

and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

HONORING PURVIS E. ISLER, SR.

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Whereas, Ninety years ago a tenacious man of God was born in Newport News, Virginia on March 9, 1921; and

Whereas, Mr. Purvis E. Isler, Sr., born to Mr. Elijah and Mrs. Esther Isler, grew up in New Jersey when his family moved north and attended Perth Amboy High School where he met and married his high school sweetheart Jeanette Deay Eaton and to their union seven daughters and three sons were born; and

Whereas, Mr. Isler has shared his time and talents as a Husband, Father and Motivator, giving the citizens of the United States a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all advancing the lives of others, through service to our country in the U.S. Army, as a broadcast electronics technician and being the ideal father and grandfather; and

Whereas, Mr. Isler has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mr. Isler along with his family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, his 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a man who is a cornerstone in our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside these days to honor and recognize Mr. Isler on his birthday and to wish him well and recognize him for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim March 9th and March 12th, 2011 as Mr. Purvis E. Isler, Sr. Days in Georgia's 4th Congressional District.

PROCLAIMED, THIS 9th day of March, 2011.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, as Congress closely scrutinizes federal programs to reduce our massive federal debt and deficit, we must take a hard look at troubled, taxpayer-financed programs that play a role in destroying American jobs. The February 25, 2011 edition of *The Washington Examiner* contained a column by Mr. Ron Arnold that discusses the legislative history and current activities of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation—a non-profit organization authorized by Congress in 1984 pursuant to Public Law 98-244.

Mr. Arnold's column illustrates how Congress originally authorized an average of \$100,000 per year in federal taxpayer money to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Yet, more than a quarter century later, the organization receives \$53 million annually in federal government funds according to its own records. Some of this money funds zealous and litigious environmental groups whose actions threaten the livelihoods of America's hard-working farmers and ranchers. At a time when American agriculture is threatened by onerous regulation, bureaucratic intimidation, unfair taxation, and high energy costs, our farmers cannot afford to defend themselves from advocacy groups funded by their hard-earned tax dollars.

I urge my colleagues to read Mr. Arnold's column on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and to question whether the federal government should continue supporting it and other non-profit groups that use taxpayer money to put people out of work.

[From the *Washington Examiner*, Feb. 25, 2011]

CONGRESS SHOULD STOP FUNDING BIG GREEN
LAWSUITS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

(By Ron Arnold)

America's taxpayers need to know about a thorny federal program lurking in the Obama budget: the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It began decades ago as a millionaire's hobby horse and grew into a Frankenstein monster that today feeds millions of taxpayer dollars to green groups that sue the federal government—and thus sue the taxpayer.

I began researching NFWF in a 1995 report on Big Green's federally funded trial lawyers, "Feeding at the Trough" (www.undueinfluence.com/feeding-at-the-trough.pdf).

NFWF's origins are bizarre: Congress created it as a nonprofit corporation in 1984, specifying that it "is not an agency or establishment of the United States Government." President Reagan denounced that double talk when he reluctantly signed the bill, writing, "Entities which are neither clearly governmental nor clearly private should not be created."

The intent for NFWF was to develop private sector support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a government agency. This perverse purpose allows a well-connected private elite—originally including timber heirless Nancy Weyerhaeuser, oil billionaire Caroline Getty, and now hedge fund billionaire Paul Tudor Jones—to carve out government funds, solicit limitless private funds, and funnel the cash to whom they please, including \$25,000 to Nancy Weyerhaeuser's son Rick for an anti-logging project he ran in Montana—and \$23,500 to a Planned Parenthood-type group in Rajasthan, India, for population control near Ranthambhore National Park.

As it grew, NFWF created one horror story after another. It gave \$89,748 to the Grand Canyon Trust, which filed suit and shut down the coal-fired Mojave Power Plant in Laughlin, Nev., and cost 200 Navajo miners their high-paying jobs at the Black Mesa coal mine that supplied the plant.

NFWF gave nearly \$442,000 to the National Wildlife Federation and in return got a lawsuit to divert water from generating electricity in Pacific-Northwest power dams—and spill it for migrating salmon. The suit now threatens to remove four vital hydroelectric dams on the Snake River. Another NFWF recipient, American Rivers (\$296,700), is also a party to the suit, which is still in court.

The list goes on and on, lawsuits against fisheries, agriculture, energy, construction, manufacturing, the whole economy. NFWF claims that grantee lawsuits do not use fed-

eral money. After examining the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 reports of major litigious NFWF recipients, I found no separate segregated accounts for lawsuits—you can't tell federal money from private—making NFWF's claims appear disingenuous at best.

