

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NORMAN L.
DIANDA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Norman L. Dianda for his leadership as President of Q&D Construction.

Norm is a native Nevadan, having graduated from Reno High School and then serving 6 years as a machinist in the Nevada Air National Guard. Following his tenure with the Nevada Air National Guard, Norm founded Q&D Construction with his friend Lawrence Quadrio. Over the years, the business grew into the 1,000-employee company that it is today, and has added several divisions along the way.

Norm also believes that giving back to the community is necessary. Over the years he has served and continues to serve on numerous committees and boards. One of the projects that was special to Norm was the relocation and restoration of Huffaker Elementary School, which he attended as a youth. Norm also regularly donates to 10 non-profit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Norman L. Dianda. His professional success with Q&D Construction and his philanthropic undertakings should serve as an example to us all of what constitutes good citizenship. I applaud him for his success and with him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on September 19, 2006, my vote was not recorded for House Concurrent Resolution 415, a bill condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is. Had my vote been recorded, it would have been a "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed three votes on September 25, 2006. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on H.R. 5059—to designate the Wild River Wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest in the State of New Hampshire, "no"

on H.R. 5062—to designate as wilderness certain National Forest System land in the State of New Hampshire, and "yes" on H.R. 6102—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Lawyers Road, NW in Vienna, VA, as the "Captain Christopher Petty Post Office Building."

THE PATERSON GREAT FALLS
NATIONAL PARK ACT OF 2006

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce the Paterson Great Falls National Park Act of 2006. This bipartisan legislation is cosponsored by every Member of the New Jersey congressional delegation, and would designate a national park at the majestic Great Falls in Paterson, NJ. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

Fifteen miles west of New York City, the Great Falls was the second largest waterfall in colonial America. No other natural wonder in America has played such an important role in our Nation's historic quest for freedom and prosperity. At the Great Falls, Alexander Hamilton conceived and implemented a plan to harness the force of water to power the new industries that would secure our economic independence.

Hamilton told Congress and the American people that at the Great Falls he would begin implementation of his ambitious strategy to transform a rural agrarian society dependent upon slavery into a modern economy based on freedom. True to Hamilton's vision, Paterson became a great manufacturing city, producing the Colt revolver, the first submarine, the aircraft engine for the first trans-Atlantic flight, more locomotives than any city in the Nation, and more silk than any city in the world.

New Jersey's Great Falls is the only National Historic District that includes both a National Natural Resource and a National Historic Landmark. In a special Bicentennial speech in Paterson with the spectacular natural beauty of the Great Falls in the background, President Gerald R. Ford said, "We can see the Great Falls as a symbol of the industrial might which helps to make America the most powerful nation in the world."

The preeminent Hamilton biographers, an esteemed former Smithsonian Institution curator, the former chief of the National Park Service Historic American Engineering Record, and distinguished professors at Yale, Princeton, Harvard, NYU, Brown and other universities have filed letters with the National Park Service strongly recommending a National Historic Park for the Great Falls Historic District.

Scholars have concluded that Pierre L'Enfant's innovative water power system in Paterson, and many factories built later, con-

stitute the finest remaining collection of engineering and architectural structures representing each stage of America's progress from a weak agrarian society to a leader in the global economy. Editorial boards, Federal, State, and local officials and community groups have also strongly endorsed the campaign to award a National Park Service designation to the falls.

This proposed national park would also encompass historic Hinchliffe Stadium, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service in 2004. This stadium, built in 1932, is adjacent to the Great Falls and was home to the New York Black Yankees. Baseball legend Larry Doby played in Hinchliffe Stadium both as a star high school athlete and again as a Negro League player, shortly before becoming the first African-American to play in the American League.

I am grateful to the National Park Service for its diligent work on the Great Falls National Park feasibility study, which was authorized by an act of Congress in 2001. Officials at the National Park Service have done meticulous, thorough work and acted with the utmost professionalism as they compiled this study, which is scheduled to be released for public comment in early October 2006. While I am confident that, given the criteria, the National Park Service study will recommend choosing the Great Falls as a national park, in the end it will only present recommendations. National Park Service units are designated by Congress, and it is imperative that we begin the process of selecting the Great Falls as a national park site as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must act now to pass this vital piece of legislation, so that we may fully recognize these cultural and historic landmarks that have played such a seminal role in America's history.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAMON
OHLERKING

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend Damon Ohlerking, who succumbed to cancer on July 5, 2006.

Damon was born in Eagle Grove, Iowa on September 23, 1945. A graduate of Iowa State University, with both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in landscape architecture, Damon worked in Iowa, California, New Mexico, Minnesota, Oregon and Illinois before coming to Boulder City 10 years ago as the City's urban forester. Under Damon's leadership, the City underwent numerous beautification projects, and his vision changed the face of Boulder City. Damon's efforts resulted in Boulder City winning the 2002 National League of Cities' James C. Howland Award for Urban Enhancement for all cities in the country under 50,000 population.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Damon, a Vietnam War Veteran, also sought to share his knowledge with future generations through his service as an adjunct professor of landscape architecture, at the School of Architecture, University of Nevada—Las Vegas (UNLV).

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Damon Ohlerking. He was a man of vision who greatly enhanced the lives of the residents of Boulder City, and he will be greatly missed by the entire community.

