

101-foot waterfall named for the rain-bow that often forms in its mist.

Support for monument designation was substantial, including a letter of support from the Sierra Club signed by the renowned preservationist John Muir. On July 6, 1911, using the authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906, President William Howard Taft signed the proclamation creating Devils Postpile National Monument.

With the growth of the interstate highway system in the 1950s, a proposal for an eight-lane trans-Sierra highway connecting Fresno to Mammoth Lakes came forward that would have resulted in destruction to the landscape and the character of the monument. The effort to stop the highway was long and at times difficult. But, with strong opposition from a group of committed local residents, businessowners and packers, the proposal to build the trans-Sierra highway was abandoned in 1972.

The expansion of existing wilderness areas and the designation of the Ansel Adams Wilderness in 1984 brought further protection of Devils Postpile and the surrounding peaks and valley that constitute the breathtaking landscape of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin Valley. I am pleased that in 2009 President Obama signed legislation I authored providing additional wilderness protection to public lands in the immediate area.

Today, Devils Postpile National Monument represents the special qualities highlighted in the Presidential Proclamation that led to its creation a century ago as a place of "scientific interest" and "public enjoyment." Every year, tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world travel to the Eastern Sierra to marvel at its natural beauty and rich history.

The story of the Devils Postpile National Monument's first 100 years is a testament to the value of preservation, scientific research, and recreation. I applaud the partnership between the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service which has resulted in high quality visitor services and the preservation of the beauty of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River.

As the friends and staff of the Devils Postpile National Monument gather to celebrate this auspicious occasion, I congratulate them on their centennial anniversary and wish everyone a memorable experience.●

TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE JUDITH MEIERHENRY

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I recognize the service of Judith K. Meierhenry to the Unified Judicial System of South Dakota. In June of this year, Justice Meierhenry will retire after nearly 9 years as associate justice on the South Dakota Supreme Court.

Justice Judith Meierhenry was educated at the University of South Dakota where she received her bachelor's, master's, and juris doctorate degrees.

Upon completion of her education, Justice Meierhenry practiced law in Vermillion in 1977 and 1978. She began her service to the State of South Dakota in 1979 when Governor Janklow appointed her to the State Economic Opportunity Office. This was just the beginning of her commitment to South Dakota; she was appointed as Secretary of Labor beginning in 1980 and Secretary of Education and Cultural Affairs in 1983.

In 1985, Justice Meierhenry left the public sector and worked as a senior manager and assistant general counsel for Citibank in Sioux Falls, SD. Justice Meierhenry was appointed by Governor Mickelson in 1988 as a Second Circuit Court judge serving Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties. She became presiding judge of the Second Judicial Circuit in 1997.

Governor Janklow appointed Justice Meierhenry to the South Dakota Supreme Court in 2002. This historic appointment made her the first woman to serve on South Dakota's highest court. Though no female had preceded her in this post, Justice Meierhenry succeeded in this demanding position and now leaves her position having set a standard of excellence for her successors, regardless of gender, to follow. Through her service, female judges and attorneys in South Dakota's legal system now have available to them an exemplary female role model and owe a debt of gratitude to Justice Meierhenry. The citizens of the State of South Dakota are better for the public service of Judith Meierhenry.

According to Chief Justice David Gilbertson, during her time on the South Dakota Supreme Court:

Justice Judith Meierhenry has contributed to the legal scholarship of that body in resolving the disputes that come before it. Whether it be a traffic ticket or a death penalty conviction, Justice Meierhenry has approached each case with the application of the highest of legal scholarship. The South Dakota Supreme Court, the legal profession of South Dakota and all of the citizens of South Dakota are all better off for the public service of Justice Judith Meierhenry.

South Dakota Second Judicial Circuit court judge Patricia Riepel also notes that Justice Meierhenry "was always well-prepared and decisive, she required decorum in her courtroom as well as civility and cordiality to all of the participants, and she has worked tirelessly for the advancement of women within the legal profession, and especially within the judiciary."

I wish Justice Meierhenry a happy and healthy retirement. In her own words, "life and time are our only real possessions," and it is time that she reclaim those possessions for herself and her family. I thank Justice Meierhenry for her commitment to the rule of law and her long and distinguished career serving the State of South Dakota.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ANTHONY WRIGHT

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it is with great privilege that I congratulate

late COL Anthony Wright, Seattle district engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on his well-deserved retirement after 30 years with the Army Corps. Colonel Wright has been stationed with the Seattle District for 3 years and my staff and I have had the pleasure of working extensively with him during that time.

