

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT DAM

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt Dam, the cornerstone of water resource operations in Central Arizona. The reliable, sustainable water supply provided by the dam and its reservoir, Theodore Roosevelt Lake, has served as an economic catalyst that spurred decades of growth and helped create the greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

The Salt River Valley, home to metropolitan Phoenix, was little more than a few military outposts and prospecting camps until the first modern canal company was organized in 1867. The success of this venture encouraged more irrigation concerns. Most used the ancient canal networks created and maintained by an indigenous civilization that thrived in the area more than 1,000 years earlier.

As a result of these canal companies, settlements cropped up across the Valley. Local leaders agreed a dam was needed to regulate the flow of the Salt River, which fed the canal networks, to ensure a reliable source of water and sustain development.

A group including a surveyor, journalist, and canal company superintendent identified a possible dam site in 1889 about 80 miles east of Phoenix near the confluence of Tonto Creek and the Salt River. The site was nestled among the Superstition wilderness area, the Sierra Ancha Mountains, and the Salt River Canyon.

Next, residents had to determine how to pay for such a massive undertaking. The Salt River Valley Water Users' Association was organized in 1903 when Valley landowners pledged their property as collateral for a government loan to build the proposed dam. It was a unique arrangement only made possible by an act of Congress the previous year, the National Reclamation Act of 1902.

Dam construction began in 1905 under the supervision of the U.S. Reclamation Service, now the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. When completed in early 1911 and dedicated personally by the president whose name it bears, Roosevelt was the world's largest masonry dam.

Hydroelectric generation from the dam provided early power to, and served as the basis of, power operations for the Salt River Project (SRP), a water and power entity that includes the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association.

Roosevelt Dam has undergone various improvements through the ages, including three separate upgrades of its hydroelectric generating capacity. A major modification of the dam and reservoir was completed in 1996 when the height of the dam was raised by 77 feet and the dam envelope was strengthened.

This modification was part of a comprehensive project to increase water storage, improve dam safety and enhance flood control throughout central Arizona.

Through a partnership with SRP, the federal government, and state and local communities, central Arizona has grown into a vital metropolitan region in the Southwest.

Mr. Speaker, as Theodore Roosevelt Dam embarks on its second century of service to the people of the Salt River Valley, it deserves special recognition for its historic and invaluable contributions to my state.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX GURGANUS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Alex Gurganus, a seventh-grade student at Ames Middle School in Ames, Iowa. Alex was recently named one of only four state winners of the VSA/CVS Call for Art.

Alex's participation in and of itself is stellar. Alex attained this honor despite being visually impaired. In the classroom, Alex requires large print, magnifiers, and a closed circuit TV system to facilitate his learning and compensate for zero vision in his right eye and low visual capacity in his left eye.

However, Alex did not allow these obstacles to deter him as he has been meticulously perfecting his award-winning artwork, "Design by Surprise," for the last three years. When composing a piece of art, Alex must memorize where the colors are on the palette in addition to utilizing a hand-held magnifying dome to ensure perfection.

The example set by this young man demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance, and I am honored to represent Alex Gurganus and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on overcoming such a difficult hurdle as a means to achieve such wonderful results. I speak for all my colleagues as I wish Alex continued success in his future education and career.

FAIR ACCESS TO VETERANS BENEFITS, H.R. 810

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, the Fair Access to Veterans Benefits Access Act of 2011, H.R. 810, is a bill that would help our veterans who file appeals before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. This legislation would require the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans'

Claims to hear appeals of administrative decisions by veterans denying them benefits when circumstances beyond their control render them unable to meet the deadline for filing an appeal.

This legislation would extend the 120-day limit for the filing of an appeal to the Court of Veterans Appeals after a final decision of the Board of Veterans' Appeals upon a showing of good cause for such time as justice may require. The bill considers as good cause the inability of a veteran to file within the 120-day period due to a service-connected disability. The bill would make such extension applicable to appeals of final Board decisions issued on or after July 24, 2008. This bill also requires the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to reinstate untimely appeals already dismissed as a result of the court's failure to toll the filing period for good cause.

