of directors selected him to serve as acting general manager, and he was appointed as general manager on February 13, 1996.

In California, where our water fights are legendary, Dennis' collaborative approach helped EBMUD make strides toward a secure water future. Working with the district's board of directors, Dennis and his team focused on identifying and working with partners for water supply projects. He played a significant role in ending years of water wars between the East Bay, the Sacramento area, and the environmental community, an effort which evolved into the Freeport Regional Water Project.

Dennis' work has made a long-term difference in the environmental quality of the Bay Area. He has long promoted protection of San Francisco Bay, from his work in the 1980s managing a collaborative effort with local communities to abate uncontrolled sewage discharges into San Francisco to more recent efforts to forge agreements that put EBMUD and local communities on a long term path toward controlling wet weather discharges to the Bay. In addition, under his watch, the district's new long range plan included a pioneering analysis

of the potential impacts of climate change on future water supply. These actions will result in better protection of public health and the environment.

Dennis has demonstrated exceptional leadership for EBMUD, making the organizational and process improvements necessary to anticipate and adapt to changes in regulations, technology, the environment, and the world around us.

Madam Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join us in honoring General Manager Dennis Diemer for his dedicated service to the people of California and the Bay Area. We are pleased to join with his family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating Dennis on a long and highly successful career and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SUPERVISORS GAIL STEELE AND ALICE LAI-BITKER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gail Steele and Alice Lai-Bitker, who have chosen to retire from their exemplary service on the Alameda Board of Supervisors at the end of this year. Supervisors Steele and Lai-Bitker have served their districts with honor and distinction.

Supervisor Steele has held many positions of leadership in organizations in Alameda County including Alameda County Mental Health Advisory Board; Chair, Alameda Alliance for Health; Chair, Alameda County Children's Memorial Grove and Flag Committee; President of Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum/Area Joint Power Authority; Chair, Local Agency Formation Commission; Executive Committee of the Association of Bay Area Governments; and the Liaison Committee of the East Bay Regional Parks.

She served on the Hayward City Council from 1974 to 1982, and has represented the Second Supervisory District since June 1992. She served as President of the Board of Supervisors from January 1995 to January 1997, and again from January 2003 to January 2005.

Alice Lai-Bitker was unanimously appointed to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in December 2000. She was re-elected twice by voters in District Three, where she is serving until her tenure ends at the end of December 2010. In January 2009, she was selected by her colleagues to serve as President of the Board for 2009 and 2010.

During her tenure as Supervisor, Ms. Lai-Bitker has been a strong advocate for increasing health care for children. She spearheaded the No Wrong Door policy in Social Services to ensure quick and efficient service. Her work on domestic violence includes A Day of Remembrance, honoring victims of domestic violence and assisting in obtaining federal funds for a Family Justice Center in Alameda County.

Ms. Lai-Bitker chairs the Board's Health Committee and serves on the Social Service Committee. She is a member of the Alameda County Transportation Authority and she represents the Board of Supervisors on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

She is a member of the Board of the George Mark Children's House, the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare Community and California State University East Bay Institute for Mental Health and Wellness Education.

Supervisors Steele and Lai-Bitker have many notable accomplishments, and have won many awards for their contributions. I join the community in thanking each of these outstanding women for the significant impact they've had in our community.

HONORING BRIAN MULLER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Brian Muller upon his retirement as the Mariposa County Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator.

Mr. Muller has served Mariposa since February of 1981, when he started in the Sheriff's Office as a Jail Officer/Dispatcher. In November of 1985, he became a Deputy Sheriff, after which he received a series of promotions: to Sergeant in 1998, to Lieutenant in 1999 and finally to Undersheriff in 2003. Finally, Mr. Muller was appointed as the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator in January 2008 and he has ably served the County in that capacity since.

While working for the Sheriff's Office, Mr. Muller was responsible for a wide range of duties in the County, including 9-1-1 dispatch, patrol, an adult detention facility, investigations, court security, boat patrol, animal control, coroner, public administrator duties, and Sheriff's Community Organized Policing Effort (SCOPE). Mr. Muller also successfully applied for a number of grants from the State of California that benefited Mariposa County. For his service to the County, Mr. Muller received a number of awards, including the Mariposa Gazette Best Peace Officer award and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year from Mountain Crisis Services.

In addition to his many duties as Sheriff, Mr. Muller has contributed to the County in other ways. Brad and his wife Sarah are actively involved in their church and regularly assist at the Senior Center.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brad Muller for his dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Muller many years of continued success.

HONORING CLARKE WARDLAW McCANTS, JR.

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr., of Columbia, South Carolina, who passed away on December 3 of this year. Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr., was a brilliant legal mind. Growing up in Columbia in the 1930s, he distinguished himself among his peers as a fine attorney and was recognized by The Best Lawyers in America in its Trusts