

super intense winds that swirled and buffeted Mr. Allee, requiring that he take shelter behind nearby trees. Typically, spring flows over the waterfall are approximately 700 cubic feet per second; however, Mr. Allee witnessed a much more furious flow that day which was approximately twice the normal amount.

At first, Mr. Allee heard only the indistinguishable and powerful noise of intense winds, waterfall spray and heavy rain. Continuously, yet chaotically, huge bursts of water would plunge from the falls and flood the entire bridge deck. Because of this, the access trail and steps leading to the bridge were submerged in a foot of water at times as it poured onto the boulders below. The volume was described as the equivalent of five 4-foot diameter culverts disgorging their full contents simultaneously. Mr. Allee, who also works as a river guide and is a certified Swiftwater Rescue Technician, knew immediately that accessing the bridge was hazardous and that crossing it was extremely dangerous.

While radioing these conditions into park dispatch, Mr. Allee saw four (in actuality, there were five) backpackers access the bridge from the other side (east to west). Mr. Allee thought that they would recognize the severe hazard and stop; however, they did not and began an attempted crossing. Mr. Allee frantically signaled to the party to not cross. He gave multiple arm signals and shouts, but because of the intense noise, verbal communication was impossible. Despite Mr. Allee's warnings, the hikers continued to attempt a bridge crossing which set in motion the emergency.

Shocked and horrified, Mr. Allee witnessed as the first two backpackers were immediately knocked to their knees by the force of the current. He recognized the extreme threat, and in an attempt to rescue them as they would be swept downstream from the bridge, Mr. Allee jumped to position himself on a boulder just below the bridge in order to help anyone that might possibly be swept by. As Mr. Allee moved onto a large boulder immediately downstream of the bridge, the first hiker (Mr. Fox) was quickly pushed by the torrent underneath the lower rail and off of the bridge. It happened so rapidly that Mr. Allee didn't even realize that Mr. Fox had fatally disappeared into the flow. While accessing the bridge's upper handrail from the large downstream boulder, Mr. Allee saw the second backpacker (Mr. Meyer) get pushed underneath the lower rail and into the current. This time, however, Mr. Meyer was able to grab the lower handrail while his wife leaned over and held his head out of the swiftwater.

Mr. Allee leapt into action from the west side of the bridge and instinctively wrapped his legs and left arm around the top rail and extended his right arm to help Mr. Meyer. Mr. Allee looked directly into the eyes of Mr. Meyer who was clutching to the rail for his life. Exposed to full fury of the torrent, Mr. Allee screamed to Meyer's wife to "Get back!" While doing so, Mr. Allee reached down and tore Mr. Meyer's rain poncho off in order to decrease the drag on his body. Only reluctantly was Mr. Meyer's wife pulled to safety by one of the other party members. Reaching further into the violent flow and full force of the swiftwater, Mr. Allee was then able to disconnect the waistbuckle on Meyer's backpack, which was immediately swept away by the current. Having freed Mr. Meyer from that additional drag, Mr. Allee screamed to Mr. Meyer

to "Grab the truss!" Most unfortunately however, an exhausted Mr. Meyer was peeled from the lower rail and disappeared into the maelstrom below the bridge.

In shock, Mr. Allee retreated from the immense threat and returned to his pack to report the situation to the park dispatch. Subsequently, the three survivors retreated to a secure location on the east end of the bridge and awaited rescue.

With instinctive skill, tenacious strength and great courage, Mr. Allee heroically attempted to save the lives of others he did not know. The risk and threat in doing so was immense, yet Mr. Allee's actions exhibited tremendous bravery and valor. The survivors described Mr. Allee's actions as heroic.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Mark Allee on his quick thinking and risk of personal safety on June 29, 2011, in Yosemite National Park.

HONORING JERSEY BATTERED WOMEN'S SERVICES

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jersey Battered Women's Services, JBWS, located in Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 35th Anniversary.

JBWS was originally founded in 1976 by a small group of women who began a hotline to aid victims of domestic violence. The need for a confidential center became urgent and apparent when two callers were murdered by their husbands. In December of 1978, JBWS opened its shelter doors to those in need of a safe house away from an abusive family member.

With more than 75 paid staff and 120 volunteers, JBWS is a full-service, private, nonprofit domestic violence agency with a mission to prevent domestic violence through the protection and empowerment of the victim, the rehabilitation of family members, the advocacy of social reform to prevent partner violence and the education of the public about domestic violence and its consequences. Victims of domestic violence, no matter their age, race, gender, religious affiliation or ethnic background need solace and support at a time when the one they often turn to is the one they are running from.

JBWS provides fully confidential services to victims to allow for their privacy and protection. They offer numerous programs including legal services, transitional living and counseling. Their counseling services are not only for victims and their children, but also for the batterer. JBWS understands that while protecting victims is important, it is also important to educate the batterer on alternative ways to address their anger.

In addition to their 24 hour hotline and safe house, education for the prevention of domestic violence is JBWS's overarching mission. As domestic abuse is a largely unreported crime, JBWS hopes to abolish the view that family violence is a private matter through the education of victims, teens and community members.

No one should be afraid to go home. JBWS gives victims of domestic violence the opportunity to create a new safe place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jersey Battered Women's Services, its board, dedicated staff and volunteers on its 35th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SLAVIC VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 30th anniversary of Slavic Village Development, SVD, an organization committed to "revitalizing the Broadway neighborhood through rehabilitation of existing housing, storefronts and buildings; construction of new homes; retention of existing buildings and recruitment of new ones; and provision of housing services and community organizing programs to improve the quality of life."

SVD is a non-profit community development organization dedicated to the North and South Broadway neighborhoods of Cleveland, OH. Throughout the past 30 years, SVD has invested more the \$160 million into Slavic Village, one of Cleveland's oldest ethnic communities.

This year's 30th anniversary celebration, "Digging in the Past, Growing the Future," focuses on the past accomplishments that SVD has achieved as well as the goals of the organization's future. Throughout the past 30 years, SVD has developed more than 300,000 square feet of new office and retail space, built or rehabilitated 1000 homes, renovated 100 storefronts, hosted 33 Harvest Festivals, led 14 neighborhood summits, installed eight public art projects and reconstructed Broadway and Bessemer Avenues, among other projects. Some of the projects SVD looks forward to in the future include building more new homes at the Trailside development site and, in Hyacinth, reconstructing Fleet Avenue and re-imagining Broadway Slavic Village.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 30th anniversary of SVD. SVD will continue to work on behalf of the residents of Cleveland's Slavic Village, dedicated to their mission; "To preserve, empower, and advance Slavic Village as a thriving diverse neighborhood. Essential to our neighborhood is its unique identity with quality housing anchored by excellent recreational, educational, cultural, religious, and institutional anchors supported by a vibrant retail, commercial, and industrial base."

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF THE UPPER PENINSULA HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, on the morning of September 22, the inaugural flight of the Upper Peninsula Honor Flight departed for Washington, DC. On this flight were more than 80 World War II Veterans bound for the memorial that was built in their honor. Surrounded by the giant, granite pillars and spraying fountains, there was a renewed sense of