Under the current system, the veterans' appellate processes are very difficult to navigate especially since so many veterans are pro se at that stage. Additionally, as TBI and PTSD are the signature disability of the current conflicts of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn, many veterans are also filing claims and appeals while suffering from a physical or mental disability. The adherence to rigid filing deadlines by the CAVC potentially has resulted in the denial of benefits for many veterans. My bill seeks to rectify this issue by allowing the veteran to show "good cause" for missing the filing deadline if related to the veteran's service-connected disability. It is clear to me that Congress intended to allow equitable tolling when it created the veterans' court.

The VSO community wholeheartedly supports this legislation and its costs are likely discretionary. I urge my colleagues to support this bill without delay to give these veterans the access to justice that they deserve.

HONORING LINDSEY WALKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lindsey Walker. Lindsey is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Lindsey's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Lindsey has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Lindsey can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lindsey Walker for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

HONORING PURVIS E. ISLER, SR.

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Whereas, Ninety years ago a tenacious man of God was born in Newport News, Virginia on March 9, 1921; and

Whereas, Mr. Purvis E. Isler, Sr., born to Mr. Elijah and Mrs. Esther Isler, grew up in New Jersey when his family moved north and attended Perth Amboy High School where he met and married his high school sweetheart Jeanette Deay Eaton and to their union seven daughters and three sons were born; and

Whereas, Mr. Isler has shared his time and talents as a Husband, Father and Motivator, giving the citizens of the United States a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all advancing the lives of others, through service to our country in the U.S. Army, as a broadcast electronics technician and being the ideal father and grandfather; and

Whereas, Mr. Isler has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mr. Isler along with his family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, his 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a man who is a cornerstone in our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside these days to honor and recognize Mr. Isler on his birthday and to wish him well and recognize him for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim March 9th and March 12th, 2011 as Mr. Purvis E. Isler, Sr. Days in Georgia's 4th Congressional District.

PROCLAIMED, THIS 9th day of March, 2011.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, as Congress closely scrutinizes federal programs to reduce our massive federal debt and deficit, we must take a hard look at troubled, taxpayer-financed programs that play a role in destroying American jobs. The February 25, 2011 edition of *The Washington Examiner* contained a column by Mr. Ron Arnold that discusses the legislative history and current activities of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation—a non-profit organization authorized by Congress in 1984 pursuant to Public Law 98–244.

Mr. Arnold's column illustrates how Congress originally authorized an average of \$100,000 per year in federal taxpayer money to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Yet, more than a quarter century later, the organization receives \$53 million annually in federal government funds according to its own records. Some of this money funds zealous and litigious environmental groups whose actions threaten the livelihoods of America's hard-working farmers and ranchers. At a time when American agriculture is threatened by onerous regulation, bureaucratic intimidation, unfair taxation, and high energy costs, our farmers cannot afford to defend themselves from advocacy groups funded by their hard-earned tax dollars.

I urge my colleagues to read Mr. Arnold's column on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and to question whether the federal government should continue supporting it and other non-profit groups that use taxpayer money to put people out of work.

[From the *Washington Examiner*, Feb. 25, 2011]

CONGRESS SHOULD STOP FUNDING BIG GREEN
LAWSUITS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

(By Ron Arnold)

America's taxpayers need to know about a thorny federal program lurking in the Obama budget: the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It began decades ago as a millionaire's hobby horse and grew into a Frankenstein monster that today feeds millions of taxpayer dollars to green groups that sue the federal government—and thus sue the taxpayer.

I began researching NFWF in a 1995 report on Big Green's federally funded trial lawyers, "Feeding at the Trough" (www.undueinfluence.com/feeding-at-the-trough.pdf).

