

outstanding work of Thomas J. Dougherty, a Senior Advisor with the National Wildlife Federation. Tom will be retiring at the end of this year after serving 18 years with the National Wildlife Federation and decades of work on environmental and wildlife protection efforts.

For over a quarter century, Tom Dougherty, who now lives in Loveland, Colorado, has worked to protect wildlife and its habitat on behalf of conservationists and the Wyoming and National Wildlife Federations. Tom's passion and talent for protecting wildlife first appeared in 1983, when Tom, then president of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, roused the State of Wyoming and its legislature to pass an instream flow law. That law recognizes that leaving water in the stream for the sake of fish and wildlife is a legitimate and beneficial use of water.

Around the same time, and on much drier ground, Tom began a campaign which found its way to the national evening news and into the courts. Tom dedicated himself to getting rid of a rancher's lethal twenty-eight mile fence, which blocked antelope from reaching their crucial winter range on Red Rim in south-central Wyoming. Thanks to Tom (with an assist from NBC Nightly News and the federal courts), the five foot high mesh wire fence, which was impenetrable to antelope, was completely removed, saving antelope from starving to death in severe winters. Several years later, Tom helped the Wyoming Game and Fish Department acquire the private lands on Red Rim so the Department and the Bureau of Land Management could manage those lands as The Red Rim Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

In the later 1980s Tom moved to the National Wildlife Federation's office in Boulder, Colorado, where he eventually became Western Staff Director. At this position, he worked with Representatives Pat Schroeder and Wayne Allard, the City of Denver, the United States Army, Shell Oil Company, the State of Colorado, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to designate the Rocky Mountain Arsenal as a National Wildlife Refuge—an unusual urban wildlife refuge. Tom's advocacy for the new refuge and talent for bringing people together to fight for wildlife were becoming nationally known.

That recognition may help explain his participation in the early 1990s of efforts to reform the grazing of livestock on our public lands. When then Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt was embarking on reform efforts, heated controversy in the west naturally ensued. The Secretary, in order to forge a compromise, turned to Colorado, where Governor Roy Romer was working to bring all sides together to develop a workable slate of reform proposals. Governor Romer included Tom in these efforts as he knew of Tom's ability to work with all sides, understand the concerns of the ranchers, and bring a spirit of collaboration—along with a passion for protecting the sustainability of the land for livestock and wildlife. When that effort expanded through Secretary Babbitt's participation, the Secretary and Governor Romer included him in the grazing roundtable that ultimately lead to new grazing regulations. Once again Tom's talent for bringing diverse interests together for the sake of wildlife was making a big difference on the ground.

While Tom was working on the Arsenal Refuge and Red Rim, there was a sound absent from Yellowstone National Park. Now, you might be lucky enough to hear a wolf howl in Yellowstone, and if so you owe some thanks to Tom Dougherty. He and the National Wildlife Federation, along with many other conservation organizations, worked with citizens, teachers, biologists, ranchers, hunters, lawyers, politicians, and regulators (to name just a few) to bring back the gray wolf Tom was among those invited to be in the Park with Secretary Babbitt during the release of the first wolves back into Yellowstone.

Tom's dedication to wildlife and his thoughtful and heartfelt encouragement for those who care about wildlife is not limited to federal lands. South and east of Yellowstone, Tom and the National Wildlife Federation joined with the Shoshone and Arapaho Indian Tribes on the Wind River Indian Reservation in an effort to convert the Tribes' agricultural water rights into instream flow rights. Keeping the water in the river would have restored the Wind River and bolstered the Tribes cultural and economic hopes to once again rely on the river's formerly fertile fishery.

All of this dedication and commitment may be traced to an event early in his life that Tom likes to recite and that he swears is a true story. Forty years ago, as a boy at a Cheyenne, Wyoming, high school, he helped dangle another student by his heels out of a second story school window. Perhaps those few seconds of outdoor aerial suspension created a heightened appreciation of the earth and its environment—the boy who was dangled became a leader of private property rights advocates, and Tom, who kept a firm grip on those inverted heels, became the dedicated environmental leader, teacher, and wildlife guardian that he is today.

Perhaps those few seconds at the sill of that second story high school window gave Tom a knack for recognizing serious wildlife issues before most even realize there's a threat. A decade ago he led the National and Wyoming Wildlife Federations into court to enforce Wyoming's laws against game ranching. Today, game ranches in other states are often at the center of concern about the spread of chronic wasting disease.

Tom Dougherty has been the instigator, producer, coach, minister, and manager for those working to protect wildlife. Certainly one beneficiary of his passionate guardianship and persistent defense is the wildlife we enjoy in the Rocky Mountain region. But the creatures who thrive thanks to Tom are but a token compared to his greatest contribution: his recognition and nurturing of those willing to join in defending wildlife. Tom has motivated hundreds to care for and defend wildlife across the west. The allies Tom has mentored will ensure the West's wildlife legacy will endure.

For these reasons and more, I am proud to call Tom Dougherty a friend, and urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing his contributions to wildlife, our county, and the hundreds of citizens he has inspired to join together to make the West a better place for wildlife and people.

LEGISLATION TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JUSTIN DART, JR.

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Justin Dart Jr., a legendary advocate for disability and human rights, who died on June 22. He was 71 years old.

Justin Dart was a leader in the disability rights movement for over 30 years and was an instrumental force behind the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, a landmark law protecting the civil rights of persons with disabilities. He was widely regarded as one of the "fathers of the ADA."

At age 18, Mr. Dart contracted polio, which left his legs paralyzed. He attended college at the University of Houston, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. In college, Justin Dart became involved in the civil rights movement and founded an organization to end the racial segregation of the university he attended. Throughout his life, he was active in promoting and protecting the rights of women, persons of color, and gays and lesbians, in addition to people with disabilities.

A successful entrepreneur, Mr. Dart established several businesses in Mexico and Japan during the 1950s and 1960s, but turned away from these ventures so that he and his wife, Yoshiko, could fully devote themselves to human rights causes. In the 1980s, he was appointed by Presidents Reagan and Bush to a number of government posts, including membership on the National Council on Disability, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Service Administration, and chair of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. He also headed the Congressional Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of Americans with Disabilities. He remained a strong proponent of the ADA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and other legislative milestones after his service in government, and helped found an organization, "Justice for All," to protect the achievements of the disability rights movement.

In 1998 Justin Dart was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting that Congress honor this civil rights advocate with the Congressional Gold Medal as well.

This week on July 26, we will celebrate the 12th anniversary of the ADA. On that day the disability community will come together in our Nation's Capital to pay tribute and celebrate the life of Justin Dart, and for his work to champion the cause of people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, let Congress, too, celebrate the life of Justin Dart, and let Congress reaffirm its commitment to the civil rights of all Americans with disabilities, by honoring this outstanding and visionary American with the Congressional Gold Medal.