

HONORING THE LIFE OF DENNIS
KOEHLER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Dennis Koehler and express my deepest condolences to his family. Dennis died Sunday evening at the age of 69 following a battle with melanoma.

South Florida has lost a true hero with the passing of Dennis Koehler. Dennis served our Nation courageously during the war in Vietnam. After coming home to Palm Beach County, he ran for and was elected to a seat on the Palm Beach County Commission. During those 8 years, he selflessly worked to help improve the lives of Palm Beach County citizens. He was well-known for his compassion and dedication to the community.

Additionally, Dennis was a major advocate for veterans' rights. He is one of the founding members of Vietnam Veterans of America, VVA, and served on VVA's first National Board of Directors from 1983 to 1985. A veteran himself, Dennis understood the importance of taking care of those who have served our Nation with dignity and respect.

As an attorney in private practice, Dennis has earned the gratitude of veterans throughout Florida by using his legal skills to fight for their rights and benefits. Two years ago, when one of my constituents lost his pension following a road accident, Dennis volunteered his time and knowledge to work with my Congressional office to have the Department of Veterans' Affairs reinstate my constituent's benefits.

Dennis' activism on this tragic issue prompted me to introduce the Veterans Pensions Protection Act to ensure that veterans, and their surviving spouses and children, will never again face the threat of losing their pensions because they received payments to cover expenses incurred after an accident. I wish to dedicate the Veterans Pensions Protection Act in honor of Dennis Koehler for his lifetime commitment and service to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis was a true patriot, a community leader, and an outstanding American. I am deeply saddened by his passing, which is more than a personal loss for just myself, but also a loss to the South Florida community.

MAC MCFADDEN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mac McFadden of Grand Junction, Colorado. Mr. McFadden is one of the proud Americans who served his country during World War II. It is because of his service, and that of so many of his generation, that we can celebrate our freedoms today.

Mr. McFadden chose to enlist in the Army, but was initially turned away because of his poor vision. Rather than accept the results, however, he memorized the eye test and

passed after a second attempt. Upon finally joining the Army, he became a mechanic, ultimately reaching the level of Technician Grade 5, in the 3156th Ordnance Base Artillery & Fire Control Maintenance Battalion.

During his nearly four years of duty, he distinguished himself quickly. Among his many decorations, he received an American Theater Campaign Medal, EAME Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars, a Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon, Service Stripe and five Overseas Service Bars.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize one of the many brave men who served our country during its time of need. Mr. McFadden's efforts helped ensure our victory and the success we have enjoyed since World War II.

LET US EAT FISH

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have for some time been pointing out the inconsistency between those who would restrict our ability to catch fish in a responsible way, and the argument that we should be encouraging the American people to eat in a healthier manner. In the New York Times for April 14, 2011, Ray Hilborn makes this case very well. As he notes, we have made great progress in reducing overfishing, but the law has not yet been written with enough flexibility to recognize that fact. As Mr. Hilborn notes, "the Magnuson Act . . . has been successful, but it needs to be revised. The last time it was reauthorized, in 2006, it required the rebuilding of overfished stocks within ten years. That rule is too inflexible and hurts fishing communities from New England to California."

Mr. Speaker, that is the major reason that I voted against the Magnuson Act, although I agree that there were some useful things in it. And I welcome this very thoughtful explanation by Mr. Hilborn of why the time has come to provide that flexibility.

Mr. Speaker, as he says, "we are caught between the desire for oceans as pristine ecosystems and the desire for sustainable seafood." People who argue for greater and greater restrictions of fish claim to have the moral high ground, but they can only make their argument if they ignore the negative impact this has not just on the livelihoods of a lot of working people in the communities in which they live, but on our ability to make a very healthy part of a diet—good seafood—available at prices that people of moderate income can afford.

[From The New York Times, Apr. 4, 2011]

LET US EAT FISH

(By Ray Hilborn)

SEATTLE, WA.—This Lent, many ecologically conscious Americans might feel a twinge of guilt as they dig into the fish on their Friday dinner plates. They shouldn't.

Over the last decade the public has been bombarded by apocalyptic predictions about the future of fish stocks—in 2006, for instance, an article in the journal *Science* projected that all fish stocks could be gone by 2048.

Subsequent research, including a paper I co-wrote in *Science* in 2009 with Boris Worm, the lead author of the 2006 paper, has shown

that such warnings were exaggerated. Much of the earlier research pointed to declines in catches and concluded that therefore fish stocks must be in trouble. But there is little correlation between how many fish are caught and how many actually exist; over the past decade, for example, fish catches in the United States have dropped because regulators have lowered the allowable catch. On average, fish stocks worldwide appear to be stable, and in the United States they are rebuilding, in many cases at a rapid rate.