NFWF's origins are bizarre: Congress created it as a nonprofit corporation in 1984, specifying that it "is not an agency or establishment of the United States Government." President Reagan denounced that double talk when he reluctantly signed the bill, writing, "Entities which are neither clearly governmental nor clearly private should not be created."

The intent for NFWF was to develop private sector support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a government agency. This perverse purpose allows a well-connected private elite—originally including timber heir Nancy Weyerhaeuser, oil billionaire Caroline Getty, and now hedge fund billionaire Paul Tudor Jones—to carve out government funds, solicit limitless private funds, and funnel the cash to whom they please, including \$25,000 to Nancy Weyerhaeuser's son Rick for an anti-logging project he ran in Montana—and \$23,500 to a Planned Parenthood-type group in Rajasthan, India, for population control near Ranthambhore National Park.

As it grew, NFWF created one horror story after another. It gave \$89,748 to the Grand Canyon Trust, which filed suit and shut down the coal-fired Mojave Power Plant in Laughlin, Nev., and cost 200 Navajo miners their high-paying jobs at the Black Mesa coal mine that supplied the plant.

NFWF gave nearly \$442,000 to the National Wildlife Federation and in return got a lawsuit to divert water from generating electricity in Pacific-Northwest power dams—and spill it for migrating salmon. The suit now threatens to remove four vital hydroelectric dams on the Snake River. Another NFWF recipient, American Rivers (\$296,700), is also a party to the suit, which is still in court.

The list goes on and on, lawsuits against fisheries, agriculture, energy, construction, manufacturing, the whole economy. NFWF claims that grantee lawsuits do not use fed-

eral money. After examining the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 reports of major litigious NFWF recipients, I found no separate segregated accounts for lawsuits—you can't tell federal money from private—making NFWF's claims appear disingenuous at best.

NFWF's original \$100,000 "one-time seed money" appropriation has bloated to \$53 million in 2009, exactly what Reagan feared when he famously muttered, "The definition of immortality is a government program."

Even though NFWF's wealthy directors should be ideal fundraisers, two-thirds of its income is routinely taxpayer money, and now the Obama administration wants to give it more millions of federal dollars that we don't have.

House appropriators tried to cut NFWF's taxpayer umbilical in 1996. Immediately, a Byzantine cabal of Big Green leaders and hired lobbyists materialized, somehow convincing the appropriators to lay off. Reagan should have added, "Environmental funding is forever."

Last week, a gutsy congressman tried again. Rep. TOM MCCLINTOCK, R-Calif., chairman of the House Natural Resource Committee's Power and Water Subcommittee, introduced an amendment to the House's \$1.2 trillion continuing resolution bill to permanently defund NFWF.

Once again, Big Green sent out its minions, and MCCLINTOCK's amendment failed on a voice vote.

That shouldn't be the end of it. We need congressional hearings to stop feeding taxpayer money into NFWF's funnel. And we need elected officials with the fortitude to instruct the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's insatiable billionaires to stop feeding at the trough.

EEOIPCA AMENDMENT ACT OF 2011
AND THE ENERGY EMPLOYEES
OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COM-
PENSATION PROGRAM IMPROVE-
MENT ACT OF 2011

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my colleague, Rep. JARED POLIS (D-CO-02) to introduce two important pieces of legislation, the EEOIPCA Amendment Act of 2011 and the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Improvement Act of 2011, which will help ensure former employees at certain Department of Energy sites receive the benefits and care they are due while also bringing transparency and oversight to the program charged with administering compensation.

During the Cold War, thousands of workers employed in the nation's atomic weapons programs were exposed to radioactive and toxic substances. For this reason, Congress passed the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) in 2000 to provide compensation to employees who have become ill as a result of work at atomic weapons facilities. Individuals, or their eligible survivors, who worked as an employee, contractor, or subcontractor at certain Department of Energy facilities may be eligible for compensation in the form of lump sum payments and medical expenses. Yet all too often workers and surviving family members, such as those in my Congressional District,