

friends—including Jimmy Skunk, Grandfather Frog, Johnny Chuck, Sammy Jay, Reddy Fox, Hooty Owl, and many others—continue today to both regale and teach us about our natural surroundings.

These characters have become friends to children and adults alike. Their antics, questions of “why” and “how,” and their love for one another, demonstrate and teach the value of our natural heritage. They stimulate and fascinate children’s interests in the natural world, all the while constantly reminding parents and adults of the importance of preserving and conserving our natural heritage for future generations.

Thornton W. Burgess’ work is continued today through the non-profit Thornton W. Burgess Society, headquartered in his native town of Sandwich. As we celebrate the centennial anniversary of “Old Mother West Wind,” I salute the Thornton W. Burgess Society for its preservation of the writings, teachings, and memorabilia of a pioneer environmentalist; its mission of inspiring reverence of wildlife and concern for the natural environment; for its operation of the Thornton W. Burgess Museum, Green Briar Nature Center and Shirley G. Cross Wildflower Garden, and the many programs and exhibits it provides in conjunction with their operation; and its 34 years of promoting the study of the natural sciences and environmental education in the schools of Cape Cod and throughout southeastern Massachusetts.

HONORING A TRULY OUTSTANDING LEADER, CAPTAIN STEVEN POULIN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding, dedicated service of Captain Steven D. Poulin, USGC, Commander of Coast Guard Sector Mobile, Alabama, from 2009 to 2010. Coast Guard Sector Mobile is one of the largest operations commands in the Coast Guard and is home to 750 personnel and 50 cutters and other vessels.

On July 9, 2010, Captain Poulin left the command of the USGC station in Mobile to assume sole duties as local incident commander for the Unified Command. In this capacity, Captain Poulin continues to marshal Coast Guard resources in the federal response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which has been such an economic and environmental challenge to America’s Gulf Coast since the explosion occurred on April 20.

Specifically, Captain Poulin has led the relief effort along coastal Alabama, Mississippi and the Florida panhandle.

During his command of Sector Mobile, Captain Poulin demonstrated a level of professionalism and dedication to duty in keeping with the finest traditions of the Coast Guard. He was not only the leader of an important local defense installation, but also a visible and respected member of our community.

In fact, Captain Poulin has been a welcome presence in South Alabama for many years. Prior to assuming the command of Sector Mobile, he served in Mobile during earlier assign-

ments as Deputy Commander, from 2007 to 2009, and as Law Enforcement Officer and Assistant Operations Officer from 1986 to 1989.

Captain Poulin’s extensive service record also includes assignments as Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard Group Galveston, Texas, from 1996 to 1999, and Special Adviser for Border and Transportation Security for Vice President Richard Cheney from 2005 to 2007. From 2003 to 2005, he was Coast Guard liaison to the State Department’s Office of Oceans Affairs. He also served as Legal Counsel for the Coast Guard’s Port Security Director from 2002 to 2003, and Legislative Counsel in the Coast Guard’s Office of Congressional Affairs from 1999 to 2001.

A 1984 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Captain Poulin was awarded his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, from the Miami School of Law in 1992.

Although he will soon be leaving the Mobile area for a new assignment, he will continue to use his tremendous skills and dedication to country as the Coast Guard’s new director of Congressional Affairs in Washington.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of South Alabama, I wish to thank Captain Poulin for a job well done. Furthermore, I offer our heartfelt gratitude to his wonderful wife, Sherry, and their two children, Steven and Erin, for the sacrifices they have made as a family while their husband and father has admirably served his country with such distinction.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF SAREN H. SIMITIAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable life of Saren H. Simitian, a resident of California’s 14th Congressional District, who died on June 24, 2010. His 88 years were characterized by an intense passion for teaching, for traveling, and for engaging with those around him.

Born to Armenian immigrants in Jersey City, New Jersey, Saren Simitian quickly proved himself a promising intellectual and citizen of the world. He served in the Army during World War II, and attended New York University on the GI Bill. Saren went on to earn a Master’s Degree in history from Colorado University and began studying for his Ph.D at the University of Wisconsin before taking a different path and moving to California, where he later received a Master’s Degree in Library Science from San Jose State University.

Settling in the Bay Area, Saren Simitian embarked on a long and loving educational career. He taught social studies at Palo Alto High School for over two decades where he was known as a tough but well-liked teacher, deeply committed to all of his students. In his spare time, Saren taught English to Stanford students at the Bechtel International Center, and tutored with Project Read in Menlo Park. An educator to the last, Saren taught English in Beijing for six months a year well into his eighties.

In one of his most important lessons, Saren Simitian taught his son Joseph that “you can’t get a hit with the bat on your shoulder.” Tak-

ing his father’s advice, Joe Simitian went on to a distinguished career in public service, serving on the Palo Alto School Board, the Palo Alto City Council, and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors before being elected to the California State Assembly and State Senate. Taking his own advice, Saren dedicated himself to a lifetime of eclectic pursuits, shouldering a backpack instead of a bat and traveling the world.

Well-read and worldly, Saren Simitian traversed more terrain after his retirement than most people half his age. His wanderlust took him to visit friends, relatives, and his grandparents’ graves, always acquiring new friends and new stories. He walked across Portugal twice, first from top to bottom, and then east to west a decade later. Seeking adventure on multiple continents, Saren fell into a ditch in Eastern Europe, was mugged in Asia, and nearly drowned in Australia. Despite these mishaps, his family noted, he “never slowed down, never lost his passion for people and places.” Saren’s adventurous lifestyle no doubt owed in part to his healthy habits of eating homemade yogurt and exercising whenever possible, kept his mind as fit as his body.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathies to Saren Simitian’s family. He is survived by his son, the Honorable S. Joseph Simitian, and his daughter-in-law, Mary Hughes. A man whose far-flung journeys never took him far from his core values, Saren Simitian taught in order to travel and traveled in order to teach, enriching everyone he met with his unique outlook on life and his singular sense of the world.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR PAKISTANI FLOOD VICTIMS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my deepest condolences to the victims of the recent flooding in Pakistan, which is the worst this country has seen in 80 years. A monsoon that began at the end of July has resulted in at least 1,500 lives being lost, countless more missing or trapped, and at least three million people being displaced. It is estimated that up to half of those affected by the disaster are children. Critical infrastructure, crops, and homes have been destroyed and aid to impoverished areas has been disrupted. As the Pakistani people recover from this devastation, they should know that the United States stands with them and is ready to provide assistance.

There are immediate needs that must be addressed, such as supplying food, clean drinking water, basic shelter, disease prevention, and the rebuilding of roads and bridges. I am heartened by the efforts from the Pakistani government, the United States, the United Nations, philanthropic organizations, and charitable donations from private citizens across the world.

The United States has acted swiftly by committing \$35 million, as well as humanitarian aid experts and essential supplies, to assist Pakistani citizens affected by the flooding. The United States Army is providing four Chinook