

102 years old marks the departure of one of this country's most impassioned conservation leaders.

From her early upbringing in Alaska, Mardy gained a deep respect and love of the region's vast rugged terrain—its unspoiled lands and its remarkable wildlife.

As the first woman graduate of the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, she became a tireless advocate for the protection of Alaska as a national treasure. She once said, "When I was a child, Alaska seemed too vast and wild ever to be changed, but now we are coming to realize how vulnerable this land is. I hope we have the sensitivity to protect Alaska's wilderness . . ."

Upon graduation in 1924, Mardy married naturalist Olaus Murie and together they formed a partnership to not only protect this spectacular land, but other parts of the remaining American wilderness.

As an author and a lifelong activist, she inspired her husband, her family and her fellow citizens to build an entire conservation movement. For decades, the Murie family traveled the Alaskan wilderness, and once established in Wyoming, where Olaus served with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they studied the biology of both regions—its mossy tundra, its streams, grassy sloughs, its elk, coyote and moose, and its wilderness.

While her children were growing up, Mardy became an active community member, serving on the school board, campaigning for education and the local library and promoting activities for local youth. In World War II, she grew a victory garden and managed a dude ranch.

In 1944, the Muries moved to Moose, Wyoming, where their home would become a center of the wilderness movement. Following Olaus' retirement from federal service, he accepted the directorship of the Wilderness Society, later to serve as its president.

Through her wilderness experiences with Olaus, Mardy became a fierce advocate for the protection of the Brooks Range in Alaska. She authored a book, *Two in the Far North*, which chronicled their summer-long adventure to this Alaskan region and inspired countless others to visit the Arctic area and fight for its protection.

Their dedication and effort paid off in 1960, when the Arctic National Wildlife Range—later renamed a National Wildlife Refuge—was created.

In 1964, the Muries and many other conservationists won another major victory when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law. Working for the National Park Service, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society and the Izaak Walton League at various times in her historic career, Mardy explored additional areas in Alaska and other parts of the country to determine their suitability for wilderness designation.

These continuing efforts helped achieve enactment of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, when President Jimmy Carter signed into law the bill that my father had sponsored in the House of Representatives.

Mardy Murie was the recipient of numerous prestigious awards honoring her outstanding environmental work. She was awarded the Audubon Medal in 1980, the John Muir Award in 1983, the Robert Marshall Conservation Award in 1986, and an honorary Doctor of Hu-

mane Letters from her alma mater, the University of Alaska. As she neared her 100th birthday in 2002, Mardy was honored with the J.N. Ding Darling Conservationist of the Year Award, the National Wildlife Federation's highest tribute.

In 1998, President Clinton awarded Mardy the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian award. At the event presenting her this distinction, President Clinton said "For Mardy Murie, wilderness is personal. She and her husband, Olaus, spent their honeymoon on a 550-mile dogsled expedition through the Brooks Mountain Range of Alaska. Fitting for a couple whose love for each other was matched only by their love of nature."

Margaret Mardy Murie was a national treasure. As a pioneer of the American conservation movement, she was and will continue to be an inspiration to us all. Her commitment to this country's wilderness sites will be a lasting legacy to the beauty of this nation and the importance and value of preserving our wild landscapes. May her spirit and inspiration live on in all of us for decades to come.

INTRODUCING THE JUVENILE VIOLENT GUN CRIME REPORTING ACT

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce with Congressman CHRISTOPHER SHAYS and 27 cosponsors the Juvenile Violent Gun Crime Reporting Act. This bipartisan bill would close a loophole in current law and help keep guns out of the hands of individuals with a history of violent crime.

Every year more than 10,000 people are murdered with guns in the United States. In 2001, guns were involved in one third of all violent crimes. Firearms have a particularly damaging effect on America's youth. Of the 1,400 juveniles murdered in 2001, 44 percent were killed with a firearm. During the 1999–2000 school years, 2,837 students were caught bringing a gun to school. In my home state of Illinois, 164 students were expelled for bringing a gun to school between 1999 and 2001. A regrettable but plain fact is that minors are not only the victims of gun crime but the perpetrators as well. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, 93,000 gun crimes or 9 percent of the total gun crimes were committed by individuals under the age of 18 between 2000 and 2002.

In an effort to combat America's high rate of gun violence, Congress enacted the Brady Bill in 1994. I was proud to work on passing this landmark bill when I served in the White House. A portion of the Brady law requires any individual wishing to purchase a firearm to undergo a background search. This system, known as the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), prohibits any individual with a violent criminal history from purchasing a weapon. Through 2001, 38 million background checks were conducted and 840,000 purchases were denied. However, a loophole in the Brady Bill allows violent juvenile criminals to purchase firearms. The Juve-

nile Violent Gun Crime Reporting Act (JVGCRA) would close this loophole once and for all.