RECOGNIZING THE HERNANDO
COUNTY PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this evening is the celebration of the Hernando County Philippine-American Association Incorporated's year-long efforts to promote the 2006 theme of "Unity for a Better Tomorrow."

Through both social and cultural outreach, the Association has proven to be a positive resource for the entire Filipino-American community. Its activities foster goodwill, friendship and camaraderie among the entire Filipino-American community. The support of HCPAA in socio-political activities has helped secure rights for Filipinos both here and abroad.

As a Member of Congress, I have the opportunity to work on many pieces of legislation that affect millions of Americans. Earlier this month, I was proud to support H. Res. 622, a resolution that recognized and honored the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II.

Members of the Hernando County Filipino community know that their family members played a vital role defeating the Axis powers during World War II. Like Vietnam veterans after them, Filipino veterans often went decades without a pat on the back or a note of congratulations from the United States government. I am proud to stand here this evening and tell you that I supported this legislation and recognize the important work that Filipino men and women performed in World War II.

I encourage all HCPAA members and constituents to get involved with this great non-profit organization. I once again congratulate your organization and its leadership for their past efforts and wish its new officers and members a productive and influential year.

COMMEMORATING SEA OTTER
AWARENESS WEEK (SOAW)

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 4th Annual Sea Otter Awareness Week, September 24–30, 2006, sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife. This week-long event provides the opportunity to broadly educate the public about sea otters, their natural history, the integral role that sea otters play in

the near-shore marine ecosystem and the conservation issues they are facing. The work done by such groups as Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Sea Otter, The Otter Project, and The Ocean Conservancy to recover the southern or California sea otter has raised public awareness and helped protect this important species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. Greatly due to their efforts, Governor Schwarzenegger recently signed California Assembly Bill 2485 into law to codify the protections for this important species.

The southern sea otter population has increased considerably from less than 100 otters in the 1930's to more than 2,500 today, though still significantly less than what is necessary to consider the population stable. Since otters continue to face many direct and indirect threats to their full recovery, I introduced H.R. 2323, the Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act. I am also working with my colleagues to secure funding to support a continued and complete recovery of the population.

In the past, one of the main threats to the species was the killing of the animals for their fur. However, the decrease in their population that we have seen in recent years is increasingly due to indirect hazards (e.g., non-point pollution, pathogens, entrapment in fisheries gear) that are being identified. Such realizations support the need for continued research and preventive measures to respond to these issues, while continuing to ward against the direct killings/takings that still occur.

The decline of southern sea otter populations not only has impacts on the species itself, but also affects other marine populations and the surrounding ecosystem. For instance, the demise of sea otters allows their prey sea urchins to proliferate unchecked, which leads to the alarming overgrazing of kelp beds—one of the oceans nursery grounds for many marine animals. In particular, research shows that the absence of sea otters has a direct link to the sharp decline of kelp along portions of California's coast. Sea otter research also has proven to be an effective method of monitoring toxins and diseases in the marine environment, both of which can affect the health of humans and other wildlife.

The presence of the California sea otter has become an icon of the state's coastal environment and culture, and these charismatic animals bring significant tourism revenue to Californian coastal communities. Protecting them is not only directly advantageous to the otter population, but also fosters indirect benefits on a greater scale.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of Defenders of Wildlife and other non-profit environmental organizations, working with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, researchers, fishermen, state and federal agencies, schools, and many other institutions and individuals, who devote tremendous effort to protect and recover the southern/California sea otter. Sea Otter Awareness Week is just one of their many activities geared towards honoring and saving this species, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for H.R. 4772, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2006. I want to thank my colleague from Ohio, Mr. CHABOT, for agreeing to take the leadership on this legislation.

When I first introduced this legislation in 1997, it was to ensure that property owners in this country have the ability to protect their basic civil and constitutional rights. The fifth amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees that no private property shall be taken for a public use without the payment of just compensation. Unfortunately, we have seen an increasing disregard by various levels of government for this fundamental civil right. H.R. 4772 seeks to restore balance to land use decisions by ensuring that Americans have reasonable access to the Federal courts to enforce their Federal constitutional rights.

As a former mayor, I know that local governments must have control over land use decisions. But this bill does not empower Federal judges to decide whether a certain piece of land should be used for a grocery store or for a hair salon. In fact this bill ensures that local governments will continue to have their traditional powers to make and enforce zoning regulations.

However, this bill also ensures that land owners have some certainty in a process that can sometimes be very open-ended. By establishing procedures that both the property owner and the locality must follow, this bill ensures fair and timely land use decisions.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4772 and provide legal protections for land owners that are both rational and effective.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER
RITZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jennifer Ritz for her outstanding work as a Clark County school teacher.

Jennifer currently holds three different certifications as a Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) at the elementary and middle school levels in elementary education, math and science. She also holds a Bachelor's Degree in elementary education and is a National Board Certified Teacher.

This fall, Jennifer is working as an educational computing strategist at Lied Middle School in Las Vegas, Nevada. She gained a computer application endorsement, giving her a total of five different education certifications in addition to her BA.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor Ms. Jennifer Ritz. Her dedication and enthusiasm has greatly enriched the lives of her students. I thank her for her continued commitment to enhancing the educational experiences of her students and wish her luck in all of her future endeavors.