

celebrating its 60th anniversary from July 27–29. This famous attraction is a rich part of Florida's heritage, showcasing 60 years of one of a kind "mermaid" shows, as well as outdoor recreational opportunities, including river cruises, nature trails, canoeing, kayaking, and a water park.

Weeki Wachee got its start as a Florida phenomenon in 1946, when Newton Perry, a retired World War II Navy diving instructor, recognized the site's potential as a unique tourist attraction. The Seminole Indians gave "Weeki Wachee" its name, which means "little spring" or "winding river" in their language. The spring, which is so deep that the bottom has never been found, bubbles with crystal-clear water from the pristine Floridan Aquifer and maintains a year-round temperature of 72 degrees.

Perry invented a method of breathing underwater through a tube that allowed performers to move freely without cumbersome SCUBA equipment. He built a theater into the limestone, submerged below the surface of the water, so viewers could look right into the natural beauty of the ancient spring. The first show at the Weeki Wachee Springs underwater theater featured women dressed as mermaids performing underwater synchronized ballet. It opened on October 13, 1947, one day before Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier.

When Weeki Wachee was purchased by ABC in 1959, its popularity began to skyrocket. More than half a million people came to visit the spring each year, and girls came from as far away as Tokyo to audition as mermaids. Celebrities including Don Knotts, Esther Williams, Arthur Godfrey and Elvis Presley all came to Weeki Wachee.

While the park continues to attract thousands of visitors each year, Weeki Wachee will forever be remembered as one of Florida's first and finest attractions. Weeki Wachee is a showcase of the superb natural beauty and friendly atmosphere that continues to attract so many to our great State.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRENT
HOLBROOK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Brent Holbrook. After nearly 40 years with the U.S. Department of Treasury—Internal Revenue Service, IRS, he retired this past June.

During his tenure, Brent worked at the IRS Fresno Service Center. Here, he steadily advanced in various staff positions to finally become a Supervisor. He then managed a large team of analysts, agents, and auditors improving the efficiency of processing Federal and State tax returns. I have had the pleasure of working with Brent frequently and his dedication to the community is to be commended.

In 1999, Brent was selected as the Governmental Liaison for California's San Jose Area and the Central Valley. In this position, he worked with the three California State tax agencies on compliance and customer service projects. He also served as the IRS Liaison for

11 congressional offices, providing them with IRS news and information, while answering constituent inquiries on general tax law. As his tenure with the IRS ends, Brent will be remembered as an example to staff throughout the Federal Government for his outstanding ability to work closely and effectively with government officials.

Throughout his career at the IRS, Brent Holbrook has proven to be a highly effective administrator who was always committed to excellence in public service. As he gets ready to spend much more time with his wife Linda, I wish him much continued success and best of luck for the future.

HONORING MR. CHRISTOPHER
CAVANAUGH, RECIPIENT OF THE
PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY
SCHOOL CORPORATION 2008
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, the educators of our country's youth are the trusted stewards of our country's future, and it is important to recognize those outstanding and irreplaceable teachers who go above and beyond serving our communities. Mr. Christopher Cavanaugh, of Plainfield, Indiana, is one such estimable teacher. He is a profound role model for aspiring teachers and good citizens.

Mr. Cavanaugh has been teaching students and setting standards of excellence at Plainfield High School for 17 years. On June 14, 2007, he was recognized by the Plainfield Community School Corporation as the 2008 Teacher of the Year for his work teaching senior government, Cultural Heritage of the American People, and We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution. His exceptional work highlights the vital role the American people play in their Government, teaching students not only the principle of their rights, but the honor of their responsibilities.

Last year, Mr. Cavanaugh received the inaugural American Civics Teacher Award, a national award sponsored by the National Education Association, the Center for Civic Education, and the Center on Congress at Indiana University. When he traveled to Washington, DC, to receive this distinguished honor, I had the distinguished pleasure of meeting with him in my office to discuss his enthusiasm for teaching American civics and his dedicated service to the community. It was immediately clear that his priorities include not only endowing his students with knowledge, but motivating them to act on what they learn by being responsible citizens and honoring the ideals of democracy by being lifelong participants in their Government.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Cavanaugh continues to encourage and empower students as the coach of Plainfield's swimming and diving team. His devotion and impetus have earned him recognition from the Indiana High School Athletic Association and he has received the Swimming and Diving Coach of the Year award eight times.