The overall record of American fisheries management since the mid-1990s is one of improvement, not of decline. Perhaps the most spectacular recovery is that of bottom fish in New England, especially haddock and redfish; their abundance has grown sixfold from 1994 to 2007. Few if any fish species in the United States are now being harvested at too high a rate, and only 24 percent remain below their desired abundance.

Much of the success is a result of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which was signed into law 35 years ago this week. It banned foreign fishing within 200 miles of the United States shoreline and established a system of management councils to regulate federal fisheries. In the past 15 years, those councils, along with federal and state agencies, nonprofit organizations and commercial and sport fishing groups, have helped assure the sustainability of the nation's fishing stocks.

Some experts, like Daniel Pauly of the University of British Columbia Fisheries Center, who warns of "the end of fish," fault the systems used to regulate fisheries worldwide. But that condemnation is too sweeping, and his prescription—closing much of the world's oceans to fishing—would leave people hungry unnecessarily.

Many of the species that are fished too much worldwide fall into two categories: highly migratory species that are subject to international fishing pressures, and bottom fish—like cod, haddock, flounder and sole—that are caught in "mixed fisheries," where it is impossible to catch one species but not another. We also know little about the sustainability of fish caught in much of Asia and Africa.

The Atlantic bluefin tuna is emblematic of the endangered migratory species; its numbers are well below the target set by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and the catches in the Eastern Atlantic are too high. Many species of sharks also fall into this category. Because these stocks are fished by international fleets, reducing the catch requires global cooperation and American leadership. But not all highly migratory fish are in danger; the albacore, skipjack and yellowfin tuna and swordfish on American menus are not threatened.

Managing the mixed fisheries in American waters requires different tactics. On the West Coast, fish stocks have been strongly revived over the past decade through conservative management: fleet size reductions, highly restrictive catch limits and the closing of large areas to certain kinds of nets, hooks and traps. Rebuilding, however, has come at a cost: to prevent overharvesting and protect weak species, about 30 percent of the potential sustainable harvest from productive species (those that can be harvested at higher rates) goes untapped.

A similar tradeoff is going on in New England, where the management council, made up of federal and state representatives, restricts the harvesting of bottom fish like cod and yellowtail flounder in both the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank, off Cape Cod. In trying to rebuild the cod, regulators have had to limit the catch of the much more abundant haddock, which are caught in the same nets.

The Magnuson Act regulating federal fisheries has been successful, but it needs to be revised. The last time it was reauthorized, in 2006, it required the rebuilding of overfished stocks within 10 years. That rule is too inflexible and hurts fishing communities from New England to California. A better option is to give the management councils greater discretion in setting targets and deadlines for rebuilding fish stocks.

We are caught between the desire for oceans as pristine ecosystems and the desire for sustainable seafood. Are we willing to accept some depleted species to increase long-term sustainable food production in return? After all, if fish are off the menu, we will likely eat more beef, chicken and pork. And the environmental costs of producing more livestock are much higher than accepting fewer fish in the ocean: lost habitat, the need for ever more water, pesticides, fertilizer and antibiotics, chemical runoff and “dead zones” in the world’s seas.

Suddenly, that tasty, healthful and environmentally friendly fish on the plate looks a lot more appetizing.

HELEN “TADDY” SWINSON
TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen “Taddy” Swinson of Brush, Colorado. Ms. Swinson was a mother, grandmother, volunteer and philanthropist. Her devotion to her family and work for the less fortunate left an indelible mark on the community.

Ms. Swinson was a longtime member of the Red-Cross and volunteered much of her time to the Meals and Friendship program. She also worked tirelessly for the Alter and Rosary Society at her church, St. Mary’s Catholic Church. Her family was always a priority and it shows in the happiness and success that they enjoy today.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize a woman who did so much for her community and country today. There is no doubt that the values she demonstrated will live on through those who knew her and those she cared for during her life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
PETER VAGI FOR SHARING HIS
STORY OF HOLOCAUST SUR-
VIVAL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Peter Vagi, an 83 year-old Holocaust survivor from Palm Beach County. His inspirational story was recently documented in a film about the Holocaust entitled *The Rescuers*. Mr. Vagi has shared his story with countless others. I hope that by the telling his story we never witness such atrocities as the Holocaust ever again. The world cannot forget. We must remember. We must remember every story, every victim, and every survivor.

