

RESTORING HEALTHY FORESTS FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1526) to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, this bill is deeply disappointing. It takes an issue on which there are areas of agreement and rather than working to fulfill those opportunities, it puts forth legislation that is deeply harmful both to the process and the policy. I strongly support providing long-term fiscal stability for counties who have relied on federal timber revenues. This is an important issue for many counties in Oregon. I appreciate that this legislation provides another year of funding for these counties through the county payments program.

The rest of this legislation, however, is concerning enough that I am forced to vote against it. It removes valuable protections for our forests and watersheds and puts in place artificial logging requirements that fail to account for local needs, ecological and geographic characteristics, or realistic, long-term timber management goals. The bill also places more communities at risk from fire or erosion danger by opening up areas for development and logging that put people closer to high risk wildfire zones and decrease the ecosystem's ability to handle flooding.

Congress should help provide long term fiscal stability to counties that are largely made up of federal lands. That is something we can all agree on. However, I would hope that we could do so in a way that maintains the basic environmental safeguards we depend on to keep our forests and our watersheds healthy, that preserves the investments we have made in outdoor recreation opportunities, and that helps our communities be safe, healthy, and economically secure.

RECOGNIZING LILIA "LILY" PEREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Lilia "Lily" Perez for her dedication to the City of Laredo and the 4th Precinct of Webb County.

Miss Lilia "Lily" Perez was born March 11, 1932 and passed away on September 11, 2013. "Lily", as she was affectionately known by her friends and loved ones was a lifelong resident of Laredo, Texas.

During her lifetime she was involved in retail business as an employee for S.H. Kress De-

partment Store and as a manager with J.C. Penney. Miss Perez also became one of the most recognizable figures in her parish of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. For many years, her determination and leadership helped make numerous parish fundraisers major successes. She was also passionately involved in the collection and distribution of food and other necessities to the families and people of need in the area.

Apart from her services to the community through her parish and the retail sector, she became the first woman to be the Commissioner of Webb County's 4th Precinct. She proudly served from November 8, 1982 to December 31, 1984. To thank her for this great accomplishment and her activities as a humanitarian, Webb County officials named a neighborhood center or "concilio" after her. The Lilia Perez Neighborhood Center offers vital services and counseling to the community such as, utility assistance, rental assistance, grocery and meal distribution.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplishments, and commitment of the late Lilia "Lily" Perez. Thank you for this time.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARIANO RIVERA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Mariano Rivera. Originally from Panama, Mr. Rivera has spent 19 years working in my district, bringing great joy to the people of the Bronx and to Yankees fans around the world with his unparalleled success closing games for the New York Yankees. During his time with the Yankees he showed himself to be one of the greatest pitchers of his generation and struck fear into opponents who had to face him.

During his 19 seasons in the Bronx with the Yankees, Mr. Rivera has been the most successful closer in baseball history, becoming the all time saves leader and leading the league in saves three times. For much of his career his fearsome cutter meant that the Yankees were playing shorter games than everyone else. Once "Enter Sandman" played and Mr. Rivera strode onto the field, everyone knew the game was over. His mere appearance deflated the other team and the opposing players were often defeated before he threw a single pitch.

The length and quality of Mr. Rivera's career is evidenced by his 13 All-Star Game appearances and the five Relief Man Awards he won over an eleven-year period stretching from 1999 to 2009. However, as impressive as his individual accomplishments are, baseball is a team game and his most important role was helping to lead the Yankees to five World Series Championships.

Given the high quality of his pitching during the regular season it may be hard to believe, but Mr. Rivera was even better in the postseason. During the 16 postseason appearances that the Yankees made during his time with the team, Mr. Rivera accumulated a miniscule ERA of 0.70 over 141 innings. His importance to the success of the team in the

postseason was recognized by voters when he was awarded the World Series MVP in 1999 and the ALCS MVP in 2003, an impressive accomplishment for a closer who, while often pitching at the most critical moments, is only in the game for the final inning or two.

However, he did not merely pitch in the Bronx, he also worked hard to improve life for people in New York and back in his native Panama. Through his charitable foundation he has focused on improving the lives of children in need by improving their communities and offering scholarships so that children from underprivileged families can have better opportunities.

As his magnificent baseball career comes to an end at the end of this season, I am sure that he will continue to be a positive contributor to his community in a multitude of new ways. It has been an honor to have him work in my district and I look forward to his continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICORPS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of twenty years of service to our communities from the AmeriCorps program. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating with AmeriCorps members past and present the many lives changed and neighborhoods improved through the immensely important work of the AmeriCorps volunteers.

Twenty years ago, on September 21, President Clinton signed into law the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. This legislation created the Corporation for National and Community Service, and under it the three CNCS administered programs: Senior Corps, Learn and Serve America, and AmeriCorps. I was fortunate enough to be at the White House for the inception of AmeriCorps, and am thankful for this opportunity to celebrate its achievements over the last twenty years.

Since 1993, more than 800,000 AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1 billion hours in service across the country. In my hometown of Sacramento, we currently have 144 full time AmeriCorps volunteers who serve Sacramento in a multitude of ways. AmeriCorps volunteers serve in our schools and in the aftermath of disasters. I would like to thank all of our local AmeriCorps volunteers for their continued commitment to improving our community—one neighborhood at a time.

In recent years, we as a country have faced natural disasters from Hurricane Sandy to the tornadoes in Oklahoma. Through these moments, the American people have responded with a spirit of service and ingenuity. We must keep investing in service and volunteer programs, to help to prepare us to handle unforeseen crises. Furthermore, community service is a proven pathway to employment. As communities recover from the recent recession, the skills learned and networks created through service have helped many Americans return to full time employment. AmeriCorps has consistently leveraged a small amount of

federal dollars to provide lasting impact on areas of the country that need it most.

