

Second, Congress must pass this legislation. We owe it to the people that ride Metro and we owe it to the people that work at Metro. We can never forget the people that died that fateful day. I urge the Senate to pass safety legislation so no community ever has to suffer the loss that the National Capital Region did during the summer of 2009.

TRIBUTE TO VICKIE BEAVER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, my state of Oregon is blessed with a tremendous number of generous and philanthropic individuals. But I would like to take a moment today to single out one of them and recognize her years of dedication to helping others.

Vickie Beaver of Lebanon, OR, has been elected president of the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies by her fellow members. The town of Lebanon and the State of Oregon have benefited greatly from Vickie's civic and philanthropic work. Now, in her position as president, she can do the same for people all across the U.S. I am honored to know of such an exemplary leader in the State I proudly serve.

This is nothing new for our State. Vickie is the fifth Oregonian to serve as national president of the Rebekahs, and the second Lebanon, OR, native.

The Rebekahs, along with their partners the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, are a 192-year-old service organization with more than 10,000 lodges spanning over 25 countries around the world. The aim of the Rebekahs and Odd Fellows is the simple but awe-inspiring goal of making the world a better place to live. It is a daunting goal that both organizations take very seriously. Members are involved in a variety of different relief projects, including the Educational Foundation which provides scholarships and loans for students aspiring to go to college, the SOS Children's Village which is an orphanage project in Cambodia and the Living Legacy project which plants trees and enhances the environment of neighborhoods. The organization's philosophy is that friendship, love and truth, can create peace and harmony in the world.

Vickie has been active in the Rebekahs for more than 30 years, continuing a family legacy of service that goes back four generations. Within Rebekahs, Vickie is known for her commitment to the community and hard work in support of the Rebekah initiatives. It is this dedication that led to her election to various leadership positions in the organization over the years, and, finally, as president. During her tenure as the guiding spirit of the Educational Foundation, she worked closely with the Lebanon School District as well as with nationally recognized organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club. Through its grants, the foundation provides deserving young men and women the opportunity to attend college, something they otherwise would not be

able to do because of financial limitations. Since its creation in 1927 with the goal of educating future generations, the foundation has provided loans and grants to over 3,500 college-bound students. The Rebekahs believe that education is the foundation of a more enlightened community, and has made it their mission to offer that gift to deserving young men and women around the country.

Vickie's genuine concern for the well being of the young adults in her community certainly strengthened the Educational Foundation's outreach to the students. I am sure Vickie will bring the same dedication to her new position as president of the Rebekah Assemblies.

I would like to once again congratulate Ms. Vickie Beaver, an inspiring leader from the town of Lebanon in my State of Oregon. Vickie's work clearly embodies the Rebekah Assemblies' and Odd Fellows efforts to make the community a better place for America's youth to live, grow and prosper. I know that she will take her new role in the Rebekah Assemblies very seriously, and I have no doubt in my mind that she will do an exceptional job.

FWS FUNDING

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, like many Arkansians, I am very concerned about the administration's proposal to cut \$6,288,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS, National Fish Hatchery Operations, where the production of fish is for the purpose of mitigating the effects of Federal water development projects. Under this proposal, several National Fish Hatcheries, including the Greers Ferry and Norfolk National Fish Hatcheries in Arkansas, are scheduled to lose their FWS funding. The reliability of alternative mechanisms to provide Federal funding for the operation of FWS mitigation hatcheries is currently uncertain.

I am working with the Arkansas delegation and the administration to preserve the ongoing responsibility of FWS to fund and operate the National Fish Hatcheries at Norfolk and Greers Ferry Dams, and to make sure we "allow the investment in these hatcheries to continue to contribute to the economic vitality" of Arkansas communities and our country.