Mr. Vagi’s story begins when he was 17 years old and the Germans took control of

Hungary. He was almost immediately forced from school into a work camp to perform laborious tasks. Mr. Vagi was one of the few who was prevented from boarding the train to Auschwitz right on the platform. Soon after, he was moved to a Jewish Ghetto and stayed there until the Russians liberated Budapest. However, it wasn’t long before the evils of Communism became apparent and Mr. Vagi decided to move first to Austria and then finally to the United States.

Mr. Vagi’s story, along with all the other survivors serve as a reminder of the terrible period of human history that must never happen again. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Vagi’s life and all that he has done to ensure that history is not forgotten.

HONORING TOMMY SMOTHERS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Tom Smothers of Kenwood, California, who is receiving the Jack Green Civil Liberties Award from the Sonoma County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Tommy Smothers is a fitting recipient for an award that has been presented for more than two decades to community members who have transformed their life-long commitment to civil liberties, human rights and social justice into action. Well known for battling censors while producing television’s acclaimed *Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*, Tommy has long been a symbol of resistance to censorship, fighting to present matters of vital interest to a wide American audience.

Working with his brother Dick, his career as an entertainer, comedian, and musician, began in 1959 with the formation of *The Smothers Brothers*, a folk-singing and comedy act. In 1967, *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* debuted on CBS-TV and quickly established itself as something unique during a time when variety/comedy shows were television staples. The show revolutionized prime-time by using comedy to delve into taboo subjects—drugs, racism, police brutality—and to satirize politicians and criticize the Vietnam War. Singers like Pete Seeger, who had been blacklisted since the 1950s, were frequent guests.

CBS soon realized that these topics were hotter than the network could handle. As the show’s producer, Tom fought against censorship, but *The Smothers Brothers* were fired in April, 1969, ostensibly for failing to comply with rules for submitting tapes of the show for review before broadcasting. The brothers then won a case against CBS for breach of contract. They continued to tour and perform until 2010, becoming the longest-running comedy act in U.S. history.

Forty years later, Tom received an Emmy award for his writing on the show which he dedicated “to all of the people who feel compelled to speak out and not afraid to speak to power and won’t shut up and refuse to be silenced.”

This certainly describes Tom Smothers who continues to speak out to this day. Now living in Sonoma County with his wife Marcy, he is

an inspirational model for our community and people across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Smothers’ receipt of the Jack Green Civil Liberties Award reminds us of his statement, “The only valid censorship of ideas is the right of people not to listen.” This is a lesson we can all take to heart today as we celebrate Tom’s talents and leadership in defense of our rights.

PEDIATRIC INTERIM CARE CENTER

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an organization that my family and I hold close to our hearts: the Pediatric Interim Care Center (PICC). PICC opened its doors in 1990 in Kent, Washington, and since that time has saved the lives of more than 2,500 drug-addicted newborns. An organization like PICC—with visionary leaders and founders like Barbara Drennen and Barbara Richards—reminds us every day just how fragile and precious life is, and how much promise it holds. For 20 years PICC and its leadership, staff, and volunteers have transformed lives, bettered communities, and served a purpose greater than self.

Simply perusing PICC’s website is enough to make an individual know with heart, mind, and soul that the work being done down there is good and life-altering. Going to PICC in Kent and having the opportunity to hold the beautiful and precious babies there can change one’s life. I know it did mine, in many ways. My daughter Tabitha and her husband Ken adopted two beautiful babies from PICC. There is no doubt that raising a drug-addicted baby is difficult. Tabitha and Ken endured many sleepless nights, countless frustrations, and more than a few tears. Of course, life’s biggest struggles so often bring life’s biggest blessings. And what a blessing those beautiful babies have been. Tabitha, Ken, my wife, Julie, and I, and the rest of my family feel incredibly blessed everyday to have received gifts from PICC in the form of Emma and Briar. Emma is now seven and Briar is nine. They’ve blessed our family and our friends immensely. They’ve grown from fragile babies into energetic and precocious kids who play and enjoy life everyday with the intensity and wonder reserved for youth. While making discoveries and investigating life with my two remarkable grandchildren, I thank PICC staff and volunteers for the life-altering and truly beautiful work they do. Over the course of 20 years, PICC has provided countless memories to thousands and continue to expand on their legacy.

The scourge of drug use and abuse afflicts families and communities in every part of our nation. Children born into drug abuse start life at a distinct disadvantage. Children exposed to illegal drugs are more likely to ingest drugs themselves, abuse alcohol, fail in their relationships, and fall short of being an asset in their community. Sometimes it’s easy to give in and think the cycle of abuse and failure will never end. That’s when an organization like PICC provides hope. Hope for families looking to adopt. Hope for mothers ready to turn their lives around. Hope for innocent babies who