

CONGRATULATING THE IDAHO
NATIONAL LABORATORY**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, when someone thinks of Idaho, they usually think of the things the state is most well known for, like potatoes, Boise State football, world-class hunting and fishing, or any other of the numerous outdoor attractions popular in the State. One thing Idaho is not yet well known for is its contributions to deep space exploration, yet that is the reason I come to the floor today.

I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated men and women of the Idaho National Laboratory, INL, who have made significant contributions to NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission. This mission has sent a large mobile laboratory—a planetary rover named Curiosity—into space, and is now headed to the surface of Mars. One of the greatest challenges for deep space exploration has always been providing a reliable source of electricity to power scientific instruments and provide heat to keep them from freezing in the harsh conditions of space. NASA used solar power for its earlier voyages to Mars, but because of its limitations, NASA decided to utilize nuclear powered batteries to provide the needed heat and power for the mission. The best place to assemble and test these batteries was Idaho.

Why Idaho? Well, Idaho has a long history of leadership and innovation in the nuclear power arena. After World War II, Idaho was chosen as the new home of the Nuclear Reactor Testing Station, where for the first time it was demonstrated that nuclear power could be used to generate usable forms of electricity. In the 60 years since, over 50 nuclear reactors have been designed and tested in Idaho, leading to the development of extensive capabilities and expertise. This expertise handling nuclear materials made Idaho an ideal location when NASA needed to develop the next space battery that would power its new planetary rover.

The Mars Science Laboratory mission has the potential to be the most productive Mars surface mission in history. That is due, in part to its nuclear heat and power source. The rover Curiosity, which is the size of a small car, is carrying the most advanced payload of scientific gear ever used on Mars' surface. The nuclear powered rover can go farther, travel to more places and power and heat a larger and more capable scientific payload than a solar powered vehicle would in the same environment. Curiosity will travel to locations on Mars that have been off-limits before and collect samples and perform analysis on a far larger scale than previously imagined. This is all possible because of Curiosity's unique nuclear-powered batteries.

A dedicated team of INL scientists and engineers began assembling and testing these batteries in the summer of 2008. After extensive testing to ensure the batteries would perform as expected during the launch and subsequent travel through space, and then again when the rover began its mission on Mars, the team of INL employees felt confident the batteries would do what they needed to do. Many of these people sacrificed significant time away from families to ensure every aspect of

the batteries would work as planned, a service that this country should be grateful for. But in the end, I'm sure the individuals who put thousands of hours into this project have considered it a privilege and an honor to be involved.

Last Saturday, when Curiosity lifted off from its launch pad at the Kennedy Space Center to begin its nearly nine month voyage to Mars, it may have seemed odd to see a large group of people in Idaho celebrating while they watched the event unfold on a big screen. But for this dedicated team of INL employees, it was a moment they had been anxiously awaiting for years. They can be proud of the fact that whatever new discoveries are made as a result of this new state-of-the-art rover would not be possible without their contributions. And for that, I extend heart-felt congratulations.

IN HONOR OF MR. HAL BRUNO

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Mr. Hal Bruno and his longtime dedication to political journalism and fire fighters across the nation. As a former Political Director and analyst for ABC News, Mr. Bruno's legacy is one that deserves to be recognized to the fullest degree.

Mr. Bruno's journalism career spanned five decades, and he was greatly involved in many high-profile cases including the Cuban Revolution, Watergate, Chappaquiddick, and 9/11. His breadth of knowledge and myriad of resources will remain as testaments to his tenacity as a political analyst.

Equally important in his life was the service he provided as a volunteer firefighter, and later as a Chairman Emeritus for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. In recognition of his service, the Congressional Fire Services Institute selected him as its "Fire Service Person of the Year" in 1995. His passion for fire fighting began in the 1940s, Mr. Bruno's dedication to fighting fires continued until his passing, as he always had an emergency scanner and a bunker gear, helmet, and boots in his car ready to assist in an emergency.

