

Nature has bestowed some of her finest treasures upon western New York. But none are as recognized world-wide as Niagara Falls, which attracts more than 7 million visitors annually. The Niagara River Gorge is an exceptionally scenic corridor, carved by the movement of the falls beginning over 10,000 years ago. Federal recognition of this geological wonder and the Niagara frontier is long overdue.

The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act will provide Federal resources to help heighten national appreciation for the falls' natural splendor and the region's contributions to our Nation's history. The bill is critically important to the district I represent. With the steady decline in manufacturing, the western New York economy has become increasingly dependent on tourism. In addition to recognizing the falls in our Nation's development, the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act will help revitalize and strengthen the local economy by creating a comprehensive strategy to attract tourists to the region.

Niagara Falls is a geological wonder that has been a world-renowned tourist destination for more than 200 years. Rich in natural and cultural resources, the Niagara falls area has significant historical associations with Native Americans, early European exploration, the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Underground Railroad. In addition, the falls have long been an important site for hydroelectric power and ancillary industries. Together, these elements have greatly contributed to the development of the United States and deserve Federal recognition as a national landmark.

A National Heritage Area designation will heighten appreciation for the region, better preserve its natural and historic resources, improve coordination among existing programs at the site, enhance the quality of life, and expand the economy of the Niagara region. The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area will be comprised of the area stretching from the western boundary of the town of Wheatfield to the mouth of the Niagara River, and from the river to Lake Ontario. It will also include the city of Niagara Falls, the villages of Youngstown and Lewiston, and all land and water lying within these boundaries. The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area will be managed by a Federal Commission for its first 5 years in existence before being turned over to a local management entity. This bill has widespread public support, and a Niagara Falls National Heritage Area has been endorsed by the National Park Service.

Madam Speaker, Niagara Falls has always been a source of pride for western New York. But the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act will help to solidify its standing as something more: an engine for the revitalization and promotion of our region's natural, historic, and scenic resources to residents and visitors alike. I look forward to working toward passage of this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C.
DAVIDSON, JR.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Robert C. David-

son, Jr. upon being named recipient of Morehouse College's Bennie Leadership Award for the year 2007.

Robert Davidson's long and distinguished career began in the late 1960s, when he began as a Management Consultant with the New York-based Cresap, McCormick and Paget. Robert later moved to Boston, where he cofounded and served as Vice President of the Urban National Corporation, a private venture capital company established with a commitment to increase industry's investment in minority-controlled businesses.

Mr. Davidson's entrepreneurial spirit continued as he served as Chief Executive Officer of Avant Garde Enterprises, and it later led him to develop and head his own management and consulting firm. In 1978, Robert formed Surface Protection Industries, Inc. (SPI) and served as its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Under his leadership, SPI developed into one of California's leading African-American-owned manufacturing companies.

Robert Davidson has a strong commitment to community involvement and voluntary service. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for the following organizations: Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia; Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (NYSE); Broadway Federal Bank (NASDAQ); Fulcrum Venture Capital Corporation; Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business Advisory Council; Art Center College of Design in Pasadena; the South Coast Air Quality Management District Brain Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation; and the Los Angeles Urban League.

Prior board affiliations include Children's Hospital of Los Angeles; Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; Rebuild LA; Museum of Contemporary Art; Charles Drew University School of Medicine; Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena; Shaare Zedek Medical Center Jerusalem; Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra; Falcon Cable Community Ventures; the African/American Museum of Art; the Black-Jewish Economic Development Committee of Los Angeles; Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles; the Weingart Center for the Homeless; and the Planning Commission for the City of Pasadena.

Mr. Davidson lives in Pasadena with his wife Faye and their three sons, Robert III, John Roderick, and Julian.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding individual of California's 29th Congressional District, Robert C. Davidson, Jr. The entire community joins me in thanking Robert for his success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live and work.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. The Federation is one of the oldest and largest conserva-

tion organizations in Pennsylvania. Since 1932, the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs has been the leading advocate of our outdoor heritage, wildlife habitat and environmental protection in the Commonwealth.

For three-quarters of a century this great organization has worked diligently to defend the rights of individuals under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, as well as ensure the rights of all citizens to a healthy environment. The Federation was the driving force behind the passage of the Nation's first environmental laws, including PA's Clean Streams Law in 1937.