Accordingly, I ask unanimous consent to have the Arkansas House Resolution No. 1014 of 2011, which was adopted in its entirety on February 24, 2011, by the Arkansas House of Representatives, printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1014

Whereas, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service plans to cut the budgets for the trout hatcheries below Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams; and

Whereas, these fish hatcheries provide the foundation for Arkansas's world-renowned

trout fishery waters that produce a total economic impact of well over one hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) annually but only 9 cost taxpayers approximately one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) annually to operate. The hatcheries at Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams alone generate five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$5,500,000) in federal tax revenues, roughly three dollars and sixty-five cents (\$3.65) for every one dollar (\$1.00) invested; and

Whereas, seventy-five (75) years ago, north Arkansas's White River was arguably the best smallmouth bass stream in America. Fisherman came from all over the country to experience once-in-a-lifetime float trips down the beautiful bluff-lined river; and

Whereas, upon a series of dams being built in the White River basin in the 1940s, the federal government assured the state's citizens that mitigation efforts would be included to offset the loss of the river's incredibly productive native fishery. The key component of this commitment was the construction of Norfolk National Fish Hatchery in 1955 near Norfolk Dam and the establishment of world-class trout waters below both Norfolk and Bull Shoals lakes; and

Whereas, a decade later, the trout hatchery at the base of Greers Ferry Dam provided the means for a similarly successful fishery to be established at the Little Red River in Greers Ferry; and

Whereas, these modest projects rank among the all-time success stories of our federal government because of the overall economic impact and return on investment they produce; and

Whereas, fish production at the Norfolk hatchery employs nine hundred ninety-four (994) individuals, and the Greers Ferry hatchery employs an additional seven hundred fifty-two (752) people; and

Whereas, dozens of resorts employing hundreds of individuals have been established in these world-class fishing areas because of the increase in tourism. The town of Cotter, Arkansas, for example, bills itself as "Trout Capital USA"; and

Whereas, trout fishing in the White River basin is worth about three times the annual flood losses prevented by Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, Norfolk, Greers Ferry, and Clearwater reservoirs, and these structures averted fifty-one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$51,400,000) in damages in the last fiscal year; and

Whereas, the electricity generated from Bull Shoals Lake and Norfolk Lake averages approximately one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) of electricity each year, but the trout fishery is worth an additional fifty percent (50%) more than that on an annual basis; and

Whereas, investment in the Norfolk and Greers Ferry Fish hatcheries has consistently demonstrated positive returns for more than half a century. The federal government's goal to reduce the federal deficit and increase economic growth would be damaged, not enhanced, if funding for trout programs is reduced or eliminated to the detriment of its promise to Arkansas and to these small towns whose livelihood depends on the fish hatcheries. Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-Eighth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, That the President and Congress of the United States work together to continue the immediate and future funding of the national fish hatcheries at Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams and allow the investment in these hatcheries to continue to contribute to the economic vitality of these towns, the State of Arkansas, and the entire country; be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the President

of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL GEORGE W. CASEY, JR.

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my Army Caucus co-chair, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. JIM INHOFE, I rise today to recognize one of our country's finest soldiers. GEN George W. Casey, Jr., the 36th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, is retiring after over 40 years of distinguished service to our Nation. General Casey has led soldiers at every level from platoon to division and all the way to chief, continuing the tradition of service begun by his father, MG George W. Casey, Sr., Commander, 1st Cavalry Division, killed in a helicopter crash on July 7, 1970, while visiting his troops during his assignment in Vietnam.

Later in 1970, General Casey earned his commission as a second lieutenant through Georgetown University's Reserve Officer Training Corps and began his service to our Nation as an infantry officer. While serving in Germany, he excelled as a platoon leader and was selected to attend Ranger School and Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Fort Benning, GA, in 1974. Over the next 12 years, General Casey was assigned to units within the 4th Infantry Division, Mechanized, Fort Carson, CO. These postings culminated in his promotion to lieutenant colonel, serving as Commander, 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry in 1985.

In 1991, then-Colonel Casey continued his career with the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. His success led to an Army fellowship and congressional liaison assignments in the Washington, DC area. Colonel Casey then returned to Europe as the Chief of Staff, V Corps, United States Army Europe. When forces were ordered into Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Endeavor, Colonel Casey deployed to Tazsar, Hungary, as part of USAREUR Forward. Later, leading the 1st Armored Division as Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, he oversaw the peaceful resettlement of Bosnian villages throughout the Multi-National Division-North MND(N) area of operations. He also oversaw the security of the first free elections on September 14, 1996, as mandated by the Dayton Peace Accord.

