

Mr. Eisele was born in Muenster, Germany, and followed family tradition by attending high school at the Gymnasium Paulinum, founded over 1,200 years ago. He came to the United States to attend graduate school at UC Berkeley for sociology and history. It was at Berkeley that he met his wife Lisele, and they married in 1968.

From the planting of his first cabernet vines in 1975, Mr. Eisele has maintained an entirely organic vineyard, making him the first vintner to do so in the Napa Valley. He has been a leader in encouraging sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices, including the maintenance and restoration of riparian corridors and stream-side habitats. In 1991 he joined the growing movement to forever protect beautiful and vital areas of the Napa Valley by donating an open space easement to the Napa County Land Trust.

Mr. Eisele has had a long and successful career as a political activist campaigning on behalf of greater environmental protections for the Napa Valley and its agricultural heritage. He was among the leaders who helped pass Measure A limiting growth and development in unincorporated areas of Napa County. He was also instrumental in passing Measure J which has promoted further protections for agricultural lands around the county.

In addition to his political leadership, Mr. Eisele has been a leader in the local community through his service on numerous boards and committees. He served as President of the Napa County Farm Bureau, the Napa Valley Grape Growers, and the Greenbelt Alliance, which has promoted the extension of environmental protections around the Bay Area. He also was honored by his peers when he was elected to serve as director and Vice Chair of the California Association of Wine Grape Growers. These positions have allowed Mr. Eisele to express his love of grapes and winemaking while working for the benefit of not just the wine industry, but the greater community.

Madam Speaker, at this time I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Volker Eisele for his decades of leadership and environmental stewardship and as a superb spokesman for the wine industry. He is well-deserving of the honor being bestowed on him by the Napa Sierra Club, and we thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
KAREN E. HALLIDAY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Karen Halliday, as she retires as Las Positas College president, after nearly 35 years of teaching and serving students in the California Community College System.

Karen Halliday began teaching as an adjunct faculty member in Learning Disabilities and Special Education at various Bay Area universities. As a faculty member and Learning Disabilities Specialist at De Anza College in Cupertino, she helped develop the first Learning Disabilities program in higher education in California. She later became the director of the Educational Diagnostic Center at De Anza College.

In 1987, Karen Halliday was the first faculty member to receive the Foothill-De Anza Community College Teacher of the Year Award. In 1988, she joined the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office in Sacramento, as the Specialist for the Disabled Students Program and Services.

In 1989, Karen Halliday became the Vice President of Student Services at Las Positas. In 2002, she was named president of Las Positas College. During her tenure, she successfully led the college through the passage of Measure B, a \$498 million district facilities bond.

In 2003, thanks to her encouragement and guidance, the Las Positas College Foundation was created to "foster growth and success, both in its students and in the communities it serves." Later that year, the foundation was granted 501(c)3 status.

Karen Halliday has been a member of the Executive Board for the Association of California Community College Administrators and the Chair of the Legislative Commission for the California League of Community Colleges. She has authored several publications, along with numerous Board of Governors Agenda Items related to Matriculation, DSPS, and Student Services.

As Karen Halliday retires, I would like to thank her for her dedication to higher education in our community, and her contribution to the field of disabled students' services. I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

IN CELEBRATION OF ALICE
BERNICE HILL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the life of a remarkable woman, who despite all her illnesses lived a wonderful life. Alice Bernice Hill was afflicted with asthma and other diseases early in her life, yet through all her ailments lived past 85.

Born in Harlem Hospital on December 1, 1919, Alice was sent to the West Indies for "two years, one month and eight days" due to her severe illnesses. She never had a lot of money, and had even less when on disability, and still she was able to support herself.

In her early years, Alice was forced to join the workforce to support her family, as required by the welfare program. She later rose through the ranks and became a union administrator, with groups like the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the United Auto Workers. Through union courses at Cornell University, she obtained a bachelor's degree in labor relations.

Her efforts to refuse to let her ailments cripple her saved her life. Surviving a stroke, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and arthritis, lived on to watch her brother Arthur, six nieces and nephews, two grandchildren and one grandnephew grow.

Truly a woman of great dignity and honor, Alice is deserving of this recognition for her strength, intelligence, and compassion. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the life of Alice Bernice Hill and her relentless strength.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER'S DAY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, yesterday, mothers from across the Nation were besieged with flowers, candy, homemade cards, and gifts in celebration of Mother's Day. As we all take a moment to honor the women in our lives, it is important for Congress to do the same. For the past several years, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act has been stalled in the Congress. This critical legislation would authorize a research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. It would also include consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process. While it is generally believed that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, the extent of that role remains a mystery. Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors, which means that up to 70 percent of those who suffer are still searching for answers.

