

they have demonstrated and passed onto their children. They have built a model for leading in the community that will be continued by their adult children to provide the same leadership as their parents.

Dr. James and Nancy Armitage are being honored for not only their leadership to the Omaha community, but also their contributions to research and training in the medical profession.

Dr. Armitage is internationally renowned for his expertise in bone marrow transplantation. He is also a leading expert in the management of lymphoma worldwide. He is currently the Joe Shapiro Professor of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Omaha; is active on several committees and his expertise is sought worldwide. James has also served on several community boards and has received professional honors from national and international organizations that are too numerous to list.

Nancy began her career practicing psychiatric and intensive care nursing before the needs of her family led her to leave the field. Currently, Nancy is extremely involved in volunteer leadership positions with local boards, schools, hospitals, nonprofits, and her church. To name a few, Nancy has served on the Munroe-Meyer Institute Guild, Samaritan Counseling Center of the Midlands Board and the executive boards for the Faculty Women's Club and the University Hospital Auxiliary. Her many years of volunteer work at UNMC Hospital has led to her being named a co-chair of the Faculty Women's Club scholarship committee, raising funds for UNMC students. Nancy and James also serve as trustees of the Nature Conservancy of Nebraska.

James and Nancy have four adult children: Amy, Greg, Anne, and Joel. Amy, a substitute teacher at Mary Our Queen School and Parish, lives in Elkhorn with her husband Jeff. Greg works as a CPA with FBL Financial Group, Inc and lives in Des Moines with his wife Cheryl. Anne, an attorney and stay-at-home mother, lives in Omaha with her husband Stephen. She also serves as an officer on the Girls Inc. Girl Friend board. Joel practices internal medicine and lives with his wife Anja in Omaha. Nancy and James have been blessed with ten grandchildren.

It's an honor to recognize their commitment to make the metro area a better place.

#### CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

##### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the passage of the 1968 National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, signed into law 45 years ago by President Lyndon Johnson. This landmark legislation has resulted in the protection of more than 100 rivers, including Minnesota's Saint Croix River. Across the country, these beautiful riverways cross many political boundaries and state borders, uniting Americans in appreciation of our natural heritage.

As a Senator, Minnesota's own Walter Mondale joined Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson to sponsor the Act, and include the Saint Croix

River as one of the eight original rivers designated as a Wild and Scenic Riverway. Creation of the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway recognized the largest scenic riverway east of the Mississippi River and helped protect its nationally renowned fishery.

Once the epicenter of the American logging industry and a busy corridor of commerce, the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway is now a testament to the rugged beauty that was home to Native Americans for millennia, and that greeted early European visitors who followed them. Under the wise stewardship of the National Park Service in partnership with more than 1,000 private land owners, 252 miles of the Saint Croix River watershed from the Namekagon in Wisconsin, its largest tributary, to the Mississippi confluence are protected from logging, invasive development and industry. Tens of thousands of visitors have benefited from the river's national protection and enjoy its natural beauty; future generations will be able to appreciate its natural splendor.

Today, 45 years after passage of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the legacy forged by Senators Mondale and Nelson has grown from the original eight rivers to 150 Wild and Scenic Rivers. This designation protects these rivers and the outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act has safeguarded the special character of our most precious rivers and helped lead to further protection of our valuable natural resources, including passage of the Clean Water Act of 1973.

Despite the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, these national treasures are under constant threat from modern development and misuse. In Congress, it is my priority to protect and strengthen our Wild and Scenic Rivers, including the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway, for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 45th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it is my pleasure to commend all who have made the Act a success, including Vice President Mondale, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson, National Park Service staff, private land owners, and countless volunteers who are dedicated to keeping these beautiful riverways wild and scenic.

#### HONORING THE PUERTO RICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SOUTH FLORIDA

##### HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce.

Over the past twenty years, the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of South Florida has been an important partner for promoting business, driving job creation, and supporting economic development in South Florida. Through partnerships with the Miami-Dade County Office of Public Housing and Community Development, the members of the Chamber help create much needed jobs and advance community development.