Under current law, nearly all juvenile records are expunged once an individual reaches the age of 18. Because the expunged records are not included in the NICS background check, someone who committed a violent crime before the age of 18 can legally purchase a weapon on his or her 18th birthday. In response to this glaring loophole, my legislation amends federal law and requires states to report violent juvenile crime so that it may be utilized by NICS. Further, the bill makes it illegal for anyone to transfer a weapon to someone who has a history of violent juvenile crime.

Mr. Speaker, the Juvenile Violent Gun Crime Reporting Act is a simple and straightforward bill and could go a long way toward making our streets, schools, and cities much safer for our children and our families. It is a good bill and we hope that my colleagues will join us.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH DISHANNI

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph DiShanni, Founder, Executive Director and Director Emeritus of the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce, who passed away on October 21, 2003.

Mr. DiShanni received many awards, acclamations, and special recognitions throughout his career in acknowledgement of his tireless commitment to his community. He is most revered for his accomplishments in industrial and business development for the City of Irwindale and the San Gabriel Valley. He was affectionately known as "Mr. Irwindale." In addition to his service to the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce, he served on the Los Angeles County Insurance Commission and as a Traffic Safety Commissioner for Los Angeles County.

Born in Walkkill, New York, in 1909, Mr. DiShanni immigrated with his mother and two older sisters to Italy after the death of his father. At the age of 18, he returned to the United States in search of the American Dream. His hard work and dedication to his community made him an inspiration to all who knew him.

The Irwindale community, his family and his beloved wife Margaret will miss him dearly. I am pleased and honored to pay tribute to him today.

THE ARTICLE "THE 'BUT' ECONOMY"

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend to the attention of my colleagues the following article by former General Electric Chairman and CEO Jack Welch.

Jack Welch provides an important lesson in corporate management to those who don't understand what makes an economy grow. Growth comes from businesses that are constantly striving to make themselves more competitive in a global marketplace.

As the article points out, many in the media believe a story isn't complete unless there is some bad news. Sometimes I think if the modern media had existed in biblical times, it would have written, "Moses laid down the Ten Commandments today, Five of which were immediately denounced by civil rights and environmental activists."

Jack Welch's article makes for instructive reading about why our economy just posted one of its strongest performances in recent memory.

THE 'BUT' ECONOMY
(By Jack Welch)

Guess what? There is an economic recovery under way, but you never would have known it last week when earnings reports came out. Even though many companies from battered sectors—including some companies left for dead just two or three years ago—recorded positive results, their successes were almost universally reported with the word "BUT" prominently featured. The stories in the papers and on TV went something like this:

Sales were up—but analysts warned that cost cutting explained most of the gains.

Earnings were up—but the mood of optimism was tempered by concerns about global competitiveness.

Cash flow was up—but the company still faces harsh tests in coming months.

Now, I am not claiming that the economy is fixed. It's not. And there are, obviously, challenges ahead if a full recovery is going to occur. It's undeniable, however, that most companies are posting significantly improved results. Not only can millions of hard-working people celebrate—they should. They've earned the right. That's why we can't rain all over the their efforts—their motivation and innovative spirit and can-do attitudes. Those good feelings, as any economist will tell you, are key drivers of company productivity and consumer confidence. The fact is a recovery will be a lot harder if we keep saying "but" about damn good news.

Two particularly glaring "but" stories from last week come to mind—Xerox and Lucent.

Xerox has been through the ringer. It's had accounting difficulties. It's paid millions of dollars in fines. It has experienced market-share erosion from product misses and non-competitive costs, and its employees and shareholders have suffered. Two grueling years later, however, Anne Mulcahy and her team appear to be turning the ship around. The company reported that its earnings grew 18% in the third quarter. From the reporting on it, though, you would have thought the company was still taking on water. The good results, it was reported, mainly came from cost cutting. Of course they did! While innovation is the lifeblood of business, cost competitiveness is a given if you want to win in the global economy.

Lucent is an even more dramatic case. For the first time since March 2000—that's 10 quarters—the company actually posted a profit, thanks to the persistence and creativity of Pat Russo, her top team, and tens of thousands of employees. It was time for a party. But Lucent's turnaround was spray-painted with "but" this and "but" that. The company's good results were subjected to the usual harangue about telecom industry spending and attributed mainly to cost-cutting. Oh no—not that again.