It is an honor and a privilege to have Mr. Cavanaugh inspire the hearts and minds of young Hoosiers. His work honors democracy

and helps to safeguard our country's future. By invigorating today's youth with the power and passion of the free world, Mr. Cavanaugh does his part to protect liberty for generations to come. I congratulate my cousin on his vision, his dedication, and his success. Chris, I am proud of you.

HONORING MARINE CORPS
CORPORAL PAUL BRODNER AND
SERGEANT ANDREW LOWE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest sense of pride that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marine Corps Corporal Paul Brodner, Jr. and Sergeant Andrew Lowe. Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe, both constituents of mine from El Cajon, California, recently returned from a seven month deployment to Haditha, Iraq, with Company E of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment.

Immediately upon arrival in Haditha, which had a reputation as one of the most dangerous locations within Al Anbar Province and all of Iraq, Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe's patrol were targeted and attacked by Sunni insurgents. For Marines in Iraq, especially those serving in Al Anbar, small arms and sniper fire, grenades and improvised explosive devices are a daily threat that challenge mission objectives and personal safety.

The Sunni insurgency in Haditha, at its strength, initiated a campaign of murder and intimidation. Despite being a hotbed of such activity, Marine units in Haditha launched a successful counterinsurgency operation that ultimately restored control of the city's infrastructure and resources to local officials and workers, and suppressed the sense of fear that was preventing Iraqis from joining police and security forces.

By the end of Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe's deployment, Haditha's police force exceeded 200 volunteers and began conducting security operations independently of the Marines—who also began receiving regular intelligence reports on insurgent activity from city residents. Progress in Haditha became measurable, especially as attacks against Iraqi and coalition forces decreased from an average of ten per day to only a handful each month. Today, Marines and Iraqi soldiers are serving side-by-side and, most importantly, our Marines continue to provide Iraq's security forces with the training and techniques they will need to protect their government and its people.

It is without question that the service men and women who have served in Iraq have demonstrated absolute selflessness and courage. In fact, I am reminded of a recent conversation I had with a Marine leader regarding our efforts in Iraq, particularly the progress of our Marines in Al Anbar Province. The message relayed to me was, "We are crushing the enemy in Al Anbar."

Madam Speaker, this continued success in Al Anbar would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of Americans like Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe. Their

service and contributions deserve to be recognized and commended, and I hope my colleagues will join me today in honoring these two American heroes.

TRIBUTE TO BEDFORD SPRINGS RESORT

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the reopening of the Bedford Springs Resort, a historic landmark in Bedford, PA. Founded in 1796 by Dr. John Anderson, the Bedford Springs served the Nation as a place of peace, tranquility and healing until its doors closed in 1990. The resort has been completely restored and will host its grand opening in August.

In its prime, the Bedford Springs Resort served many of our Nation's leading citizens, including U.S. Presidents, heads of state, and celebrities. President James Buchanan was a frequent guest of the resort, using it as a summer White House during his presidency. In 1858, President Buchanan received the first Trans-Atlantic cable from Queen Victoria in the resort's lobby. The Bedford Springs Resort is also the only place outside of Washington, DC, that all of the Supreme Court members stayed together. During their visit in 1855 the Justices discussed the Dred Scott case. In addition to its service to national figures, the resort was also utilized by the United States military. During World War II, Bedford Springs served as a Naval Communications Training Center, hosting over 7,000 Navy personnel. It was designated a national Historic Landmark in 1984 by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The resort's rich history is matched only by its grandeur, newly restored after a multimillion dollar renovation.

The Bedford Springs restoration began in 2005, when developers began combining history with luxury, adding modern day amenities to its original features. The springs will no doubt draw thousands of visitors to the Bedford area, showcasing Pennsylvania's beauty and serenity. The Bedford Springs Resort will provide a soothing atmosphere in which visitors may relax and enjoy the majestic scenery of the countryside and the Allegheny Mountains. I look forward to the grand opening of the Bedford Springs Resort, as it will bring a greater appreciation to our area and will surely be an asset to the community.

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN GOODIRON

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a fallen soldier, Corporal Nathan Goodiron.

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN GOODIRON

(By Albert Caswell)

An eagle above our nation soars on high,
With but his courage and character and
Goodiron, the very bed of freedom he so
provides,

All so in peace and liberty, all so we may
lead our lives!