As with other cancers, if we know what causes it, we can do so much more to prevent it from ever occurring. On this Mother's Day, let's pass the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act for our moms, for our daughters and future moms-to-be, and for everyone who has ever been touched by a loved one with breast cancer. It is time to celebrate the women in our lives with more than pink flowers and pajamas; it is time to celebrate them with the honor and commitment to medical research that will soon save their lives.

TRIBUTE TO THE MERRITT ES-
TATE WINERY FOR ITS CONTIN-
UED EXCELLENCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Merritt Estate Winery, located in Forestville, NY. Merritt Estate Winery recently was awarded a gold medal for their Bella Rosa at the San Diego International Wine Competition. Their Chautauqua Niagara vintage was awarded a silver medal in the competition.

Merritt Estate Winery is run by a father and son duo that have dedicated themselves to their small vineyard and their fruit which has resulted in their award winning wines. The winery was created in 1976 by William Merritt, who has had the estate in his family since the 1800's. Merritt Estates Bella Rosa was awarded the gold medal at the 24th annual San Diego International Wine Competition. The awards won by Merritt Estate are the result of hard work and dedication that have resulted in wines that rival some of the best in the world.

Western New York is home to the largest continuous acreage of concord grapes in the world. The regional grape industry contributes \$3.3 billion in economic value to the New York State economy each year. As a member of the Wine and Grape Caucus, I am proud that

such outstanding products come from the grapes and hard work of local growers in western New York.

CLARIFICATION OF LEGISLATIVE
INTENT ON SANTA ROSA ISLAND

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, after reading an opinion from the Department of the Interior Solicitor, I feel compelled to clarify the intent of Section 1077 (c) of P.L. 109-364. While others may misinterpret and even distort the actual impact of this language upon the healthy Kaibab Mule Deer and Roosevelt Elk herds that are currently living on Santa Rosa island, I want to make clear this section's intent is to protect both herds from extermination. It is just that simple and it does not do anything more narrow or broad. Nothing could emphasize this intent more clearly than Conference Report 109-702's explanation that Section 1077 was intended to "prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from exterminating or nearly exterminating the deer and elk on the island."

Clearly, when this provision became law, it directed the National Park Service (NPS) to allow the deer and elk that have thrived on Santa Rosa Island to remain on the island beyond 2011—the last year of the term within the settlement agreement. The use of helicopters is included within the settlement agreement and referenced by Section 1077(c) as it is likely the most effective way to conduct an extermination program. Section 1077(c) was not intended to prohibit only that method of extermination. These beautiful and healthy animals should remain on the island for visitors to enjoy. They should not be ruthlessly and systematically destroyed for some ill-conceived notion of native versus non-native, as others advocate.

The Solicitor has acted inappropriately by pulling a theory of congressional intent out of the air. Clearly, the intent of the language was not to "preclude the Department of the Interior from participating in any plan approved in the settlement agreement." In fact, the language, which is now law, was intended to do what it clearly states: (1) vitiate the settlement agreement with respect to the deer and elk draw-down and eradication plan and (2) allow the elk and deer to remain on Santa Rosa Island indefinitely. I want to highlight the intent of allowing the deer to remain on the island and make it clear that means these herds must be left to live on Santa Rosa Island. The congressional intent of this section was not to protect them only from slaughter, but also to protect them from relocation.

I must add, I find it deeply troubling that the administration, when testifying against the same provision before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on May 16, 2006, testified that this provision would, "... require the Secretary of the Interior to stop the plan to remove the deer and elk from the island as required by a court-ordered settlement agreement. This provision would effectively overturn the 1998 settlement agreement, that the NPS is legally bound to, that requires the phase-out of non-native deer and elk over

several years and their complete removal from the Island by the end of 2011." I am bewildered why such an about-face has been made on a provision that is identical to the current law provision, having just passed the House of Representatives.

In closing, I hope this statement clarifies the intent of both P.L. 109-364 and the accompanying Conference Report 109-702. Both are clear on their face, but as the lead House negotiator of the Conference Committee of H.R. 5122, I felt it important to clear up any uncertainty brought forward by interpretations following a short-sighted agenda. This important conservation provision must stand and be properly interpreted so that the elk and deer are not slaughtered. Simply restated, it would be a tragedy to have these healthy populations of elk and mule deer exterminated from public lands to forward a misguided agenda of what belongs on Santa Rosa Island. Section 1077(c) is intended to prevent such eradication carried out by NPS or other parties to the settlement agreement.

My intent was clearly for the elk and deer herds to remain on Santa Rosa. This intent was clearly manifested in my numerous floor and committee statements in which I described my intent that wounded veterans are to be allowed to hunt these animals following the transfer of Santa Rosa from private ownership. My committee and floor statements regarding Santa Rosa Island, particularly floor statements made on December 16, 2005, and May 10, 2006, demonstrate this intent.

