

laws. The fourth title of the bill authorizes the study of biological and environmental factors that are responsible for an increase in deaths in the eastern gray whale population. Two hundred ninety thousand dollars is authorized for fiscal year 2001, and \$500,000 is authorized for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2004.

Title V of the bill makes a technical correction to the American Fisheries Act (AFA) with regard to two fishing vessels, the *Providian* (United States Official Number 1062183) and the *Hazel Lorraine* (United States Official Number 592211). The 1998 AFA authorized the participation of certain US-owned fishing vessels in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The AFA was designed to work in conjunction with the license limitation provisions of the fishery management plan developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Certain "qualifying years" were established in order to determine which vessels had earned a "fishing history" to allow them future access to pollock-fishing quotas. During the consideration of the AFA, the special circumstances of many vessels were taken into account. At that time, the fishing vessel *Providian* was being built in a U.S. shipyard as a replacement vessel for the pollock-fishing vessel *Ocean Spray*.

In 1994, the *Ocean Spray* was lost at sea—fortunately without the loss of a single life. Had the *Ocean Spray* not been lost, the vessel would have continued to fish for Bering Sea pollock during the years leading up to the development of the AFA. After the loss of the *Ocean Spray*, the owner-operator followed the replacement guidelines in order to secure his federal fishing permits and endorsement for his new vessel, the *Providian*. According to landing records, it appears that the average pollock harvest of the *Ocean Spray* during the years 1992 through 1994, exceeded 2000 metric tons.

Since the construction on the *Providian* was completed, the owner decided to bring his vessel to Bath, Maine to work in the Maine herring fishery. The current location of this vessel does not eliminate the need to establish fairness and restore the vessel owner's pollock-fishing rights earned with the *Ocean Spray* during 1992–1994. This amendment to the AFA is intended to provide the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service with the authority to qualify the *Providian* under the AFA with directed onshore pollock-fishing rights equivalent to those earned by the *Ocean Spray* during the years 1992–1994.

Mr. President, the authors of the AFA certainly took into account the particular circumstances of other vessel owners and companies. This technical amendment simply qualifies two vessels, the *Providian* and the *Hazel Lorraine* under the AFA for fishing rights that they otherwise should have received allow for the participation of

two additional catcher vessels in the Alaskan pollock fishery. These vessels were able to demonstrate that they should have been included in the Act when it passed in 1998.

I would like to thank Senator KERRY, the ranking member of the Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee for his hard work and support of this bill. I would also like to thank Senator INOUE for his support, particularly for his contributions to the coral reef conservation section of the bill. In addition, I would like to thank Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, and Senator HOLLINGS, the ranking member of the Committee, for their bipartisan support of this measure. We have before us an opportunity to significantly improve our nation's ability to conserve and manage our marine resources and I urge the Senate to pass H.R. 1653, as amended.

#### RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSMAN NEIL STAEBLER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the life and accomplishments of a distinguished and principled public servant who served as a Member of Congress from my home state of Michigan, Neil Staebler. For nearly six decades, Neil embodied the very ideals on which this nation was founded. Born in 1905, Neil Staebler is widely credited as a founder of the modern Michigan Democratic Party. However, Neil's greatest desire was to make our government work for all its citizens.

Throughout his life, Neil dedicated himself to serving the United States of America. At the age of thirty-seven, he joined the World War II effort by enlisting in the United States Navy, where he served as a lieutenant.

After the conclusion of the war, Neil and a group of other distinguished citizens from Michigan, including former Governor G. Mennen Williams, former Congresswoman and Lieutenant Governor Martha Griffiths, and Martha's husband Hicks, helped to re-shape the Michigan Democratic Party and alter the landscape of Michigan politics. They sought to reinvigorate the Democratic Party and make it more responsive to the will and the needs of Michigan's citizens. Their efforts led to a renewed vibrancy within the Michigan Democratic Party, and propelled Neil to the chairmanship of the Party.

Neil served as state chairman for over a decade, and was able to use his position to encourage active political participation by all people. In addition to serving as state chairman and winning a seat to Congress in 1962, he ran an unsuccessful but hard fought challenge of Governor George Romney in 1964.

While he was a loyal member of the Democratic Party, Neil Staebler was first and foremost committed to our nation's institutions and the need for all citizens to participate in the democratic process. President Gerald Ford

recognized Neil's commitment to civic participation when he appointed him to serve on the first Federal Elections Commission.

Throughout this year's election, people of differing political allegiances have remarked on the stable and resilient nature of our nation's institutions. Our health as a democracy is due, in a large part, to the dedication and efforts of individuals like Neil Staebler. Neil Staebler was one of the true lions of Michigan and American politics. I am sure that my Senate colleagues will join me in honoring the memory of Neil Staebler, and in wishing his wife Burnette and their family well in the years ahead.

#### THE MILLENNIUM HOLIDAY TREE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, the wonderful tree currently gracing the West lawn of this Capitol is from Colorado. I have had the pleasure of working towards getting this tree to DC for 2½ years, and I wanted to share with my colleagues a little about my home state's gift to the nation.

The Millennium Holiday Tree is a gift from the entire state of Colorado to our nation. It is a celebration of all that is Colorado: natural beauty, many cultures, cities and rural communities, and our rich history. The Colorado tree will be shining through early January 2001. The Millennium Holiday Tree is a native Colorado Blue Spruce which stands 65' tall and was projected to be 77 years old at the time of cutting. It was grown on the Pike National Forest near the community of Woodland Park. The tree was selected from this area because it is in the shadow of Pikes Peak, often referred to as "America's Mountain".

The Colorado State Forest Service is growing seedlings from the "grandma" tree. Seedlings from the Millennium Holiday Tree will be replanted at the cutting site. The Governor and Francis Owens were among the first to receive a Holiday Tree seedling for their support of this project. Hundreds of seedlings will also be planted in memorial forests around the state as part of Holiday Tree celebrations.

Colorado school children made over 4,000 ornaments for the tree. They each depict the theme: "Valuing the Past—Looking to the Future". Each county had the opportunity to supply 100 ornaments for the Millennium Holiday Tree and the companion trees.

Through the many community events, we celebrated the richness of Colorado. Each reflected the wide range of cultural and historical influences present in our communities—Native American, Hispanics, pioneers, and others. Local celebrations were encouraged in each of Colorado's 64 counties and at each of the 10 stops along the Tree route. Santa Fe Trail communities in Kansas and Missouri joined the celebrations too, including one in St. Louis at a National Park Service historic site. After the cutting ceremony on November 20th, the tree was