

Stanislaus Counties and participates in the Tuolumne County Schools Forestry Institute for Teachers and presents to civic groups and organizations. They also sponsor various public forums on issues related to natural resources and is represented at the annual Alliance on American Fly-in for Freedom forum held in Washington, DC. The organization prepares press releases for all media outlets and meets with local, state and federal elected officials regarding issues of concern.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, Inc. on twenty years of service. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing TuCARE many years of continued success.

HONORING GEORGE VUJNOVICH
FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE
HALYARD MISSION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I am joined by the co-chairs of the Congressional Serbian Caucus, Representatives MELISSA BEAN of Illinois and DAN BURTON of Indiana, in honoring a treasured constituent of mine and one of the unsung heroes of World War II, retired Major George Vujnovich. Major Vujnovich, a proud Serbian-American, was instrumental in "Operation Halyard" and one of the last surviving members of that successful wartime mission.

In the summer of 1944, Americans and Allied airmen flew hundreds of sorties over Europe with the aim of disrupting the Ploesti oil complex, Adolf Hitler's most important oil pipeline. During their treacherous journey from Italian bases to the Romanian oil complex, 1,500 of our brave men were forced to bail out over Yugoslavia. Scores of American crewmen were trapped behind enemy lines and dependent on Serbian villagers to hide them from the Germans.

Although Yugoslavia was enemy territory at the time, much of the country's Serbian regions remained under the control of Yugoslav guerilla resistance leader General Draja Mihailovich and his Chetnik forces. General Mihailovich remained loyal to the Allies, and under his orders the Serbian people shielded these airmen and protected them from capture and imprisonment by German troops.

General Mihailovich passed information about the downed American airmen to the United States authorities. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) put together Operation Halyard, a daring mission to save the men without drawing the attention of the Nazis. The mission entailed flying and landing C-47 cargo planes into enemy territory, picking up the downed airmen, and flying back to allied territory. Before the mission could go forward, however, the Allied forces cut ties with General Mihailovich and no longer had specific information about the location of the American airmen. Major George Vujnovich, the OSS operation chief stationed in Bari, Italy, discovered that Mihailovich was hiding the airmen near his headquarters in the city of Pranjani. He informed U.S. officials of their location and Operation Halyard progressed.

As the mission advanced, Major Vujnovich's experience and expertise were indispensable. Major Vujnovich was responsible for selecting members of the Halyard Mission, and orchestrating the initial parachute drop into the area. The rescue plans hinged on his direction and the ability of local Serbs to build an airstrip without any modern tools and without German detection.

Operation Halyard took place between August and December 1944 and was a complete success. Hundreds of men were rescued behind enemy lines and no lives were lost in the mission. The Halyard Mission was a success thanks to the brave men and women of the OSS and the courageous Serbian locals who risked their lives to safeguard American airmen. Thanks to a keen mind and tactical expertise, Major Vujnovich demonstrated the courage and selflessness that mark him as an American hero.

Major George Vujnovich was born to Serbian parents in 1915. In 1934 he received a scholarship from the Serb National Federation and left his home in New York to attend college in Belgrade. While living in Belgrade, Mr. Vujnovich met and married his wife, Mirjana. Their life was disrupted in 1941, when the German Luftwaffe bombed Belgrade in Operation Punishment. Mr. Vujnovich was a firsthand witness to the bombing, nearly losing his life when a falling bomb destroyed a nearby streetcar. After the bombing, Mr. and Mrs. Vujnovich fled Yugoslavia, and he accepted a job in Ghana as assistant airport manager while Mirjana moved to Washington, DC to work at the Yugoslav Embassy. When the US entered the war, Mr. Vujnovich received a commission as a second lieutenant and assumed command of an airbase in Nigeria. While working at the airbase, he was recruited by the OSS for the clandestine services, and was later sent to the OSS post in Bari, Italy. From this post he saved the lives of his fellow servicemen and earned the title of hero. I am honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge Major Vujnovich's contribution to the Halyard Mission.

IN CELEBRATION OF MARTIN J.
AND ELEANOR R. KEARNEY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Martin J. and Eleanor R. Kearney for being named the Irish Couple of the Year by the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in Springfield, Massachusetts. They were awarded this deserved title on February 7, 2009 for their support and contributions to the club. The couple has been active with the club for over fifty years. Both have helped with fundraisers and dances. Eleanor is an avid baker for the club and Martin was a strong supporter of the new building fund. A reception dinner was held in their honor on March 1, 2009.