NFWF's original \$100,000 "one-time seed money" appropriation has bloated to \$53 million in 2009, exactly what Reagan feared when he famously muttered, "The definition of immortality is a government program."

Even though NFWF's wealthy directors should be ideal fundraisers, two-thirds of its income is routinely taxpayer money, and now the Obama administration wants to give it more millions of federal dollars that we don't have.

House appropriators tried to cut NFWF's taxpayer umbilical in 1996. Immediately, a Byzantine cabal of Big Green leaders and hired lobbyists materialized, somehow convincing the appropriators to lay off. Reagan should have added, "Environmental funding is forever."

Last week, a gutsy congressman tried again. Rep. TOM MCCLINTOCK, R-Calif., chairman of the House Natural Resource Committee's Power and Water Subcommittee, introduced an amendment to the House's \$1.2 trillion continuing resolution bill to permanently defund NFWF.

Once again, Big Green sent out its minions, and MCCLINTOCK's amendment failed on a voice vote.

That shouldn't be the end of it. We need congressional hearings to stop feeding taxpayer money into NFWF's funnel. And we need elected officials with the fortitude to instruct the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's insatiable billionaires to stop feeding at the trough.

EEOIPCA AMENDMENT ACT OF 2011
AND THE ENERGY EMPLOYEES
OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my colleague, Rep. JARED POLIS (D-CO-02) to introduce two important pieces of legislation, the EEOIPCA Amendment Act of 2011 and the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Improvement Act of 2011, which will help ensure former employees at certain Department of Energy sites receive the benefits and care they are due while also bringing transparency and oversight to the program charged with administering compensation.

During the Cold War, thousands of workers employed in the nation's atomic weapons programs were exposed to radioactive and toxic substances. For this reason, Congress passed the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) in 2000 to provide compensation to employees who have become ill as a result of work at atomic weapons facilities. Individuals, or their eligible survivors, who worked as an employee, contractor, or subcontractor at certain Department of Energy facilities may be eligible for compensation in the form of lump sum payments and medical expenses. Yet all too often workers and surviving family members, such as those in my Congressional District,

run into challenges when weaving through the federal government maze to claim the benefits they deserve.

The EEOICPA Amendment Act is based upon a recent study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on how best to improve the EEOICPA program. Specifically, this legislation will require the President to establish and appoint an advisory board on toxic substances and worker health responsible for overseeing a portion of the original EEOICPA legislation known as "Part E." The Part E program provides eligible employees with compensation payments of up to \$250,000, plus medical expenses for health conditions as a result of having been exposed to toxic substances while working for DOE. Further, the Ombudsman for the Department of Labor will be required to provide an annual report to Congress on the program and make the report available to the public online.

The second bill we introduce today, the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Improvement Act of 2011, will amend Part E of the EEOICPA program to allow survivors of family members who file claims under Part E but who pass away before their claims are approved to receive the full benefit that would have been awarded to the claimant, rather than a lesser survivor's benefit. This bill will correct the sort of inequity in the case of a Kentucky resident who passed away from complications sustained while working for DOE and whose claim was approved just days after his death.

The EEOICPA Amendment Act of 2011 and the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Improvement Act of 2011 are two important pieces of legislation that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of EEOICPA and, in turn, help ensure workers and their families receive just compensation in a timely manner.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these two bills and to push for swift passage in the House.

RECOGNIZING MR. SI McCURDY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Si McCurdy for his retirement from his position as Dean of Students from the Saint Anthony Catholic School. Mr. McCurdy contributed to the San Antonio and Randolph Air Force Base, Texas area for decades with his military and education background.

Mr. McCurdy attended the Elliott School of Saint Mary's Hall for two years, and then he studied at the San Antonio Academy and the Texas Military Institute in San Antonio, Texas. In 1970, he obtained a Bachelor Associates degree from Hampden Sydney College in Virginia. In the summer of 1969, Mr. McCurdy worked as a Train Order Operator for the Southern Pacific Railroad in San Antonio. After graduating from Hampden Sydney College, he received his Master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin. His exceptional academic achievements propelled him to hold outstanding positions in Air Force bases in Texas and the nation and ultimately serve as a Dean for the Saint Anthony Catholic School.

