

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JUDY HADLEY OF
LINCOLN, RI

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues a story demonstrating one person's ability to protect the environment from the threat of pollution, for the benefit of wildlife and human enjoyment, alike.

Thirty years after the passage of the Clean Water act, the Blackstone river has shaken off a legacy of neglect and re-emerged as a vital community asset. The water quality has improved, a bikeway is under construction, and mill buildings are being restored as apartments and condominiums. The National Park Service is promoting a new appreciation for the work and culture of the families who have made the Blackstone Valley their home. And just last week, I joined the Army Corps of Engineers in celebrating the restoration of wetlands in a floodplain that had been paved over for 50 years. So there is a great deal of activity on the banks of the Blackstone.

While the federal government has been a major player in the river's rebirth, none of these exciting developments would have been possible without the personal commitment of Blackstone Valley residents. It is their hard work and, more importantly, their heightened vigilance and renewed sense of ownership of the river, that have helped it to thrive.

Once such resident is Judy Hadley of Lincoln, RI—a town of about 21,000 people, located on the Blackstone River. As the chair of the Lincoln Land Trust, Judy is a staunch defender of her town's remaining open spaces and a passionate advocate on behalf of the Blackstone. She is active a number of other local organizations, including the Friends of the Blackstone River, the Blackstone River Watershed Council, and the Lincoln Tree and trail Commission. She has organized river cleanups and educated her fellow residents about the impact that stormwater has on the Blackstone and its wildlife population.

For many years, a 60-ton excavator sat abandoned on a manmade island in the river—a relic of an old gravel mining operation. It was an eyesore and a potential environment hazard. Two years ago, Judy Hadley went to work: canvassing State and Federal authorities, trying to find the best solution for this problem. No agency seemed to have the right equipment or the resources to handle such an unusual request, but Judy persisted. If she could have dismantled it herself and taken it away piece by piece, I think she would have.

Fortunately, Mr. President, it did not come to that. Last year, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management removed more than 300 gallons of diesel fuel and other fluids from the machinery. The excavator

itself was finally taken away this summer by the Army Corps via a temporary land bridge, as part of the wetland restoration project that I mentioned earlier. •

IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN CARL WEST

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, John Carl West was the smartest in our class of 1942 at The Citadel. I will never forget in the political science course COL Carl Coleman would pass around Time magazine's current accounts test. John was the only one who knew all the answers each time and he was long on common sense to go along with his brilliance.

At a later time I want to detail his contributions to our State and Nation, but the article in The State newspaper in Columbia, SC, appearing on September 21, has a pretty good summary of it. I that it be printed in the RECORD. The article follows.

[From the State, Sept. 21, 2003]

WAY AHEAD OF HIS TIME
(By Aaron Gould Sheinin)

HILTON HEAD ISLAND.—At 81, former Gov. John West is no lion in winter, no aged warrior. He is, as he's always been, a dove.

Battling cancer, West goes to his Hilton Head Island law office each morning. He still wears a tie and his trademark horn-rimmed glasses.

Nearly 33 years after South Carolinians answered his campaign call to "elect a good man governor," several projects are under way to ensure that West's legacy endures. That legacy will center on his progressive stands on race.

"My whole ambition and my whole thrust was to first get the state's racial relationship in better order," West says from his law office conference room, an expanse of salt-water marsh visible beyond a wall of windows.

A biography is in the works, and, at USC, an oral history and archive are complete. Also, a new program, called the West Forum, will perpetuate the Kershaw County native's interest in state government and policy.

As state senator, lieutenant governor and governor, West was out front on improving race relations when doing so meant you and your family got death threats from the Ku Klux Klan leader who lived less than a mile from your home. He also was out front on race relations in South Carolina when that meant you did not win elections.

And yet West did.

West, who once carried a pistol for protection, helped carry the state out of segregation. He created the state Human Affairs Commission and appointed Jim Clyburn to be the first black senior gubernatorial aide. He fought for better health care for all, for increasing teacher pay and stabilizing the education system.

West vetoed a capital punishment bill because, he said then, "I do not believe man has the right to take a life that only God can create." For a state still escaping the scourge of lynchings, West's actions spoke volumes to blacks, African-American leaders say. The Legislature, however, overrode the veto.

Later, West was U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia under President Jimmy Carter, choosing the posting over more pleasant locales.

SAW ENORMOUS POTENTIAL IN BLACKS

Now, West has a new fight, against cancer. Kind and polite, he declines to talk about his

illness. But he's being treated at MUSC in Charleston, where, he says, the Hollings Oncology Center is a terrific asset for the state.

A self-described "old politician," West is pleased to remember the days when his beliefs were considered shocking by some. "In the election of 1970, I probably wouldn't have been elected without the black vote," West says. "The fact that we had relegated a large percentage of our people to service jobs, to limited education, limited opportunity, was just not smart. I felt that if we could unleash that potential, it would be a great boon for South Carolina. I like to think I was right about that."

For today's Democratic candidates, attracting the black vote is necessity and norm. In West's heyday, it was "almost revolutionary," he says.

Former President Carter and West became friends when both were governors. Carter in Georgia. Carter calls West a trailblazer in race relations. "He was and has always remained way ahead of his time, not only in race relations, but also in a deep commitment to make sure that every citizen of South Carolina was given an opportunity for good education and health care," Carter says. "His heart was in the right place and still is."

WEST "BELIEVED STRONGLY IN GOOD"

In his 1971 inaugural address, West said South Carolina must "in the next four years eliminate from our Government any vestige of discrimination." Sitting in the crowd at the State House was newly minted state Rep. I.S. Leevy Johnson of Columbia, one of three African Americans elected that November to the House, the first blacks to serve since Reconstruction. West "changed the course of South Carolina history" when it came to relations between blacks and whites, Johnson says. "People recognized him as a person who believed strongly in good."

Clyburn believes he should have been in the crowd that day, too, as the fourth black House member. But the future congressman went to bed on election night believing he had won by 5,000 votes, only to wake up the next morning and be told that a counting error had been discovered. He'd lost by 5,000 votes.

When West asked him a week after the election to come to Columbia and work for him, Clyburn was reluctant. "I told him," Clyburn remembers, "that I didn't think it would be a good fit. I thought my politics and his may not have been suited for each other." But West "looked at me and said something I've never forgotten. He said, 'If I had your talent and I was black, I'd be more militant than you are.' And so I went to work for him."

After two years on the governor's senior staff, West appointed Clyburn to lead the Human Affairs Commission, the first state agency charged with fighting discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. Twenty years later, Clyburn became the state's first black congressman since Reconstruction.

"JUST A SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG"

Through the turbulent 1950s, '60s and early '70s, West was the rare politician for whom race had not been anathema. "I had worked with blacks all my life," West says. "I had plowed fields with them, went through the Depression with them. I had no hatred of blacks. I guess it was just a sense of right and wrong."

It was that sense that led him to cross paths with the Klan. In the 1950s, when West was in the Senate, the doomed segregationist mantra of "separate but equal" was still the law in South Carolina.

The band at the white high school in Camden was accomplished and decorated. The