Over the next 10 years General Casey would make historic and lasting impacts as a leader at the highest levels of the Army. From 2001 until 2003, as the Director, Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5) to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Casey was a key figure in the crisis action planning

to prosecute the global war on terror. In this position, General Casey was responsible for advising National, Defense, Joint and Army senior leadership about strategic issues and joint capabilities, requirements and resources. Later, his participation in Department of Defense and interagency affairs helped shape concepts that defined the future conduct of joint training and operations. The results of his efforts are visible today in the ongoing transformation of the American military into a more lethal, flexible, and responsive Joint force.

In 2003, as Director of the Joint Staff, General Casey's uncompromising support of our nation's deployed forces contributed to successful operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Horn of Africa, the Philippines, and elsewhere around the world. During this period of changing global conditions and evolving challenges to the security of the United States, General Casey led the Joint Staff with unparalleled professional leadership and expertise. His participation in the national security decisionmaking process directly enhanced the security and welfare of the Nation.

As the 30th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army from 2003 until 2004, General Casey employed his outstanding leadership and management skills to assist the Chief of Staff in supporting the Nation's war on terror and put the Army on course for one of the most profound transformations in their history. Recognizing the soldier as the centerpiece of the Army as well as the need to sustain the all-volunteer force that was stressed and strained by conflict, General Casey aggressively worked to care for soldiers and their families, ensuring the forces' success throughout the world. His legacy as the Vice Chief of Staff is an Army postured to meet the challenges of the 21st century as a result of his superior ability to lead in a period of war and profound transition.

As the Commanding General of Multi-National Force-Iraq from 2004 until 2007 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, General Casey's leadership of a 32-nation coalition, in coordination with its Iraqi partners, developed and implemented the actions that eliminated numerous terrorist safe havens. This began the rollback of insurgent gains throughout the country, setting the conditions for Iraq's first free national elections after 30 years of tyranny. Later, through the implementation of a vigorous counterinsurgency and counterterrorism campaign, he established a level of stability and security which allowed infrastructure reconstruction activities in Iraq to quadruple.

Following his service in Iraq, General Casey was selected to serve as the 36th Chief of Staff of the Army in 2007. He synchronized the continuous generation and deployment of combat power to meet requirements of two ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and multiple operations around the world. A

strategic leader for our Army, and our Nation, he has personally led the transformation of the Army to meet the security challenges of the 21st century and restore balance to the force to set the conditions for continued success in the second decade of this era of persistent conflict. These innovative changes enabled Army forces to execute wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as successfully implement multiple humanitarian missions around the globe.

When history looks back at the decades of service by the 36th Chief of Staff of the Army, it will be clear that he embodied the highest ideals of the American military professional. Our Nation owes General Casey, his wife Sheila, and their family its sincere appreciation for his truly extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States throughout his distinguished career in the U.S. Army. I wish him, his wife Sheila, their two sons Sean and Ryan and their families continued success and happiness in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY KENNETH O. PRESTON

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my cochair of the Army Caucus, the junior Senator from Hawaii, Mr. DANIEL AKAKA, I congratulate Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States as the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston is retiring after 36 distinguished years of service.

Sergeant Major Preston is a native of Mount Savage, MD. He entered the Army as a cavalry scout in June 1975, and has served in every enlisted leadership position, including cavalry scout, platoon sergeant, and tank commander. He served as Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Armored Division, V Corps in Germany and the Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was an instrumental leader during the invasion of Iraq.

In 1975, Sergeant Major Preston was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division, as they were transforming from an Air Cavalry Division to a Heavy Division. He spent his first years in the military as a scout, excelling on every vehicle from motorcycles to dune buggies, surpassing his peers and distinguishing himself as a superior leader. Two years later, Sergeant Major Preston was promoted to sergeant and moved to the 33rd Armor Regiment, 3rd Armor Division in Germany. His commanders again recognized his superior leadership skills and selected him first as a senior gunner and then as the commander of the battalion commanders tank. Throughout his command, his tank was consistently named top tank in the battalion.

Sergeant Major Preston took the knowledge and expertise he gained in