Goodiron, of great heart,
A Young Eagle, of this earth . . . of the
Mandan . . . a work of art,
Of the best, of great Native American Indian
. . . of great value,
As his fine true worth . . . this man, his
heart.

A good man,
Of warm heart and character, of great atti-
tude . . . who to our world so lent his
hand,
Who gave his life, of iron in the midst of
strife . . . where strength begins, and
ends . . .

Of good heart, where brave men stand.

Forever, a hero first
Strength in honor, of dream time fame . . .
lies Goodiron . . . as is your fine life's
verse,

Of brave warrior fame of old, who loved the
land . . . who loved the earth,
And all its great soul here first.

Your smile, than one . . . a great American
son,

Who went off to war, this one . . . to cast the
light of freedom's sun . . . as yes did
you,

Our most splendid of all ones,
For when we think of you, Goodiron . . . it
warms our souls, just like the great
bright sun of old,

And a breeze from above,
Running throughout the mountain tops, into
the valley runs . . . you and your love
. . .

Out on the river it flows,
Your spirit, Goodiron so . . . we see you, we
hear you, we feel and touch you . . . as
ever it grows.

To heaven my son, you have gone . . .
With all of those true of heart, with all of
those fine souls of iron . . . who so do
belong . . .

Goodiron, a man of heart . . . an American
hero with your ancestors, you are now
a part . . .

As ever living on . . .
Goodiron, Goodheart, American's son . . . our
Lord's work of art

Good Iron
In honor of a great American hero . . . Na-
than Goodiron . . . and may your fam-
ily find peace, bless them!

INTRODUCING THE "PORT CHICAGO NAVAL MAGAZINE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 63rd anniversary of America's worst home-front disaster of World War II. This weekend, the National Park Service will join the community in commemorating the anniversary of the Port Chicago explosion and honoring those who were injured and gave their lives for their country.

I am introducing legislation today that honors the anniversary of Port Chicago by improving and enhancing the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, in my district in California.

Thousands of tons of ammunition exploded on the night of July 17, 1944, at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in the east San Fran-

cisco Bay area. The blasts instantly killed 320 sailors, wounded hundreds more, and damaged and destroyed merchant ships, the pier, a train, and the buildings of Port Chicago. Less than a month after the tragedy, three divisions were ordered to resume work at a new site a few miles away. Most of the men refused to continue their dangerous tasks until supervision, training, and working conditions were improved. In response, the Navy charged fifty men with conspiring to mutiny; all were convicted.

The majority of the men killed while handling ordinance at Port Chicago, and all of those convicted of mutiny, were African-American. This injustice had clear racial implications, and was a turning point in our Nation's history. Following the conviction, Thurgood Marshall, then a lawyer with the NAACP, took up the case. The Port Chicago disaster and its aftermath strongly influenced America's move towards racial equality, including the Navy's move toward desegregation in 1945, and President Truman's 1948 Executive Order desegregating the Armed Forces and guaranteeing "equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

Recognizing the importance of the site to our Nation's history, I sponsored legislation in the 102nd Congress to designate the site of the Port Chicago Naval Magazine as a national memorial. Since the bill became law in 1992, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial has been managed by the National Park Service to remind Americans of the contributions made by the Port Chicago sailors.

Today, to honor the anniversary of the 1944 disaster, I am introducing the "Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial Enhancement Act of 2007," a new bill designed to increase the National Memorial's accessibility, provide additional visitor services, and preserve the site for future generations.

The legislation enhances the memorial in several ways. First, it directs the Secretary of the Interior to administer the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System. Second, when the site is determined to be excess to military needs, this new bill would transfer the property to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

In order to improve public access to the Memorial, this legislation authorizes the Interior Department to work with the City of Concord and the East Bay Regional Park District to establish and operate a facility for visitor orientation and parking, administrative offices, and curatorial storage for the Memorial. Finally, the legislation directs the Defense Department and the Interior Department to work together to repair storm damage to the site.

I am including for the record a letter I received today in support of the Act from the president of the National Parks Conservation Association. As Mr. Kiernan says, the story of Port Chicago "deserves commemoration at the highest possible level, and clearly is worthy of being fully vested in the care of the National Park Service, the guardians of our Nation's natural and cultural heritage."

This new bill will protect and enhance the memorial, and will allow future generations to honor this important moment in American history. I urge my colleagues to support the Port