Commended not only for his analysis and service to his community, but also his moderation of the 1992 Vice Presidential debate, Mr. Bruno made certain to maintain a fair environment despite a highly political atmosphere. The debate only reiterated Mr. Bruno's determination to provide the people with fair and balanced information to decide for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, Hal Bruno's incessant dedication to provide assistance to members of the fire fighting community and their families in addition to informing the American public about events of import in Washington, DC is more than commendable. I take this time to remember the services this great man provided our nation. Hal Bruno will be greatly missed. He has left a legacy that will positively impact the fire service for generations in our country.

HONORING TERRANCE WAYNE
CARVER, III**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Terrance Wayne Carver, III. Terrance is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Terrance has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Terrance has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Terrance has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Terrance Wayne Carver, III, for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GLENDALE
HEIGHTS VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
DONNA BECERRA**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant from my Congressional District, Donna Becerra of the Village of Glendale Heights. After an extraordinary career of 34 years of service, Donna is stepping down from her position as Village Administrator.

Over the years, Donna has proven herself as a vital asset to the Village of Glendale Heights. Since her first position as a secretary in the Community Development Department, she has tirelessly served from within the Department in a number of leadership positions. Her steadfast commitment, diverse experience, and vibrant interest in the history and welfare of the Glendale Heights community have caused her to excel in every capacity.

In addition to Village Administrator, Donna has also served as Records Supervisor, Assistant Building Commissioner, Staff Planner, and Director of Community Development. She has pursued significant additional training and education, and is an active member in a number of Village committees.

In 2005, as a member of the Glendale Heights Historic Committee, Donna was recognized with the Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award for her extensive research and documentation for a History of the Village of Glendale Heights brochure.

Donna leaves a powerful legacy in her passionate and conscientious approach to serving the community of Glendale Heights and her robust preservation of its history. She is truly a public servant and a model citizen.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing this special occasion as we celebrate Donna Becerra's faithful service to the Village of Glendale Heights and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING PEGGY BAGGETT ON HER RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peggy J. Baggett, who will retire as the Executive Director of the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) on November 30, 2011. During her more than 30 years of service with the Commission for the Arts, Ms. Baggett directed the organization in an honest and innovative fashion, ensuring that all needs were met with the utmost attention.

After receiving her Master's degree in Arts Administration, Ms. Baggett joined the Virginia Commission for the Arts in 1976 as their Regional Coordinator. Her long list of responsibilities included: publicizing the programs and services of the Commission; providing assistance to arts organizations in applying for funds; evaluating activities funding by the Commission; coordinating the statewide Artists-in-Schools program; and consulting with non-profit arts organizations on a wide range of management problems.

In 1980, after only four years at the organization, Ms. Baggett was appointed as the Executive Director by Governor John Dalton. Her capacity to handle complex and long-term projects has been exceptionally impressive. Ms. Baggett's accountability oversaw the investment of state and federal resources in the arts and built a multi-tiered review system that is regarded as effective, fair, and consistent by leaders in the arts across the state. She has effectively worked with key legislators on both sides of the aisle on issues of importance to arts and culture while working in the administrations of three Republican Governors and five Democratic Governors. Ms. Baggett is nationally hailed as an expert on state resources, keeping the administrative costs of the agency low while focusing on providing the best possible service to the people of Virginia.

Peggy Baggett's long list of accomplishments includes numerous recognitions and awards. On January 8, 2011, she was awarded the Leadership in the Arts Award by the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA) "for her dedication and inspiring leadership in the arts of Virginia for over three decades and eight governors." Additionally, she garnered the Anne Brownson Award for Service to the Museum Profession from the Virginia Association of Museums in 2002, Award of Distinction from the Folk Art Society of Virginia in 2001, the Gary Young Award for Leadership in the State Arts Agency field from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies in 1999 and, in 1992, was named an Outstanding Woman of Virginia by the James Madison University Woman Faculty.

Along with her work at the Virginia Commission for the Arts, Peggy's clear dedication to the arts extends far beyond her regular working hours. From 1981 to 2009, she was on the Board of Directors of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, which provides arts programs from Virginia to New York. During that time, she sat on the Board of Directors for the Richmond-First Club, serving as their President

from 1995 to 1996, and was also on the Board of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies from 1989 to 1995. From 1983 to 1985, she served on the Board for the Virginia Women's Cultural History Project. She has been also been a member of the Board and Chair of the Advisory Board for the Center for Arts Administration at the University of Wisconsin several times.