Western Washington State has suffered several severe storms in the last few years, resulting in devastating floods, major losses of infrastructure, and millions of dollars of damage to homes and businesses. Under Colonel Wright's leadership, the Army Corps responded quickly and efficiently to minimize the threats of rising floodwaters, and for this we are very grateful. His professionalism and expertise helped our region through disasters and undoubtedly lessened the destruction and prevented the loss of life.

An example of Colonel Wright's leadership ability was his response to a storm that caused serious damage to the Howard Hanson Dam in King County, raising the flood threat for hundreds of thousands of residents in the Green River Valley, which is home to one of the largest manufacturing and distribution bases on the West Coast. Colonel Wright and the Army Corps reacted quickly and decisively to counter this vulnerability, working with local governments and the public to ensure that the region was prepared until the dam could be repaired.

On behalf of all Washingtonians, I thank Colonel Wright for his dedication to the safety and well-being of the people of western Washington. His knowledge, experience, and tireless effort will be sorely missed. I congratulate Colonel Wright and wish he and his family the best of luck in their future endeavors.●

A TRIBUTE TO BOBBY ALLISON

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I recognize racing legend Robert "Bobby" Arthur Allison upon his induction into the second class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Bobby is a founding member of the "Alabama Gang" and one of the greatest drivers of NASCAR's modern era.

NASCAR is the most popular and competitive racing organization in the United States, and its premier league, the Sprint Cup Series, draws thousands of fans to each of its 36 races. Last year, NASCAR opened the NASCAR Hall of Fame to honor the sport's greatest contributors, inducting Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt, Junior Johnson, Bill France, Sr., and Bill France, Jr. In the second class of inductees, Bobby, along with racing greats Ned Jarrett, David Pearson, and Lee Petty, and team owner Bud Moore, joined these elite racers in receiving one of the sport's highest honors.

Bobby Allison entered his first race while he was still a high school student in southern Florida, needing written permission from his mother to compete. Seizing the opportunity to race

competitively, he and his brother, Donnie, left Florida along with fellow racer Red Farmer, and settled in Hueytown, AL. These three young men became known as the "Alabama Gang," a racing fraternity that would later include Bobby's son Davey Allison and NASCAR star Neil Bonnett.

After his relocation to Alabama, Bobby garnered tremendous success on the track, winning NASCAR Modified Special Division titles in 1962 and 1963. He followed this success with consecutive NASCAR Modified Division championships in 1964 and 1965. Bobby competed in his first Sprint Cup Series race at the 1961 Daytona 500, and achieved his first Sprint Cup win 5 years later, at Oxford Plains Speedway in Maine in 1966. In his 25-year Sprint Cup career, Bobby won 83 additional races, including three Daytona 500 triumphs and four victories at Talladega Superspeedway. He is tied with Darrell Waltrip for the third most wins in Sprint Cup history. Mr. Allison is also a five-time Sprint Cup Series runner-up, winning the Cup once in 1983, when it was still known as the Winston Cup. His final win was a thrilling father-son performance at the 1988 Daytona 500, where he and his son Davey finished first and second place, respectively.

Despite his great successes, Bobby's life has included tragedy. His racing career was cut short by injuries sustained during a severe crash at Pocono Raceway months after his final win at Daytona. In 1992, his youngest son Clifford was killed while practicing for a race at Michigan International Speedway. A few months later, his older son Davey Allison was killed in a helicopter crash at Talladega.

Through both success and sorrow, Bobby has displayed remarkable perseverance and resilience. He is known and respected all around the world and many of my fellow Senators have been generous in their praise in this indomitable racer. Senator JOHN MCCAIN, a friend and admirer, said, "I couldn't be prouder of Bobby. He is an inspiration for all of us." Senator JON KYL, a NASCAR enthusiast, noted that the Phoenix International Raceway named a grandstand for Bobby and declared, "The Hall of Fame did well to recognize Bobby in its second class. He is a NASCAR legend."