This organization strives to support entrepreneurship and innovation for Puerto Ricans

and Hispanics in both South Florida and Puerto Rico. As our economy in South Florida continues to recover from the recession, the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce serves as a leader in strengthening the economic foundation of our communities.

I hope you will join me in commending the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of South Florida on twenty years of outstanding advocacy and service.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 602, I was not present for the vote due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FACETS

##### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of FACETS, a Northern Virginia nonprofit that helps individuals and families overcome the challenges of poverty.

Since 1988, through its collaboration with more than 100 faith communities, local businesses, fellow nonprofits, and government agencies, FACETS has improved the lives of thousands of families and individuals by helping them obtain emergency shelter, food, and medical care; helping them gain safe, sustainable and permanent housing; and working with them to end the cycle of poverty through educational, life skills and career counseling programs. This wrap-around approach not only addresses the immediate needs of those in crisis, it also provides the support and services necessary to develop long-range solutions that allow each person to become self-sufficient and live with dignity.

During my tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I was pleased to partner with FACETS in launching the Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program, which will be starting up again soon. Under this program, churches have opened their doors to provide our most vulnerable neighbors with a warm and safe place to stay during winter nights. Last year FACETS served 244 guests in this program, and since it began no unsheltered individuals have died due to hypothermia. In 2008, when I was Chairman of the County Board, I worked with FACETS founder Linda Wimpey and other community partners to initiate the 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Thanks to the success of that program we have made significant strides reducing the rate of homelessness by one-fourth.

FACETS also helps people develop the skills necessary to create better lives for themselves and their families by operating Education and Community Development programs

in community centers located in affordable housing communities throughout Fairfax County. Programs for youth focus on academics, self-esteem, substance abuse prevention, healthy relationships and college or career planning. Approximately 450 youth participate in these programs. Nearly 90 percent of children who received homework and tutoring help improved their GPAs or overall academic performance. Last summer, FACETS served 1250 lunches, sent 7 children to camp, and hosted additional activities designed to keep children and teens safe.

Programs for adults include computer and financial literacy, career development and ESL. Residents can participate in individualized case management, focusing on eviction prevention and emergency food and financial assistance to keep them stable and in their homes. In FY12, nearly 60 adults participated in FACETS' community programs. Of those who received case management, 40 percent became actively involved with life skills classes and 60 percent gained employment assistance, including résumé development and increasing earning power.

FACETS has earned well-deserved recognition for these efforts. The Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce honored FACETS as its 2013 Large Nonprofit of the Year. In June 2013, the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers recognized the FACETS' Education and Community Development Program as the Best Community Life Program in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Last year,

FACETS earned a Team Excellence Award: Leadership Role in the Fairfax County Family Shelter In-take Redesign.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing FACETS for its 25 years of service to our community and in extending our sincere appreciation to the dedicated staff and volunteers for their commitment to ending poverty in Fairfax County as well as to the individual, corporate, non-profit, and government agency sponsors for supporting the critical work of this organization.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER TRUST FUND ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2013*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more essential to quality of life, to the health of our families and of our communities than water. Water, at its most basic level, is life. Safe drinking water and basic sanitation make the difference between health and sickness, between a family thriving or struggling just to exist.

Water quality and quantity are serious issues in communities across the country, especially now, when changing weather patterns, extreme drought, continued growth combine to put an even greater demand on our aging, inadequate infrastructure. To ease these pressures, I am introducing the Water Trust Fund Act, which would establish a trust fund to help local communities meet their water infrastructure needs.

Over a thousand communities across the country are struggling with combined sewer

overflows as well as inadequate and aging sewer pipes. Small communities in particular, which already face huge questions of water supply and quality, have few resources with which to pay the bills and are seeing sky-high monthly costs for consumers.

The Water Trust Fund Act creates a deficit-neutral, consistent, and firewalled trust fund to help states replace, repair, and rehabilitate critical wastewater treatment facilities. It will be financed by voluntary fees from companies that participate, in exchange for the use of advertising materials indicating their support for America's water systems.