I also discussed the Santa Rosa provision with CNN's Anderson Cooper on June 13, 2006. A transcript of the interview follows:

JOE JOHNS, CNN CORRESPONDENT: 25 miles off the coast of Santa Barbara, more than triple the size of Manhattan, the crown jewel of the Channel Islands National Park. The remote and largely untouched Santa Rosa Island. Canyons, coastline, chaparral and pines and you own it. Taxpayers pay \$30 million for Santa Rosa Island. A treasure trove of ancient artifacts.

TORREY RICK, ARCHAEOLOGIST: It's incredible. I mean you don't get this kind of stuff anywhere else in the world, really.

JOHNS: Human bones found here date back 13,000 years. It's also unique for its inhabitants. The little island fox, endangered but so far not extinct. With all this at stake and more, the question before Congress is whether this park should be protected and open to all Americans year-round. Or should it also be used as a place where disabled veterans can come to hunt deer and elk? Which means tourists have to be kept safely out of the crossfire. Congressman Duncan Hunter, the powerful chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has been pushing for months to give the vets special privileges on Santa Rosa.

REP. DUNCAN HUNTER, (R) CALIFORNIA: I was driving south with a bunch of marines, some guys fresh back from Iraq and one of them said, there's Santa Rosa Island and they're going to close it and they're going to wipe out the entire deer and elk herd.

JOHNS: But the idea of handing over hunting rights on an island that's supposed to be for everybody has infuriated some Democrats from California, who say it's like telling the public you bought it, now keep out.

REP. LOIS CAPPS, (D) CALIFORNIA: It's outrageous and I told him so. This is a Republican leadership that wants to kick taxpayers off a national park that they paid \$30 million for. Makes you wonder, first it's Channel Islands National Park, is it going to be Yellowstone, is it going to be the Shenandoah's?

JOHNS: It's not that disabled veterans aren't important. It's just that there are plenty of good hunting spots that aren't in national parks. For instance, military bases in remote areas. It's a battle playing out all over America but especially in the west, over how best to use national parks. In this case whether to restore the park to its pristine condition or to allow other uses.

Much of this is about the animals. The park service only wants animals here that are native to Santa Rosa. So the deer and elk shipped in nearly a century ago by the family that used to own the land must now go. So what about a compromise? Why not allow both hunting and tourists full-time? Well hikers and bullets are not a great trail mix. So long as there's hunting here, the park service has to keep the public out. The park service says the game needs to go.

RUSSELL GALLIPEAU, U.S. PARK SERVICE: I'm not against providing access to anybody. I just think that hunting and public use of this island are not compatible. And it's not a purpose for which this park was set aside.

JOHNS: So as taxpayers you paid for a remote national park, but now a powerful congressman says it should be managed as a place for disabled war vets to hunt deer and elk. For \$30 million, Santa Rosa may well be the biggest game trophy out there. Joe Johns, CNN, Santa Rosa Island, California.

COOPER: Well as Joe just mentioned Congressman Duncan Hunter is the force behind the move to keep the elk and deer on the island for hunting. We spoke earlier.

COOPER: So Congressman Hunter, you know your critics say look, taxpayers spent \$30 million to buy Santa Rosa Island. But as long as there's hunting there, 90 percent of it's closed to non-hunters for about half of the year. They say that's unfair.

HUNTER: Well, let me—let's put this in context. My son, who's a marine, did a couple of tours in Iraq and when he came back, he and I started taking wounded marines and soldiers hunting. We went to Arizona, Colorado, lots of good places. We had one hunt we took a person with a spinal disability. That is, a paralyzed veteran into Colorado, into the big national forest. And it's very difficult for them to have a real quality experience. Now, this island, Santa Rosa Island, which is off the California coast, which is 52,000 acres, has a very small number of public visitors. About 15 a day from the statistics I've seen.

COOPER: But the reason that there are only 15, the national park says about 5,000 people a year visit Santa Rosa Island. The reason more people aren't able to do it is because they can only visit about 10 percent of the island for half the year because of this hunting. If you close down the hunting, then the whole island basically would be open to visitors and to taxpayers who paid for it.

HUNTER: Listen, here's all we want. All we want is about two weeks a year for the paralyzed veterans to come over. I would be happy to stipulate that no congressman come over, no VIPs. Only people who are paralyzed veterans, who are very disabled veterans. And actually the reason most people don't go over to Santa Rosa Island is because it's a major boat trip or a plane trip. And tourists who are driving down the coast of California don't want to take a plane or a boat to simply get to another island. So we could easily accommodate the paralyzed veterans, they could have a great time. They could have the adventure of a lifetime.

And you know something, they may be wheelchair-bound but their spirits are free, they like adventure. This is a great place to take your family. And this could be a special niche for those people. And you know something else, the people of the United States, if the taxpayers knew that this was going to be used by paralyzed veterans, they'd say fine.