

RECOGNIZING WILDERNESS INQUIRY'S FORTY YEARS OF OUTDOOR EXPLORATION AND INCLUSION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Wilderness Inquiry as it begins a year of celebration of its 40th anniversary with a May 7th celebration in the Minnesota State Capitol rotunda. A Minnesota nonprofit, Wilderness Inquiry is a national treasure, serving as a portal to the natural wonder around us—from right in our backyard to across the globe. During its first 40 years, Wilderness Inquiry has provided outdoor adventures for more than half-a-million people of all ages, backgrounds and physical abilities. Their work is defined by the understanding that our natural world belongs to all of us, and we can all enjoy and benefit from time shared together in the great outdoors.

A lifelong passion for the outdoors led two new 1978 college graduates named Greg Lais and Paul Schurke to be trailblazers in organizing expeditions for all. The success of an earlier week-long trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness with a group of people with a variety of physical abilities served as inspiration for a bold new nonprofit that could offer true wilderness adventures to everyone. "Wilderness Inquiry" was born, and under Greg's ongoing leadership, has grown to offer an incredible assortment of trips, both around the nation and across the world, that welcome people from all walks of life and all abilities. Whether it's a first canoeing trip down a local river, camping in a national park, or exploring the farthest reaches of the world, Wilderness Inquiry empowers everyone to access adventures. Their amazing team of staff and outdoor leaders create trips that are fun, memorable and life-changing for students, families and business teams alike.

The strength of Wilderness Inquiry is that it doesn't do it alone. Through partnerships with more than 100 organizations, they fulfill their mission to share the outdoors with everyone. I am particularly proud of Wilderness Inquiry's collaboration with U.S. Interior Department agencies like the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on its Canoemobile initiative. This "floating classroom" works with urban cities and school districts, countless volunteers and other organizations to bring students from all backgrounds out on waterways around the country in beautiful, hand-crafted 24-foot Voyageur canoes to learn about science, history, geography and culture.

Braving the wilderness doesn't come naturally to everyone. It takes courage to step outside our comfort zones. Wilderness Inquiry offers the support and opportunity for everyone to make this leap. Through these shared adventures, presumptions are challenged, people grow, and community is strengthened. I can vouch for the fact that these adventures are fun. But the best proof is in the smiling faces of the more than 40,000 people that Wilderness Inquiry serves each year.

It's no surprise that over the years Wilderness Inquiry has received numerous awards in recognition of their unwavering commitment to

people with disabilities, underserved youth, outdoor education, and conservation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to recognize Wilderness Inquiry on their 40th anniversary and commending the passion and dedication of so many volunteers, staff, board members and partners for their efforts in providing outdoor opportunities for all.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF
CHARLES "CHUCK" J. WEIR

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mr. Chuck Weir, who recently passed away at the age of 86, just hours before his 87th birthday. As a resident of Leesburg, Virginia, Chuck devoted his life to his family and public service, living as a selfless community servant. He was dedicated to his beloved wife of 57 years, the late Darlene Weir and together they raised four children, Sue Ellen Jones, Maureen Kay Woods, Gregory Allen Weir, and Jeffery Charles Weir.

Chuck was a respected leader in the Commonwealth who brought honor and integrity to everything he did. His deep passion for service left an impression on every person he met. During the Korean War, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, receiving an honorable discharge as a Staff Sergeant. Chuck carried a passionate spirit throughout this world and always shared it unto his colleagues.

Upon completing his undergraduate degree, Chuck taught junior high school in Oregon. In 1957, he returned to service in the USMC with a commission as a Second Lieutenant. Chuck thoroughly enjoyed his 17 years as an officer in the Marine Corps. He retired as a Major in 1970 due to combat disability after he was seriously wounded during his service in Vietnam. Chuck was awarded a Purple Heart for his injuries. He also received his MPA in Computer Science from American University in 1970. His second career as a civil servant for the United States Government was cut short due to another injury that left him permanently disabled in 1976.

Chuck then devoted his life as a citizen who profoundly impacted our community. He was selfless and dedicated to bettering the world around him. He served on the school board for the Falls Church City Public Schools. He was a member and President of the Homeowner Association boards where he lived in Oakton and Lansdowne, Virginia. Chuck had a drive and a passion to support the people and causes he held dear. He also served the youth of his community as a member and President of the Arlington Optimist Club. Chuck served as a member of the C&O Canal National Park Commission for 21 years, making sure that this hometown National Park was preserved and protected for all to enjoy. He was honored to serve veterans as a member and President of the board for the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Salem, Virginia.

Chuck was an architect of the Republican party and we will forever be grateful for his service. He was a member of the committee for President Ronald Reagan's inauguration.

Chuck was the Republican Party's 10th Congressional District Chairman in Northern Virginia. He was also a Virginia delegate to the Republican National Convention, and he served on the State Central Committee of the Republican Party of Virginia.

In all passions, Chuck was enthusiastic about serving people. His presence was noticed by more than just his friends and family as he always displayed wisdom and strength and constantly mentored those around him. His heart was sincere, and his legacy serves as inspiration for others to also endure in public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me as we recognize the many contributions of Chuck Weir. The impact he has had on the Commonwealth of Virginia and to our country will never be forgotten, and I offer our deepest condolences to the Weir family.

BRADY A. HACKBARTH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brady A. Hackbarth for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Brady A. Hackbarth is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brady A. Hackbarth is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brady A. Hackbarth for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING NATIONAL TRAVEL
AND TOURISM WEEK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May 6 through 12, 2018 as National Travel and Tourism Week in Napa County, California, an occasion to commemorate, congratulate and celebrate the people who work in tourism and hospitality.

Travelers and their spending are essential to Napa County's, and all of California's, economy. The tourism and hospitality industries are responsible for strengthening the economy in California's Fifth Congressional District. Tourism is the second largest industry in Napa County and supports over 13,000 jobs in our community, mainly in the restaurant, hotel and retail sectors. In 2016, 3.5 million visitors to the Napa Valley spent nearly \$2 billion, an increase of 17.5 percent from 2014. This spending generated over \$80 million in tax revenues