We face unprecedented challenges to our water infrastructure. More and more products are designed to be flushed down toilets and drains, placing them in systems that are already stressed. Pharmaceutical residues are showing up in treated wastewater and because they are difficult to treat, I'm afraid we are slowly medicating vast numbers of Americans against their will. Aging water systems—some still made out of brick or wood, some dating from the century before last—mean that America also faces old-fashioned system reliability issues. Unpredictable weather means that water systems are dealing more frequently with sewage overflow, flooding, and overwhelmed systems. Reports indicate that each year an average of six billion gallons of drinking water leaks from these inadequate and ancient pipes. Six billion gallons is enough to fill 6,000 Olympic sized swimming pools—if lined up, these pools would stretch from Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh, PA.

These aging and outdated systems are not just a local problem, relevant only to a single neighborhood, city, county, or even state. Water does not obey county boundaries or even state lines, and it is a resource on which we all rely. The federal government should help fill the funding gaps that local communities and states cannot. The opportunity is now: There is significant state and local investment, interest rates are low, and the Water Trust Fund will help leverage billions of additional dollars to repair our aging infrastructure.

The American public is already paying a disproportionate share of the costs of water infrastructure. Residential households have the least capacity to absorb additional costs during these difficult times, and they already face wildly escalating costs to deal with problems that they did not create. The voracious water demands of industry far outstrip household needs. Clean water is absolutely essential for these industries and the rest of the business community to function. Water infrastructure upgrades will provide the business community far more in benefits than it would cost, and it could be used to leverage a broader range of investments.

This bill will help communities deal with their water infrastructure needs in a stable, proactive way, and will provide significant benefits for those who rely on our water system, the local government officials charged with making the system work, and the industries who rely on a clean, consistent source of water for their products.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE F. ALVERNANZ

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Joe F. Alvernaz. His character exemplified that of a role model and true community leader—he placed others ahead of himself, made family his first priority, and possessed a strong work ethic.

Joe began his life of service at an early age. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and it was there that he received the nickname "Sweet Potato Joe" from his fellow marine and close friend, actor Brian Keith. It was while Joe was in boot camp, that he would come to marry the love of his life: Florence Cardoza of Merced in 1942. As the war went on, he served our country proudly during a period of history that seemed as if it would never pass; a period that forever changed our nation and the world.

After the war ended, Joe became as busy as ever. He came back to California to once again farm sweet potatoes. He later served as President of the California Sweet Potato Council, and U.S. Sweet Potato Council, where he was a Director for over 20 years. To say that Joe was busy is an understatement; he also served as President of the Merced County Farm Bureau and was on the Board of Directors of the Nisei Farmers League.

Joe's involvement in the community could not be described in one word or even in one sentence. From 1946 to 1996, "Sweet Potato Joe" announced all the Livingston High School football games, parades, and even radio programs. This is where Joe earned another name for himself: "The Voice of Livingston." However, his talents did not end there; Joe's acting skills also benefited the Livingston Little Theater group, where he starred in several productions, most notably as Elwood P. Dowd in "Harvey." Adding to his list of accomplishments, Joe also organized the first kid's hardball team in Merced County in the early 50's. Joe was particularly drawn to baseball, and served as coach, sponsor, announcer, and booster for over fifty years. Later, he would become the third Area Commissioner of Baseball. From this, he achieved perhaps his greatest accomplishment; having a local baseball field be renamed the "Joe F. Alvernaz Baseball Field."

Joe was predeceased by his parents, Joe and Mabel Alvernaz, brothers, Arthur and John Alvernaz, and sister, Mary Geyer. He was also predeceased by his oldest son, Joey Alvernaz, in 1980 and by his wife of 64 years, Florence, in 2007. Although Joe has passed on from this life, Heaven is a little bit brighter today because he has joined Florence, the true love of his life. He is survived by 5 children, 17 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to pay tribute to the life of a truly amazing father, coach, neighbor, and everyone's friend, Joe F. Alvernaz. His service to his country, community, and to his family will be painfully missed, yet celebrated, honored and never forgotten.