

HONORING CHARLES KEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Charles Key upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr. Key was honored on Saturday, January 30, 2010, in Chowchilla, California.

Mr. Charles Key was raised in Henryetta, Oklahoma. At seventeen years old he enlisted in the United States Navy. Mr. Key completed Navy Boot Camp at the Navy Recruit Training Center at San Diego, California. After boot camp he was designated and trained as a Machinist Mate and was assigned to the USS *Boxer* CV-21, a twenty-seven thousand ton Essex class aircraft carrier. While on the *Boxer*, Mr. Key completed two deployments to the Western Pacific from 1950 to 1951.

The USS *Boxer* was returning from the Far East in 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea. The carrier made a rapid turn-around as it was carrying needed Air Force and Navy planes, as well as personnel, and headed to the war zone in the Pacific. During the following months, Mr. Key and his shipmates worked diligently to keep aircraft in the air by providing air support for the United Nations' fighting forces ashore. Between 1951 and 1952, while aboard the USS *Boxer*, Mr. Key made three additional Korean War cruises. The planes from the USS *Boxer* hit transportation and infrastructure targets in North Korea and gave close air support to troops on the front lines. On August 5, 1952, while engaged in combat operations, a fire broke out on the hanger deck. The fire resulted in nine deaths, several aircraft were lost and there was significant damage to the hanger deck. Mr. Key and his shipmates worked non-stop, and within two weeks the USS *Boxer* returned to combat duties off the Korean coast.

Upon returning to the United States, Machinist Mate 3rd Class Key was honorably discharged from the Navy at the Naval District in San Francisco. For his service, Mr. Key was awarded the China Service Medal, the Navy Occupation Award, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. During his civilian career, Mr. Key was a California licensed electrician and air conditioning contractor.

Mr. Key is a Life Member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896 and a member of the First Christian Church of Madera. Mr. Key and his wife, Christine, had two sons, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Charles Key upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Key many years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Armenian Relief Society as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The Armenian Relief Society, ARS, established in 1910, is a non-profit organization devoted to community and cultural service. Initially a mostly women's organization, it empowered women to take leadership roles and act for the betterment of society, and encompass the importance of serving the needs of Armenian genocide victims.

As time elapsed, the goals of the ARS branched out to reach all communities in distress—Armenian and non-Armenian alike. In addition to disaster relief and assistance during wars and epidemics, the ARS has broadened its activities and developed a mission and a common purpose. Today, they address social, educational, developmental, and cultural roles within communities.

Over the course of a century, the organization has launched chapters in more than 26 countries. The ARS situated its western roots in Fresno in 1915 and has expanded to include 26 chapters in California, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, and Utah. Hence, the ARS of Western USA was established in 1984 in response to the growing needs of expanding communities. Geographical location has never steered members off their precise course of making a difference in local communities and around the world simultaneously.

The ARS's passion to help people has blossomed into various constructive projects. Since its establishment in 1980, Armenian Relief Society Social Services Centers have aided approximately 60,000 people annually regarding issues such as immigration, counseling, and services for the elderly. In the year 2000, the ARS Child, Youth & Family Guidance Center was created to provide a gateway to individuals and families suffering from problems such as marital and family conflicts and substance abuse. Supportive professional therapists offer individual and group psychotherapy, family psychotherapy, and crisis intervention. With the support of generous donors, the ARS continues to support such centers as well as schools, scholarship programs, cultural centers, health-care clinics, and orphanages to name a few examples. Today, ARS chapters also work hand-in-hand with other charities such as the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, and YWCA.

I am proud to recognize the past and present members and supporters of the ARS for their unique contributions to the global community, and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Armenian Relief Society for 100 years of dedicated service.

BRIANNA MCKNIGHT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brianna

McKnight who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brianna McKnight is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brianna McKnight is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Brianna McKnight for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5088, AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO CLEAN WATER ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing "America's Commitment to Clean Water Act," legislation to reaffirm the ability of the Clean Water Act to protect the Nation's waters, including wetlands. These waters support our nation's economic well-being, enable our quality of life, and sustain our environment for generations to come. Over its thirty-seven-year history, the Clean Water Act has restored countless rivers, lakes, and streams, protected drinking water supplies, and preserved water quality and water-related habitat essential to waterfowl, wildlife, and fisheries.

In 1972, Congress set a goal that the Nation's waters would be fishable and swimmable by July 1, 1983. Great progress toward that goal has been made, but 40 percent of our waters still do not meet the goals and standards of the Act.

In 2001 and 2006, two decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court threw the Nation's clean water programs into turmoil, creating confusion and uncertainty for communities, developers, and agricultural interests, and placing at risk the Nation's ability to restore, protect, and maintain water quality and the water-related environment.

Turmoil, confusion, and uncertainty are no way to run a program. The result has been increased processing times and backlogs as the agencies struggle to interpret the court decisions. That is why I developed legislation to restore the common understanding of the scope of the Clean Water Act based on decades-old interpretations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The bill will ensure that the Clean Water Act can cover the same waters as it did under the regulatory decisions in place in 2001. These decisions were based on a common understanding developed over the 29 years of the Act as to defining its appropriate scope.

By restoring the common understanding and practice of protecting the Nation's waters and wetlands as existed prior to 2001, we can provide much-needed certainty to the regulated

community, and avoid costly litigation over responsibility for protecting clean water. We can also restore bedrock protections for our citizens and our neighborhoods from polluters who place families and communities at risk.

Clean, safe water is a basic right for all Americans. Yet, unless we act, the Clean Water Act cannot ensure that right.

The New York Times reports that as a result of the Supreme Court decisions companies have spilled oil, carcinogens and dangerous bacteria into lakes, rivers and other waters without being prosecuted. EPA regulators working on those cases, estimate that more than 1,500 major pollution investigations have been discontinued or shelved in the last four years.