Throughout its proud history, the Federation has been a strong partner in conservation with our State and Federal natural resource and wildlife management agencies, such as the PA Game Commission, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In cooperation with these public agencies, the Federation has helped to conserve precious wildlife habitat, protect clean water, and provide countless recreational opportunities for millions of American citizens.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the members of the PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, past and present, for their 75 years of distinguished service to the United States of America.

A WISE CHOICE FOR SPEAKER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, no one who knew them both could ever deny the power of the relationship and marriage between Phil and Sala Burton. It brought together two people who cared deeply about America and believed strongly in progressive values and actions. As the enclosed article notes, Sala Burton saw these same values and talent in our new Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, many years ago. When Sala, seriously ill, asked NANCY PELOSI to run for her congressional seat, she was acting on the same values and trust that she and Phil brought to public life. Sala made a decision that changed the history of the House of Representatives and our country forever.

I would like to share the article with our colleagues:

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 3, 2007]

SALA'S CHOICE

NANCY PELOSI CARRIES ON A POWERFUL LEGACY

(By Harold Meyerson)

Sala Galant Lipschultz Burton made two critical decisions during her lifetime, the full meaning of which could not have been apparent to her at the time she made them. The first, in the early 1950s, was to marry a young lawyer and Democratic activist named Phil Burton, who was to become the single most important member of the House of Representatives in the '60s and '70s.

As a leader of the California Young Democrats and a rising force in San Francisco politics, the young Phil Burton had already won a reputation for his political brilliance—and for his explosive temper. Nobody worked harder for liberal causes. Nobody demanded more of his associates and staffers: If they

didn't match his crazy hours, his ability to count votes or his understanding of the art of the deal, they'd be subjected to eruptions from the Burton volcano.

Throughout his career, in fact, the biggest obstacle to Burton's success was his rage. That he accomplished as much as he did was due in part to Sala. The late John Jacobs, whose 1995 biography of Burton, "A Rage for Justice," is one of the great political biographies of the past quarter-century, reported that Sala was Phil's confidante, co-strategist and champion, but that was only the beginning. "She cleaned up his messes," Jacobs wrote, "soothing and placating those he insulted or abused. She alone could intervene in a conversation to shut him up."

Phil Burton was first elected to the House in 1964. In his 19 years as a congressman—he died of a ruptured aorta in 1983—he was responsible for the legislation that established Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for the aged, blind and disabled; created black-lung compensation for coal miners; increased the minimum wage; made strikers eligible for food stamps; greatly expanded the size and number of national parks; and abolished the House Un-American Activities Committee. More broadly, he broke the power of the old Dixiecrat barons in the House by subjecting committee chairmanships to secret ballot elections within the Democratic caucus. He engineered reapportionments of California that were greatly to his party's benefit, and he steered contributions to the Democratic candidates who needed them most.

When he died, Sala succeeded him in a special election. Just four years later, in January 1987, Sala herself lay dying of cancer. She asked Phil's brother, John Burton, who had represented an adjoining congressional district in San Francisco, to come to the hospital and told him that she wanted "Nancy" to succeed her. For a moment, John Burton was unsure which Nancy she was referring to, but as she explained to family and friends at her bedside, the woman in question was the former California Democratic Party chair Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi had been associated with the Burtons since shortly after she and her husband had moved to San Francisco in the years when Phil's star was rising. The Pelosis had a large, attractive house, and the first thing she recalls Phil saying to her was, "We'll use this for fundraisers." But Phil's appreciation of Pelosi wasn't confined to her abilities as a hostess. He saw in her a commitment to progressive values and a clear political sense of how to turn those values into laws. When John stepped down from Congress in 1982, Phil asked Pelosi to stand for election to replace him, but she declined, saying her children were too young. Five years later, Sala, on her deathbed, evidently saw in Pelosi the same qualities that Phil had seen.

This time, her children older, Pelosi said yes, and in April she won a squeaker of a special election.

In the House, Pelosi has continually sought the counsel of another Burton protégé, George Miller, whose district is right across the Bay from hers. Appointed early on to a seat on the Appropriations Committee, she demonstrated, says the committee's new chairman, Wisconsin's David Obey, that she was "operational"—a Burton word meaning able to steer difficult measures to enactment.