Bobby and his wife Judy still reside in Hueytown, AL, and his two daughters, Bonnie Allison-Farr, and Carrie Allison, live with their families nearby. Selected as one of "The 50 Greatest NASCAR Drivers of All Time," Bobby remains one of NASCAR's most respected competitors. A truly great Alabamian, Bobby has never forgotten his roots, and he will always be remembered not just as a racer, but as a beloved citizen of our State. It truly is a privilege to honor Bobby Allison not only for his tremendous success in racing's most competitive league, but also for his contributions to both NASCAR and the State of Alabama.●

REMEMBERING KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor a woman whose sparkling personality and literary voice truly captured the essence of Alabama. Kathryn Tucker Windham, a beloved storyteller, popular author, renowned photographer, and proud citizen of Alabama, passed away on June 12, 2011, at the age of 93. She lived a rich, full life, true to the highest ideals of our State. I knew her well and followed her career. In my opinion, her qualities of character, professional accomplishments, and simple decency place her at the top of all who have been products of our State.

Ms. Windham authored over two dozen books in her lifetime, giving an endearing and insightful voice to Southern culture and folklore. Her books related everything from ghost stories and memories to delicious recipes, and she developed a devoted audience in Alabama and around the United States. Ms. Windham also became a celebrated radio personality, appearing on Alabama Public Radio for over 20 years and commenting on NPR's "All Things Considered" from 1985-1987. She treated listeners nationwide to evocative tales of the South, with such titles as "Grits Is a Singular Delicacy" and "Honeysuckle Blossoms Smell Wonderful," all with a Southern accent that remained true to the highest level of culture and grammar. In addition, she was a positive force for good, constant in her efforts to promote racial reconciliation in her hometown of Selma and in her State.

Ms. Windham spent her childhood in Thomasville, AL, not too far across the river from where I grew up, and later attended Huntingdon College, my alma mater. After graduation, she began work as a police reporter for a Montgomery paper, an impressive and unusual job for a female reporter at that time. Ms. Windham developed a distinguished journalistic career, working for the Birmingham News and winning several Associated Press awards for her work with the Selma Times Journal, where she made her home for many years. Some of her best known books are Alabama: One Big Front Porch and Thirteen Alabama Ghosts and Jeffery.

Ms. Windham was also a noted photographer, and her images provide a stirring portrait of the people and places of her home State. Her photography was included in the Huntsville Museum of Art's 1989 traveling exhibit, "Alabama Landscape Photographs," and in a later show, "Encounters 24. Kathryn Tucker Windham."

Among many honors and awards, Ms. Windham was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor. This organization celebrates Alabama's best and brightest, and Ms. Windham's membership reflects her status as one of the State's beloved cultural figures and influential personalities. Ms. Windham was indeed a great Alabamian, and her work showcases the best of Alabama's

values in a way that should make every Alabamian proud.

I recently watched a video of her in her small rocking chair, telling stories. They were told superbly, with perfect timing, and I burst out laughing. She was much like my great aunts, her contemporaries, who lived not far away. The stories of this generation provided humor, history, family affection, and education to listeners. It is a time pretty much gone. Someone once said that the purest examples of a period's ideals are curiously often found in its last days. It may be Ms. Windham was the last and best practitioner of those humorous and revealing stories that are indeed works of art.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Ms. Windham's family—her son, Ben, retired as editor of the Tuscaloosa News, her daughter Dilcy, and other family and friends as they mourn the loss of their beloved mother, relative, and friend. As her Senator and as her friend, I am grateful for the extraordinary life that Kathryn Tucker Windham led, and I am honored to serve as her Senator so as to be able to pay tribute to her life as the State and the Nation mark her passing. She will be dearly missed, but her legacy will live on in the stories, artwork, and memories she left behind.●

TRIBUTE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor an exceptional group of law enforcement officers.

I recently met with Sheriff James Kelly of Catahoula Parish, LA, who informed me that a member of his department was conferred the 2011 National Missing Children's Special Recognition award by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Deputy Toney Edwards, of the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office in Harrisonburg, LA, was honored along with three others involved for their outstanding work resolving the tragic case of the 12-year-old Lexis Kaye Roberts. On October 8, 2010, two hunters found the partial remains of Lexis Roberts in Catahoula Parish, LA. Deputy Edwards, along with a team dedicated to the case, was able to identify her remains. The investigation into her disappearance and death focused on a man who was last known to be in the company of the girl and her mother, who was also missing. Information about the man was distributed to truck stops throughout the country and 2 days later he was arrested in Mississippi. The man has been indicted on Federal charges of kidnapping resulting in the death of the young girl.

Others honored for their working the case were Special Agent Benjamin Walsh, Supervisory Senior Resident Agent Robert King, and Senior Special Agent Janice Mertz of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Alexandria, VA.