Data from 2008, the most recent year available, show there were over 20,000 beach closings and advisories that year due to pollution, and studies in the Great Lakes show that as many as 10 percent of beachgoers report getting sick after swimming in beach waters open for swimming.

Drinking water protection areas that contain one or more small or intermittent streams that would be vulnerable to pollution under the Supreme Court decisions provide drinking water to more than 117,000,000 people in the United States.

These examples demonstrate why we must act.

Two years ago I conducted a thorough hearing where I heard from two dozen witnesses on five panels of everything that was good and bad about my prior legislative proposal. I invited suggestions from any and all interested parties.

The bill I introduce today is a new bill that responds to those comments. It more clearly and specifically targets its one objective—addressing the SWANCC and Rapanos decisions, decisions I believe were wrongly decided.

Among the significant changes from my earlier bill:

To avoid the possible need for new regulations, the bill uses the current regulatory definition of “waters of the United States” to establish the scope of the Act.

The bill codifies an exemption for prior converted croplands.

The bill codifies an exemption for waste treatment systems.

The bill explicitly states that ground water is considered separately from “waters of the United States.”

The bill explicitly states that it does not affect the authority of EPA or the Corps as that authority existed prior to SWANCC in 2001.

The bill places limits on Federal jurisdiction by specifying the Constitutional authority for the Clean Water Act, and preserving the Federal/State cooperation that is the hallmark of the Act.

The bill removes all language related to “activities”. That term created unnecessary confusion on what would require a Clean Water Act permit. Since enactment in 1972, permits are required only for discharges.

The bill preserves the exemptions, limitations, and practices under the Act.

The bill includes multiple clarifying changes to emphasize that the bill will reaffirm and restore the original scope of the Clean Water Act, and not expand its geographic scope.

Opponents of legislation to restore the Clean Water Act characterize the restoration

as a mammoth expansion of Federal power. Restoring the Clean Water Act is only an expansion to the extent the Supreme Court ignored the intent of Congress and 30 years of precedent by narrowing the Act.

Opponents argue that the Federal government should not require a permit for everything you do that might affect a wet area. I agree. The Clean Water Act never required such permits and I do not offer legislation that would do so.

Simply put, if it was not regulated before 2001, it will not be regulated with the enactment of the legislation.

Some people have opposed the Clean Water Act for decades, and it should not come as a surprise that these same groups are using recent Supreme Court decisions as justification to roll back protections under the Clean Water Act. For the sake of future generations, progress must not be rolled back. We must advance the cause of clean water by sustaining the original purpose of the Act.

In 1972, Congress voted overwhelmingly to overturn President Nixon's veto of the Clean Water Act and to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. Since that time, Americans have overwhelmingly expressed their support for protecting our Nation's waters and keeping them safe from polluters. The bill will restore America's commitment to clean water.

CARLOS REYES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carlos Reyes who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carlos Reyes is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carlos Reyes is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Carlos Reyes for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX AND THE WINNERS OF THE 2010 SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Volunteer Fairfax, and more particularly the contributions that its volunteers make to our community. Volunteer Fairfax mobilizes people and resources to

meet regional community needs. Areas in which Volunteer Fairfax acts as a clearing-house and matches volunteers to community needs include literacy programs, homeless and poverty assistance, emergency response and recovery functions, senior citizen assistance, education, and many more.

I am honored to pay tribute to the following winners of the 2010 Volunteer Fairfax Awards:

Community Champion Award Recipients are: Braddock District: Jeff Root; Dranesville District: Maya Huber; Hunter Mill District: Jim Larson; Lee District: Jane Hilder; Mason District: Frank Vajda; Mount Vernon District: Linwood Gorham; Providence District: Tysons Corner Center Employees Springfield District: Mike Thompson, Jr.; Sully District: Verdia Haywood; Fairfax County At-Large: Chris and Lisa Bright.

Competitive Award Recipients are: Adult Volunteer Over 250 Hours: Kevin Takeguchi; Adult Volunteer Under 250 Hours: Campbell “Cam” Gibson; Adult Volunteer Group: Digital TV Volunteer Team Family Volunteer: Renee and Sean McGinnis; Senior Volunteer: Ibrahim Barsoum; Volunteer Program: Homestretch Volunteer Program Youth Volunteer: Simrun Soni; Youth Volunteer Program: McLean Local Heroes; Corporate Volunteer Group: Excella Consulting; Rising Star: Zack Sanders.

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient: Betty Powell.

Benchmark Award Recipients: A number of other individuals are being honored for significant contributions of time and energy to dozens of volunteer organizations in Northern Virginia. I congratulate and thank each of the Benchmark Award Honorees for their commitment to the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for the efforts of these volunteers and their colleagues at Volunteer Fairfax. The selfless commitment of these individuals provides enumerable benefits to Northern Virginia as a community as well as life-changing services to the individuals in need.

CONGRATULATING THE 2010 ARAPAHOE COUNTY ICE WARRIORS PEE WEE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I acknowledge the accomplishments of the 2010 Arapahoe County Ice Warrior Pee Wee Hockey Team. The Warriors fought to win the AA Colorado State championship and gallantly represented Colorado in the U-12 National Championships in Reston, Virginia. The high standards which the team met are, undoubtedly, representative of the passion and excellence found throughout my district.

The warriors witheld a Colorado Springs Jr. Tiger hockey team to win the State championship 3-2 thanks in large part to the offensive prowess of Josh Pusar, Zackary Dym, Jake Dosen, Brandon Yi, Patrick Wicker, Andrej Lysak, Jack Jordan, Josh Fiegl, Andrew McCulley, and Ian Aylmer.

Despite continually facing older, larger and more experienced teams, the boys outthusted