Mr. Speaker, again I thank the members and alumni of the AmeriCorps Program for their tremendous service to our country. This twenty years marks a successful milestone for the program, and I look forward to seeing the accomplishments of the AmeriCorps Program over the next twenty years.

RECOGNIZING WEST WARWICK'S CENTENNIAL

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the 100th anniversary of West Warwick's incorporation on September 23, 1913. Although it is the youngest of Rhode Island's municipalities, it has a rich and vibrant history, and it has played a great role in shaping our state.

While we are celebrating West Warwick's 100th birthday this year, 2013 is also the 340th anniversary of its settlement. In 1673, Warwick divided among five families a parcel of land around what is today the village of Natick and opened it for settlement. The new residents quickly discovered that, in addition to rich stocks of timber, fish, and farmland found in West Warwick, the area also boasted enormous potential in its waterways. Within the town's eventual boundaries, the branches of the Pawtuxet River enter at an elevation of 150 feet before joining up and dropping to a mere fifty feet above sea level on the eastern border. This natural resource, combined with a good dose of Rhode Island ingenuity, was to prove vital to the growth of the community.

As early as 1737, the force of the river was harnessed in the form of a saw and flour mill. The citizens of West Warwick remained mostly subsistence farmers, however, until the community's first textile mill opened in 1794. Following closely on the heels of Samuel Slater's famous mill in Pawtucket, the Centerville Mill would usher in enormous changes in the town. By 1810, five of the seven largest mills in the state were located in West Warwick.

This rapid industrialization fundamentally altered the way of life in town. Rather than living on relatively isolated farmsteads, mill workers moved into factory housing near their workplaces. This swiftly increasing population density led to a greater demand for services, and soon, taverns, shops, churches and schools were springing up around these factory hubs. In fact, all of the villages that make up West Warwick—Natick, Centerville, Arctic, Clyde, Riverpoint, Wescott, Phenix, and Crompton—grew up around a mill of some sort.

In post-war West Warwick, the industrial base, until then rapidly expanding, exploded. Driven first by the Civil War and then by the vastly improved transportation infrastructure that permeated the state, West Warwick's textile production increased by orders of magnitude. Commercial developments sprang up to serve the thousands of factory workers, and cultural and civic institutions were strengthened. A housing expansion tied to the mills' desire for labor also served to bring the villages together as the fields and forests separating them were given over to homes.

By the late nineteenth century, the citizens of West Warwick were clamoring for better representation. Their political views diverged significantly from the more agrarian and coastal residents of Warwick proper; in fact, they were so divergent that the Republican-controlled General Assembly refused to consider any split of the municipality for fear that Democrats would gain power. In 1912, however, the town held a referendum through which division passed, and the General Assembly granted the town its charter in 1913.

The century since has seen both dramatic change and stability. The change centered on the collapse of the Rhode Island textile industry beginning in the 1920s. As textile jobs moved south, the town struggled to adapt to new economic realities. And yet, despite this traumatic shock, citizens of West Warwick retain the same industriousness they displayed 340 years ago, a spirit that will continue to lead them to future success.

As we celebrate that spirit this year, I must acknowledge and thank the fine work of the West Warwick Centennial Committee. Led by its President, Council Member Edward A. Giroux, the Committee has developed a wonderful program to celebrate the town's religious, industrial and cultural development.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the people of West Warwick as my constituents, and I am honored to join them in celebrating the town's 100th birthday.

RESTORING HEALTHY FORESTS FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1526) to restore employment and educational opportunity improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act. Counties in my district in Oregon and across the state have long faced revenue shortfalls because of declining timber receipts, and the extended economic downturn of the last few years dealt another blow. Sequestration has further reduced the availability of federal funds, and for many counties their financial problems are even more acute.

There is no question that federal policy governing the management of the O&C lands must change. Current policy results in consistently low revenue from timber receipts, harming already cash-strapped counties. The failure to allow for fuel reduction that can prevent wildfires is threatening other forestland and the safety of our constituents and their families.

As I have said many times, we need a legislative solution that will help our counties put

their finances in order, protect vital natural resources and wildlife habitat, and mitigate the danger posed by wildfire. That solution, however, must be one that can pass both chambers and be signed into law; otherwise our efforts here in D.C. will not make a difference back at home.

H.R. 1526 does extend vitally important county payments through the Secure Rural Schools program by one year. It would lead to more active management of federal forestland in Oregon and it does include some vital environmental conservation provisions. But the overall proposal does not adequately balance economic and environmental priorities and has no chance of becoming law.

Some of my colleagues from Oregon have already put in long hours searching for a solution to this issue that our counties face, and I applaud Mr. DEFazio, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. SCHRADER for their efforts to resolve this issue.

I look forward to continuing to work with my House and Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support a bill that will help our counties and, importantly, will become law. I hope that we can work together with haste to draft and enact broadly-supported legislation that will help our local and county officials back home.

HONORING THE IOWA VETERANS WELCOME CENTER

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate the grand opening of the Iowa Veterans Welcome Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In January 2013, three Vietnam veterans, Roger Wiest, Doug Adamson, and Richard Harvol, set out to establish the first independent veteran's social center in the Cedar Rapids area. Their vision was to create an environment for veterans of all ages to come together, share their experiences, and provide support for their brothers and sisters. These men contributed their own funds and resources to ensure that their idea came to fruition.

The center will provide a safe haven for men and women to interact with their fellow veterans through various activities. In addition, it creates a vital support system so necessary to combatting the various issues our brave veterans face every day. I applaud the efforts of these three men and the Iowa Veterans Welcome Center. They truly embody the notion that service to their fellow brothers and sisters in arms doesn't stop when the uniform comes off.

HONORING BAYPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the courageous volunteers of the