Martin was born in the Great Blasket Islands in Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland on December 31, 1926. Eleanor is a life-long Springfield resident who was born on December 17, 1932. Martin came to America in 1951 where he soon met Eleanor. In 1953, they were mar-

ried in Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Springfield. Martin became a member of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in 1953 and now both Martin and Eleanor are life members.

The John Boyle O'Reilly Club was founded in 1880. The club consists of dedicated Irish and Irish-Americans whose goal is to preserve and promote their Irish heritage. The club's motto is culture, family and tradition. Since March 1970, the club has been located on 33 Progress Avenue in Springfield, Massachusetts. Today, the club is very active in their community, awarding the John Boyle O'Reilly Scholarship every year to college-bound students.

HONORING RABBI JON E. CUTLER

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Jon E. Cutler—the only Jewish Chaplain currently serving in western Iraq. And as a former paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division who served in Baghdad 5 years ago and the first Iraq war veteran to serve in this great body, it fills me with tremendous pride to be Rabbi Cutler's Congressman. Rabbi Cutler has set an example for all of us—not just through his spiritual leadership—but through selfless service to our community and our nation.

In Iraq, Rabbi Cutler serves as the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Chaplain, and assists the entire Al Asad Marine Air Base. Prior to his service in Iraq, Rabbi Cutler served as the pulpit rabbi of Tiferes B'nai Israel in Warrington, Bucks County, Pennsylvania for the past 8 years.

As the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Chaplain, Rabbi Cutler supervises 20 Christian chaplains and chaplain assistants, and has worked to create a center for Jewish troops who are serving in Anbar Province. The congregants of Tiferes B'nai Israel even contributed to this effort, sending tiles and paste to be used for the chapel floor.

As the Rabbi for Tiferes B'nai Israel in Warrington, Rabbi Cutler worked tirelessly to unite his congregants, both old and new. He strived to make new members feel welcome while respecting the needs and wishes of long-standing members. Before he was deployed to Iraq, he also proudly received his Navy commander pins on the pulpit at Tiferes B'nai Israel.

Commander Cutler has been a chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserve for 23 years. He was the only Jewish chaplain serving with the Marines in Desert Storm, and after 9/11, he was called to the Pentagon to counsel family members who lost loved ones during the tragic events of that terrible day.

When not serving our troops in Iraq or his congregants in Warrington, Rabbi Cutler has served as an instructor at Gratz College for Jewish education and a visiting professor at Philadelphia University. He received his B.A. and M.A. in religious studies from Temple University, and holds a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from Hebrew Union College. Rabbi Cutler was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, PA.

Rabbi Cutler has contributed enormously to the citizens of Bucks County and given so

much to so many servicemen and women serving abroad. He leads by example and is committed to service, spiritual leadership and education. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Rabbi Cutler for his outstanding work, and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

HONORING REVEREND DR. F.O.
HOCKENHULL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Dr. F.O. Hockenhull as he celebrates 40 years as pastor of the First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. A banquet in his honor was held last Friday in honor of this occasion.

Reverend Dr. Hockenhull was educated at Arkansas State AM&N College, Wayne State University and Detroit Bible College. He has received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Arkansas Baptist College, an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Selma University and an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Selma University.

He worked as a Chaplain in the Wayne County Jail and as a contact representative for the W.J. Maxey Boys Training School. After spending 6 years as the pastor of the Jehovah Baptist Church in Detroit, Reverend Dr. Hockenhull became the pastor at First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. He has remained in this position for the past 40 years.

Reverend Dr. Hockenhull is the past-President of the Great Lakes Baptist District Leadership and Educational Congress to the Great Lakes Baptist District Association; the Associate Director General of the National Congress of Christian Education-National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated; past-Vice-President of the Wolverine State Congress of Christian Education; a member of the Board of Directors at the Montgomery Bible Institute and Theological Center; a former member of the National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated Publishing Board; a former instructor at the National Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress-National Baptist Convention USA; past Supervisor of the Administrative Leaders Division-National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated; past Instructor with the Great Lakes Baptist District of Christian Education; a member of the Board of Directors of the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated; a member of the Stewardship Commission of the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated; a Trustee of the Retirement Commission of the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated; and a delegate to the World Christian Conference in Australia.