When the Newt Gingrich Republicans swept to power in 1994, political almanac authors Michael Barone and Grant Ujifusa termed it "the collapse of the House that Phil Burton built." Nancy Pelosi, as smooth as Phil Burton was rough, is far more open to openness in the legislative process than her sometimes secretive mentor was. Politically, she understands the limits of the pos-

sible and that she can expand them only as far as the American people are willing to go. But she also knows that the American people want Congress to do any number of things that were stubbornly, and, in the end, suicidally resisted by the now-collapsed house that Newt Gingrich built.

The Burtonistas—with different causes and methods for a new era, to be sure—are back. Score two for you, Sala.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE JACK HUGHES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask for the attention of the House today to pay recognition to Judge Jack Hughes, a highly respected public servant who is retiring from 19 years of service. Currently, Judge Hughes presides as Circuit Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit in Anniston, Alabama.

Judge Hughes has served our nation in a number of important capacities. Prior to graduating from the Birmingham School of Law in 1983, Judge Hughes served our Nation in the United States Army, as well as in a law enforcement capacity at the Anniston Police Department. After earning his law degree, he has worked in both private practice and has served as the Presiding Judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, and Presiding Family Court Judge.

Our great Nation is made stronger by those who serve the common good. Jack Hughes has served his community and his Nation well, and for that we all extend to him our most hearty thanks. I salute Judge Hughes on this important occasion, and congratulate him on his service to the legal field and to our community.

RECOGNIZES ROBERT CLEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Bob" Clement on the occasion of his retirement. A dedicated public servant for more than 40 years, Bob worked for many years in law enforcement and customs inspection, eventually finishing his career leading a youth mentoring program in New York City.

Bob began his career in government service when he entered the Army in December, 1963. Serving 6 years in the U.S. Army, including 2 years in Vietnam, Bob was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for ground action. Honorably discharged from the Army in April, 1970, Bob left with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Entering civilian government service in November 1970 as an original member of the Air Marshal Program, Bob served there throughout the 3 year pilot program commission. He then became a U.S. Customs Inspector, where in addition to the normal duties of a

Customs Officer he volunteered in 1991 for the colateral duty of serving as the advisor for a youth program sponsored by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The program is known as Law Enforcement Exploring and may be sponsored by any Federal, State or local law enforcement agency. The program is open to young men and women, ages 14 to 21. Throughout the U.S. there are over 20,000 youth involved with this program. In the Greater New York Area there are over 4,000 explorers.

As the leader in youth law enforcement mentoring, Bob has been recognized by various governmental agencies for his dedication and hard work. Bob has twice been awarded the coveted Commissioner of Customs Award, twice named the Advisor of the Year in the Greater New York area, and awarded the title of Partner in Education for his contributions of leadership, expertise, service, and support to the youth in the New York City public school system. Finally, Bob was named the first ever recipient of the National Advisor of the Year Award in 2004.

Madam Speaker, Bob Clement has worked a lifetime helping others. His commitment to protecting our borders and to mentoring our children is to be commended. This Congress should take this moment to honor Bob on the occasion of his retirement and thank him for his service to our children and to our Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF GEORGE H. CARDINET, JR.

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, it was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of George Cardinet on January 19, 2007. California has lost a tireless leader whose many contributions as an outspoken advocate for trails and open space will be remembered and revered by the citizens of Contra Costa County and all who knew him.

George Cardinet was born on April 8, 1909, in San Francisco, California, to George H. Cardinet, co-founder of the Cardinet Candy Company, and Mary de Sales Cardinet. George succeeded his father as President of the company, and retired as a candy maker but his passion has long been for horses and trails and open space.

In 1940 George bought a ranch in Concord, California, which backed up to Mt. Diablo and began forging trails in what is now Mt. Diablo State Park. Each of the single-track trails on the eastern slope of the mountain was hand-built by George and his fellow horsemen. George was an avid equestrian and for 65 years worked tirelessly as an advocate for the preservation of public parks and the development of riding and hiking trails.

There are more than 200 miles of trails throughout the East Bay that Cardinet helped build. George was one of the leaders of the California State Trails Plan and his trail development in Contra Costa County served as a model for the California State Riding and Hiking Trails Act of 1945, and the California Recreational Trails Act of 1974. In 1968 he was instrumental in drafting the National Trails Act,