Ms. Baggett has continually and generously lent her skill and expertise to others by volunteering as an Advisory Panelist for numerous National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) programs during her career. Additionally, she has worked as an Advisory Panelist and expert for other arts institutions across the country. Her recent accomplishments are a reflection of her work at the VCA. Ms. Baggett's planning, oversight, and coordination surrounding the 2008 Governor's Awards for the Arts, the first Virginia Heritage Awards in 2009, and for MINDS WIDE OPEN: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts, the Commonwealth's largest collaboration in history in the arts and cultural community, were exemplary. Her industrious oversight and coordination of the distribution of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for the arts in Virginia was well-executed and effective. Throughout her career at the VCA, Ms. Baggett has continued to promote the growth of the arts and cultural districts in localities across the state through conferences and training.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Peggy J. Baggett upon her retirement from the Virginia Commission for the Arts as their Executive Director. She has brought joy to countless individuals through her support and development of the arts in Virginia. I sincerely thank her for her service, and wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING RITA GELDERT ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF VISTA

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable public service of Rita Geldert as she retires from City Manager of the City of Vista, California.

Mrs. Geldert was appointed as Vista's City Manager in 1997, after serving three years as Assistant City Manager. Under her tenure, Mrs. Geldert has helped spur economic expansion within the City and has helped to promote businesses and job growth within the community. Her tireless work to improve and strengthen infrastructure has not gone unnoticed. Mrs. Geldert has overseen countless projects that have had a great impact on the City and the surrounding area, ranging from the development of Vista Village to the new Civic Center.

Over the past 36 years, Mrs. Geldert has worked tirelessly in the field of public service. She has been active in the city management profession, serving on the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation Board of Trustees while also being a member of multiple organizations relating to her position. Prior to her time spent as City Manager

and Assistant City Manager of Vista, she was the Director of Finance and Administration for the City of Dana Point, Management Services Officer for the City of Merced, and Personal Officer for the City of Vacaville. These positions exemplify Mrs. Geldert's dedication to not only the community she currently serves, but to the State of California and its citizens.

It is an honor to recognize Mrs. Geldert on the occasion of her retirement from over three decades of contributions to California communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to please join me in recognizing Mrs. Rita Geldert's dedicated service to the City of Vista and the state of California.

HONORING ASHER B. DURAND, GEORGE INNESS, AND THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTERS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the decision by the Architect of the Capitol to publicly display two important paintings in the Capitol Visitors Center. "The Discovery of the Hudson River" and "Entrance into Monterey," both by Albert Bierstadt, will welcome so many to the Capitol complex as they learn about the history and processes of our country. These works are part of the Hudson River School of Painters, and celebrate the beauty and diversity of the United States.

Coincidentally, two painters in the School have ties to my district in New Jersey. Asher Brown Durand was born, and later died, on a farm in my district. Although he began his career in engraving, Durand's legacy is in landscape painting, as one of the first artists of the Hudson River School of Painters. Durand's influence can be seen in another painter in the School, George Inness. Inness lived in Newark, a town I call home. Inness' distinct style combines the Hudson River School traditions with techniques he learned during travels in Western Europe.

Inness and Durand, like many of their fellow painters, traveled extensively abroad. Upon Durand's return to the United States, he took regular trips to paint the scenery of the Hudson River, the Adirondacks, and the White Mountains.

Durand's style was highly detailed, a hallmark of the School. One of Durand's most famous pieces, "Kindred Spirits," is often cited as one of the epitome of the School's values. This work cemented Durand's place at the forefront of the movement caused by the School.

Durand, as part of the first generation in the Hudson River School, is important because of his influence on later painters in the school, and on art in general. Durand helped form what is today known as the National Academy Museum and School, and served as president of the Academy for several years.

As the School's reputation increased, many of the School's painters traveled extensively to study, thus introducing these men to the culture of the grand capitals of Europe. This motivated many of the artists and other business leaders to found the Metropolitan Museum of