In addition to his work, Reverend Dr. Hockenhull is a world renowned lecturer, a member of the NAACP, and a member of Concerned Pastors for Social Action. His wife of over 50 years, Marian, is the National Director of the Young People's Department. They have one son, Franco, and two granddaughters, Vanessa and Victoria.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the

life and work of Reverend Dr. F.O. Hockenhull. He has spent his life in devotion to Our Lord, Jesus Christ, by fulfilling God's Great Commission. His compassion, patience and love for humanity are recognized throughout the Flint community. Through his example, he inspires passion, spirituality, and service in his congregation and he carries the message of God's love beyond the walls of the church building. I have known Reverend Dr. Hockenhull for many years and have always been touched by his wisdom, his zeal and his piety. I pray that he will continue to serve for many, many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH
BENHAM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Elizabeth Benham, who is being honored this month in New York City by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) for her work as its President. Founded in 1930, BPW is an international organization of women business owners with links to more than 90 countries on five continents. BPW is a wonderful way for businesswomen to network and support one another.

After more than two decades of dedicated work on behalf of BPW, Ms. Benham became the organization's President last year. She is being honored at the annual Conference on the Status of Women that is being held this month at the United Nations, located in New York's 14th Congressional District that I am privileged to represent.

Elizabeth Benham is the twentieth president of BPW International and the first American to serve at its helm in 28 years. She demonstrated her commitment to BPW International as the chair of its Fundraising Taskforce from 2004–2008. In 2005, she served the organization as the Vice President, Membership Chair, Friends and Fellows Chair, and as a member of the International Planning Committee. In these roles she traveled extensively, meeting with members and chapters around the world, and developing a broad and deep understanding of the needs of the organization's diverse membership. Since 1998, Elizabeth Benham has also served as an alternate delegate to the United Nations on behalf of BPW International.

When she became BPW International President in 2008, Elizabeth Benham not only had extensive prior experience working with BPW International, but had also achieved notable success as a businesswoman. Before going into business, she was a certified nurse midwife in high risk obstetrics. Throughout her life, Elizabeth has demonstrated her compassion and motivation in her volunteer work as the Vice President of Toys of Hope Charity, a Board Member of Women Builders Council in New York, and a Board Member of the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society.

Elizabeth Benham has worked tirelessly in her professional life and leadership roles to support the accomplishments of women throughout the world. In her role as President, she is working to form connections of im-

proved communication among all members and affiliates for a better flow of information. She has dedicated her efforts to expanding and improving training for future leaders of BPW International and for greater efficiencies in managing the vast organization. She has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the mission of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women in helping women in the workforce achieve their business and professional goals.

Madam Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Elizabeth Benham and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, which under her able and inspired leadership continues to ensure that women gain equal participation and success in the workforce.

WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1262):

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1262, the Water Quality Investment Act.

I would like to first thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA for bringing to the floor this important legislation. I am also proud to have worked with Mr. PASCARELL on Title Three of this bill—which we have introduced previously.

Sewer maintenance is a serious problem in low-lying coastal areas such as Michigan. It is a sad fact that many of the sewer systems in Michigan and throughout the country date back to the Nineteenth Century.

These outdated systems often overflow with untreated human and industrial waste—releasing toxins and disease-causing organisms.

Inadequate maintenance, deteriorated pipes, rainfall and snow melts are too often cited as the cause of these overflows.

It is indisputable that sewer overflows pose a significant threat to public health and safety because they put raw sewage into rivers, streets, basements, and other areas of human exposure. They are also responsible for many beach closures, shellfish restrictions, and violations of water quality standards.

In Michigan alone there have been over 1,000 reported sewer overflows annually. These events have contributed over 20 billion gallons of sewage and wastewater onto the ground and into Michigan rivers, lakes and streams.

Even more staggering, the EPA has estimated that nearly 900 billion—let me repeat, 900 billion—gallons of untreated wastewater and storm water are released through combined sewer overflows and separate sewer overflows annually in the United States.

The Water Quality Investment Act goes a long way toward ending the public health and environmental crisis associated with sewer overflows by providing federal funds to repair and replace outdated systems. Local governments cannot simply fix this mess and meet their obligations under the Clean Water Act alone.