

CSU Stanislaus has also been recognized by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities as one of 12 campuses nationwide for outstanding graduation and retention rates. CSU Stanislaus generates more than \$300 million annual impact on the regional economy.

Today, on Founders Day, CSU Stanislaus marks a half-century of excellence as students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends celebrate the University's 50th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF LORRAINE MADDEN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute today to Lorraine Madden, the outgoing President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (LADVFA).

President Madden has been a life-long member of the Bowers Fire Company Auxiliary. Like many other members of the Auxiliary and Fire Departments, President Madden's father was the Fire Chief, and her mother was President of the Auxiliary. Prior to being elected to this new post, President Madden served as President of the Auxiliary at Bowers and was also the President of the Auxiliary to the Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association. Her record of service and leadership is commendable, and is a reflection of the organization itself.

When called to action during alarms, LADVFA assist the firemen by serving meals or snacks while the companies are fighting fires or assisting with other emergencies. The services they provide both the fireman and the community are invaluable.

The LADVFA serve such an important function in our community, and to be as effective as possible, they must have dedicated and organized leaders. President Madden has been exactly that over the past year and the State of Delaware and our nation are greatly indebted to her for all of her past and future hard work. Congratulations on a job well done!

HONORING FRAGER'S HARDWARE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Frager's Hardware, located in Washington, D.C., for 90 years in business.

Throughout its 90 years in business in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, Frager's, as it is commonly known, has remained an indispensable fixture of the community and serves as a prototype of quality customer service.

The community embraces the ownership of Frager's Hardware and appreciates commemorating the anniversary with a week-long Customer Appreciation Event.

The expansion of Frager's Hardware to include a garden center, rental store, and a paint shop demonstrates its commitment to

serving the changing needs of the community and the residents of the District of Columbia.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 90th anniversary of Frager's Hardware.

HONORING THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT EASTERN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the faculty and students at Eastern Technical High School of Baltimore County, which has recently been designated as a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School. The National Blue Ribbon Award recognizes public and private schools whose students have achieved at very high levels or have made significant progress and successfully closed achievement gaps, especially among disadvantaged and minority students.

Eastern Technical High School is a magnet school that provides 10 different career path programs for students which will help prepare them to become productive members of the workforce in the future. Education is so important in setting our youth up for success and Eastern Technical High School provides a phenomenal example of how to effectively do so. In fact, Newsweek Magazine ranks Eastern Tech as among the top 5% of high schools in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the faculty and students at Eastern Technical High School. It is their hard work and dedication that have won them the recognition of the National Blue Ribbon Award. The school's consistent outstanding performance is an indicator of the faculty's perseverance and the student body's drive. It is with great pride that I congratulate Eastern Technical High School on its exemplary service.

COMMEMORATING SEA OTTER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today as I do every year, to call attention to the 8th Annual Sea Otter Awareness Week, September 26–October 2, 2010, sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife. This week-long event provides the opportunity to educate the broader public on sea otters, their natural history, the integral role they play in the near-shore marine ecosystem, and the conservation issues they are facing.

In the early 1700's, before wide-scale hunting began, sea otters ranged across the North Pacific rim from Japan to Baja California. The worldwide population estimates for that time range from the hundreds of thousands to more than one million. Before the hunting began, there were approximately 16,000–20,000 along California's coast. But killing these animals for their fur all but decimated the popu-

lation until they were thought to be extinct off the coast of California by the early 1900's.

However, in the 1930's a small population of less than 100 animals was discovered in a remote cove on a coastal ranch in Big Sur, on the Central Coast of California. Since that time, groups such as Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Sea Otter and Ocean Conservancy have raised public awareness and helped protect this important species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. 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.

Still, sea otter populations remain threatened. This year's three year population average, counted by the U.S. Geological Survey, totals only 2,711 animals, a 3.6 percent drop in overall population, and 11 percent drop in otter pups since 2009. This is the second year in a row that the population has been in decline. The annual survey saw a decrease in otter numbers throughout their range, and particularly in areas where much of their reproduction occurs. These latest numbers are of great concern and researchers have begun to identify indirect hazards for sea otters such as non-point source pollution, pathogens, and entrapment in fisheries gear that are causing their population growth to reverse. Data also suggests that breeding-age females are dying in higher than usual numbers from multiple causes, including infectious disease, toxin-exposure, heart failure, malnutrition, and shark attacks.

Each day, research is uncovering additional causes of sea otter population declines. A recent study reveals that microcystin, a toxic algae that forms in reservoirs, lakes and stagnant freshwater ponds, is responsible for the deaths of at least 21 sea otters in the Monterey Bay area and researchers state that this is the first ever documentation of a freshwater algal bloom being transmitted to upper-level marine mammals. Such realizations support the need for continued research and preventive measures to respond to these issues, while continuing to ward against the direct killings and takings that still occur.

Sea otters are integrally important to the ecosystem in which they live. For this reason, the decline of southern sea otters off the California coast not only impacts the species itself, but it affects other marine populations and the surrounding ecosystem. The demise of sea otters allows their prey, sea urchins, to proliferate unchecked leading to the alarming overgrazing of kelp beds—one of the oceans nursery grounds for many marine animals. Research shows that the absence of sea otters has a direct link to the sharp decline of kelp along portions of California's coast. Further, the sea otter is effective at monitoring toxins and diseases in the marine environment, which can affect the health of humans and other wildlife.

California took the first step toward addressing these emerging concerns by signing Assembly Bill 2485 into law. This bill establishes a state fund for sea otter conservation where Californians have the option of donating a portion of their tax returns to sea otter conservation. I want to emphasize that this means that Californians voluntarily pay a little more on their tax return to help protect these animals.