

on September 3, 2009. As we celebrate Flag Day, it is fitting to recall the contributions made by American citizens. Mr. Bialek's son, Joe, has requested recognition of his father's contributions to his community of Cleveland, Ohio. Thus, I submit the following recognition from Joe Bialek honoring his father. Mr. Bialek's memory beats strong in the hearts of his family and his son offers a moving tribute to his father:

"Walter Bialek grew up in the area of Saint Hyacinth in what is now considered a part of the Slavic Village neighborhood in Northeast Ohio. Born in a house next door to the convent that housed many nuns of the Order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, he always spoke very reverently of them about how much he appreciated the values they, along with his parents, helped to instill in him.

"Mr. Bialek graduated from East Tech High School in 1936 and earned a diploma with an emphasis in electricity. He was drafted into the Army-Air Forces in 1941 and served as a Staff Sergeant. At one time he was ordered off a troop truck headed for overseas combat in order to teach twin engine aircraft training to fighter/bomber pilots.

Through this he contributed greatly to the defense of liberty and the preservation of all those freedoms we enjoy today. After the war Mr. Bialek was offered a player contract from the Cleveland Indians baseball team but, on the advice of his father, declined it because he did not want to play on Sundays. He worked briefly for the Indians as a Territorial Scout (and kept the business card to prove it.) In 1950, he married Eileen C. Moran. Together they raised six children. Walter Bialek pursued an engineering career starting with Thompson Products—the T in TRW—and culminating in his retirement from the General Motors Chevrolet Plant in Parma, Ohio after 26 years of service. Throughout, he was active in the Third Order of Saint Francis.

"We join his family and friends in honor and remembrance of Walter J. Bialek, beloved husband of Eileen; beloved father of Mary, Patricia, Eileen, John, Alice and Joseph. He was also the adoring grandfather of Matthew, Chad, Katie, Kimberly, Timothy, Colleen, Tiffany, Nathan, Mark, John, John Jr., Daniel, Andrew, Elizabeth, Steven and Teresa.

"Mr. Bialek's devout life was defined by his deep dedication to family and friends, and his exceptional faith in the Catholic Church. His strong spirit, integrity, energy and good works have served to uplift the lives of countless individuals, families—and the communities in which he resided."

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTE BY MAIL ACT OF 2016

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Vote By Mail Act of 2016. The individual right to vote is the foundation of our government, and making sure that all Americans have the ability to exercise that right is critical to the democratic process. My home state of Oregon is a leader in innovative voting rights policy, and this legislation provides a pathway for the federal government to follow Oregon's model program.

Too many Americans around the country face extreme barriers to registering to vote and casting a ballot. Many voters often have work, family, or other commitments that make getting to polls and waiting in line on Election Day difficult or impossible. Many citizens with disabilities are physically unable to vote due to long lines, inadequate parking, no curb cuts, steep ramps, and large crowds. In 2012, 30 percent of voters with disabilities had difficulty voting, and more than 5,000,000 voters waited for more than an hour to cast a vote. Polling stations in rural jurisdictions tend to have higher costs per voter, smaller staffs, and limited resources. Additionally, transportation to the polls is often a difficult barrier for rural voters. Despite these impediments, many of these voters are not permitted to vote by mail in many states. Fortunately, a handful of states are addressing this problem, and three states currently hold elections entirely by mail. It's time to bring this policy to scale in all federal elections.

The benefits of voting by mail are numerous and well-documented. Voting by mail gives voters more time to consider their choices, which is especially important due to the expanded use of the initiative and referendum process in many states. Voting by mail is cost-effective. As shown in Oregon and Colorado, the cost of conducting vote by mail elections is generally one-third to one-half less than conducting polling place elections. Allowing all voters the option to vote by mail can reduce waiting times for those voters who choose to vote at the polls. Vote by mail also typically increases turnout in all elections, but can be particularly effective in increasing voter participation in special elections and primary elections.

The Vote By Mail Act of 2016 legislation would require states to mail ballots to all registered voters in federal elections, eliminating barriers to the ballot—saving states and local governments money and saving voters time and stress across the country.

Another crucial component of a modern voting system is making it easy, affordable, and accessible to register to vote, further multiplying the positive voter participation effects of a vote by mail system. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia introduced automatic voter registration legislation in 2015, and Oregon and California now automatically register their citizens to vote when they apply for a driver's license. Automatic, permanent voter registration has the potential to increase participation, protect election integrity, and reduce registration costs. This legislation would follow the Oregon example, register millions of eligible voters at little cost, and widely increase participation in American democracy.

There is no better time to seamlessly expand voter registration and provide more options for Americans to vote, and the stakes have never been higher.

ONE YEAR OF THE DANGEROUS IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, the President announced the

framework of the dangerous Iran nuclear deal. In the past year, Iran continues to grow more hostile, threatening American families and our allies in the Middle East, especially Israel by testing intercontinental ballistic missiles. What's more, Iran has ordered its military to produce ICBMs that are capable of reaching more targets—Europe and even the United States. And they hatefully chant "Death to America, Death to Israel!"

We should not make it easier for a rogue state to threaten American families and our allies by ignoring reality and offering more concessions to a regime which oppresses their great people. I appreciate that House Republicans have done everything we can to exercise oversight over the implementation of the dangerous agreement. This week, we passed legislation that would prevent the U.S. from purchasing heavy water from Iran and would deny the despots access to the dollar. We also passed the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, which holds Iran accountable for their ballistic missile violations and their human rights abuses against their citizens.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING IDAHO POWER'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Idaho Power on its 100 year anniversary.

For 100 years, Idaho Power has provided the electricity that fuels the economy, powers lives and makes southern Idaho and eastern Oregon more comfortable places to live.

Founded August 1, 1916, when five companies merged, Idaho Power initially served 18,000 customers. Today, the company has approximately 2,000 dedicated employees who serve over 520,000 customers in a 24,000-square-mile area. Idaho Power is one of a few investor-owned electric utilities with a primarily hydroelectric generating base.

One hundred years ago, Idaho Power relied solely on power produced by nine hydroelectric plants along the Snake River to meet customers' energy needs. Today, the company's generation resource mix comes from 17 hydroelectric power plants, three natural gas-fired plants and three jointly-owned coal-fired plants. The newest addition, Langley Gulch, is a natural gas-fired plant that began production in July 2012. Idaho Power also purchases renewable energy such as wind, solar and geothermal from independent power producers.

From fish conservation efforts to raptor protection to watershed management, Idaho Power has a rich legacy of caring for the land and rivers in its service area. The company also operates and maintains over 50 recreational facilities along the Snake River, providing outdoor activities to visitors from around the world.

Idaho Power supports the communities it serves through employee volunteerism, corporate donations and community sponsorships. The company also enables the success