In 1971, Mr. McCurdy enrolled in the Air Force at Office Training School in Lackland Air Force Base, Texas and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant. He later moved to Wichita, Kansas, at the McConnell Air Force Base where he served as Combat Crew Commander, Command Post Controller, and Emergency War Order Coordinator for seven years. After his time in Kansas, he moved to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, where he served as an Instructor at Officer Training School from 1979 to 1982. He also became a ROTC Instructor at the University of California in Berkeley for three years. By 1989, Mr. McCurdy returned to Texas and lived at the Randolph Air Force Base as a Texas Officer Accessions for four years. In October of 1993, he retired from the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel.

After his retirement from the Air Force, Mr. McCurdy began his career in education at the Saint Anthony Catholic School in 1993, and was appointed Dean. He pursued his passion for teaching history and classics to grade levels sixth, seventh, and eighth. His tireless dedication to students and education continued for eighteen years at Saint Anthony Catholic School. After nearly two decades of service to the school and students, he retires leaving his mark as a great leader and educator.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this time to pay tribute to Mr. Si McCurdy for his outstanding service to Air Force bases throughout the nation and recognize his retirement from the Saint Anthony Catholic School after eighteen years of service. He has truly contributed to the community and nation in his efforts to protect the nation and serve our schoolchildren. Thank for you this time.

HONORING ALAMEDA FIRE CAPTAIN SCOTT CARNEVALE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative FORTNEY PETE STARK, to honor the memory of a man who gave his life serving the people of the San Francisco Bay Area. Alameda Fire Captain Scott Carnevale, a resident of Mill Valley, California, died at the age of 42 on January 3, 2011, of occupational cancer.

Cpt. Carnevale was a proud Mill Valley native. He attended Mill Valley Middle School and Tamalpais High School, and it was at Tam High that he first met his future wife, Elizabeth. Mill Valley is also where Cpt. Carnevale took an early interest in firefighting, volunteering with the Mill Valley Fire Department in 1992. Cpt. Carnevale then attended the fire academy in Santa Rosa and graduated the following year.

Early in his career, Cpt. Carnevale served as a seasonal firefighter in Marin and worked for the Tamalpais Fire District before finally joining the Alameda Air Station as a full-time firefighter. When the airbase closed in 1997, Cpt. Carnevale was hired by the city of Alameda, where he was promoted to Apparatus Operator in 2001 and Captain of Station Two in 2007.

Cpt. Carnevale was also dedicated to his fellow firefighters. He served as an Executive

Board Trustee and Shift Vice President for the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 689. He was also an active member of the Fire Labor Management Team, and he organized Alameda Fire Department's participation in the California Professional Firefighters Exposure Reporting Program.

Cpt. Carnevale had many outside passions and skills, including craftsmanship and the outdoors. He helped design and build his family's home in Mill Valley. He also helped to restore the fire department's two antique fire rigs, and he took it on himself to repaint the insignia at the front door of Station Three. Even a diagnosis of cancer could not slow him down, as he continued to enjoy spending time with his family, traveling, and kayaking.

Cpt. Carnevale is survived by his wife Elizabeth Carnevale and his eight-year-old son.

Mister Speaker, it is with a profound sense of loss that we ask you to join us in honoring the life of Cpt. Scott Carnevale. Family and friends remember Cpt. Carnevale as an adventurer who was loved and respected for his integrity, selflessness, and dependability. The people of the Bay Area remember him as a true hero.

HONORING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ASPIRA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the fiftieth anniversary of ASPIRA, and the valuable contributions this organization has made enriching the lives of the Puerto Rican and Latino communities across our country.

Since its founding in New York City by the educator, civil rights leader and Presidential Medal of Freedom awardee Dr. Antonia Pantoja, ASPIRA has helped strengthen Puerto Rican and Latino communities through education and outreach programs.

Over the past five decades ASPIRA has helped nearly half-a-million Puerto Rican and Latino youth, giving them the tools they needed to succeed through education and leadership development programs. From its humble beginnings, ASPIRA has grown today to 30 centers serving 50,000 Latino youth and parents in 79 communities across nine states, as well as Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. In fact many "Aspirantes," from actor Jimmy Smits to elected officials like Anthony Romero, Fernando Ferrer and Billy Ocasio, trace their success to this organization.

At a time when too many Latino youth do not complete a high school education, over 95-five percent of participating ASPIRA youth graduate. Of these, over 90 percent go on to a college education.

Indeed, this is the kind of success we are celebrating today with the fiftieth anniversary of ASPIRA. Their accomplishments have improved the quality of life and opportunities for the Latino community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today, March 10, in recognizing 50 years of service by ASPIRA and its contributions to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of our great nation.