The good news out of other sectors got much the same treatment. Time Warner, which has angered its shareholders for a couple of years now, reported increased revenues and operating income in the third quarter. That news was pretty much lost in commentaries about the continuing saga of the company's Internet activities. Meanwhile, Citicorp and a slew of other banking industry giants were showing sensational results. What did you hear? Reserve provisions for bad loans were down. This "but" could have actually been cast as "because." For instance, "Earnings were sensational because, among other factors, reserve provisions are down as a result of improved risk management and a stronger economy."

Of course, you have to wonder—why all the grumpiness? Why has every cloud got a dingy gray lining? There are probably many reasons but two come right to my mind.

Go back to 1999, the last year that positive results were routinely reported. There was no "but" economy grousing then. And that's exactly the problem. The media (and pretty much everyone else) believed that trees did indeed grow to the sky. Very few asked, "How solid are these results? How long can they last? Will these markets grow forever?"

When the bubble burst, a lot of people got burned—and not just shareholders. Many people in the media had hyped companies that flamed out because they were based on unrealistic business models or turned out to be rotten to the core. They felt burned too. Today, when the media reports good news, it feels safer to stick "but" in every sentence.

The other reason is political. Back in the days of Clinton-bashing, the ideological divide in the country seemed like it couldn't get wider. Well, it has. Bush-hating has pushed it to new levels. Never before have Democrats and Republicans been more vitriolic in their disdain for each other; it feels like war. And frankly, what would be worse for the Democrats right now than an economic recovery? That's an awful big battle to lose as the election approaches.

Now, I'm not suggesting "irrational exuberance" again. First of all, it's not warranted (yet) and giddiness about the economy didn't really help last time. And I'm also not asking that people forget what happened during the boom. Some companies and executives absolutely earned the right to get nothing but disrespect and doubt.

If we are ever to get competitive again, though, we can't indiscriminately put a negative spin on what is legitimately good news. We live in a global economy; India and China get stronger and better every single day. To have a fighting chance, companies need to get every employee, with every idea in their heads and every morsel of energy in their bodies, into the game.

The facts are, companies are not bricks and mortar, but people, with blood and sweat and tears. People are the reason for the recent recovery, and people are the reason it will continue—if it does. That's why we need to tell the people who have earned it not "but," but "Bravo."

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO MEMBERS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN OPERATION RESTORE HOPE IN SOMALIA IN 1993

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise in strong support of H. Con. Res.

291, expressing gratitude to the members of the United States Armed Forces who demonstrated valor and dedication to the cause of freedom and humanitarian relief during Operation Restore Hope.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the battle of Mogadishu, and I am very pleased to join with my colleagues in recognizing the courageous actions of the Army's Special Forces, the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division, and members of the Armed Forces who were deployed to capture the terrorist warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid. Today we remember and honor the sixteen special operations personnel assigned to Task Force Ranger who were killed, and the sacrifices of another eighty-three troops who were wounded during one of the most intense firefighters in modern history.

We cannot forget the sacrifices of these soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. Their service should be recognized as a significant contribution to the war against terrorism and oppression. This resolution is important not only because it commemorates their enduring contributions on behalf of the people of Somalia, but also because of its symbolism that continues today in the fight against oppression and terror on the streets of Baghdad, Kabul and other hostile areas where we try to make people's lives better.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of those who lost a loved one or were wounded in the battle of Mogadishu. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to all those who volunteer to defend our Nation's freedom and to remember the sacrifices of all those who served.

RECOGNIZING THE HOLY CROSS ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CATHEDRAL

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize one of the most historically rich institutions in the United States. On November 1, 2003, the Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Cathedral of Montebello, California will be celebrating its eighty years of service to the Los Angeles Armenian American community under the auspices of their Prelate, His Eminence Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian.

This historic occasion for the Holy Cross Cathedral is a culmination of leadership, dedication, commitment, and community work. Since its erection in 1922, Holy Cross is the second oldest Armenian Cathedral in the state of California and the oldest in Los Angeles County. For eighty years, Holy Cross has touched the lives of millions of churchgoers and other religious individuals looking for spiritual fulfillment. In addition, it has given positive direction to Armenian children and adolescents through their exceptional Mesrobian school system.

Additionally, Holy Cross's leadership has paved the way for other Armenian Apostolic churches throughout Southern California. Inspired by Holy Cross, over seven churches and congregations have been established. I am happy to note that all of them serve their congregations, youth, community, and country with all their love and energy.