

Just last week, for example, members of the Longmont-based Trailridge Runners Four-Wheel Drive Club joined Sierra Clubbers, other environmentalists, and U.S. Forest Service employees to help restore a degraded meadow in the Lefthand Canyon area of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, in Colorado. Volunteers helped grade and reseed areas of the meadow that have been eroded by four-wheeling activities. The impetus for this was a \$250,000 grant procured by the four-wheel group.

Their efforts drew the attention of the Daily Camera in Boulder, which praised them in an editorial that rightly noted the "The land doesn't care if we're Democrats or Republicans, recreationalists or preservationists, bird watchers or mountain bikers. And no matter how gingerly we tread, all who use public lands contribute to the impacts. And coming together to help heal the land beats pointing fingers any day."

I join in congratulating this exemplary cooperative effort. For the benefit of our colleagues, I am attaching the full text of the Camera's editorial.

[From the Boulder, Colorado Daily Camera, Apr. 21, 2004]

SEEDS OF COOPERATION

LAND IS THE BENEFICIARY OF VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Especially when budgets are tight at the local, state and federal levels, our public lands can use all the help they can get.

So it's nice to know that volunteers are so often willing to invest their own sweat, time and scraped knuckles in personal stewardship when public money isn't there. They can't fill all the gaps, but every bit helps.

And it's even better when disparate groups—even antagonists—can all agree that whatever their differences, it's the land that matters. That was the case Saturday, when members of the Longmont-based Trailridge Runners Four-Wheel Drive Club joined Sierra Clubbers, other environmentalists, and U.S. Forest Service employees to help restore a degraded meadow in Lefthand Canyon.

The impetus for this laudable cooperation was a \$250,000 grant procured by the four-wheel group. Volunteers helped grade and reseed areas of the meadow that have been eroded by four-wheeling activities.

Groups that often come under fire for most environmental degradation—though the culprits are usually a small minority—increasingly recognize the value of reaching out and caring for the land. In this case, it's four-wheelers, but on Boulder Open Space, dog advocates routinely hold mass poop baggings, and a group of trail runners last fall pitched in a remarkable 180 hours of trail work in exchange for permission to hold a grueling race up Mt. Sanitas.

The land doesn't care if we're Democrats or Republicans, recreationalists or preservationists, bird watchers or mountain bikers. And no matter how gingerly we tread, all who use public lands contribute to the impacts. And coming together to help heal the land beats pointing fingers any day.

TRIBUTE TO ELYSE LEON

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Ms.

Elyse Leon, a remarkable woman who has dedicated the past three years of her life to the restoration of the Bronx River, which is vital to my congressional district.

Elyse began working for the restoration of the Bronx River on March 21, 2001, while a student at New York University. After graduating with a double major in Spanish and Psychology, she became a full time Bronx River Outreach Coordinator for the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and the Bronx River Alliance. Elyse has been an outstanding ambassador for the Bronx River. Working with residents, colleagues and more than 70 partner organizations of the Bronx River Alliance, as well as with the board, teams and staff of the Alliance, Elyse has found multiple ways to involve people in the Bronx River renaissance, whether by planting, cleaning, biking, paddling, walking, planning or dancing. In all of these activities and more, Elyse has a talent for making people feel welcome.

For three years Elyse has successfully organized two very important annual events; the Bronx River Flotilla and the Golden Ball Celebration. These two events, which I have attended, draw a large number of supporters to the river to celebrate its restoration. In addition, Elyse could be found at innumerable community meetings, outdoor events, and Bronx River Alliance gatherings, encouraging people to get involved with the Bronx River and its greenway. She also produced a bi-weekly e-mail newsletter and other publications, such as the recent Safety Guide to River Park, which reached thousands of people.

Mr. Speaker, the restoration of the Bronx River has been one my top priorities as a Member of both the New York Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives. Rejuvenating its greenway and corridor will provide recreational, educational and economic resources for the communities through which the river flows. Such an important project could not have been undertaken without the participation of dedicated and resourceful individuals like Elyse Leon.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Elyse Leon for her years of service as Outreach Coordinator for the Bronx River Alliance and in wishing her well in all her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING DR. RON ANDERSON

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Ron Anderson, president and chief executive officer of Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas, Texas, for receiving the American Hospital Association's 2004 Award of Honor.

During his tenure with Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Dr. Anderson has displayed outstanding leadership capabilities through his exemplary efforts to serve the health care needs of a densely populated city. As a result of Dr. Anderson's dedication and strong commitment to improving health policies and social initiatives, Parkland Hospital has gained the

respect and praise as a national model for all public hospitals around the country.

As a devoted doctor, Dr. Anderson strives to improve the quality of care every patient receives when they go to Parkland Hospital. Through his tireless efforts to revolutionize Parkland Hospital in Dallas, and his passion for medicine, Dr. Anderson is well deserving of the American Hospital Association's 2004 Award of Honor. He deserves special recognition and praise for his direction and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Dr. Anderson on his prestigious award and his significant accomplishment. Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas has greatly benefited from the dedication and leadership skills Dr. Anderson has shown as president and CEO. I know my colleagues will join me today in honoring Dr. Anderson, as we wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO TRYGVE LIE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Trygve Lie, the first Secretary General of the United Nations. Mr. Lie was more than an outstanding citizen of Norway and public official, he was truly the beacon of light and bedrock of peace for which the world yearned in the aftermath of World War II.

Trygve Lie was born in Oslo, Norway on July 16, 1896. After being elected a local Labor Party president at the age of 16, Lie's course in politics was set. Following his graduation from the Oslo University Law School in 1919, he was appointed Administration Secretary for the Norwegian Labor Party. He subsequently became a legal advisor to the Trade Union Federations, where Lie honed his skills at conflict resolution and negotiation.

Trygve Lie's distinguished career in government saw him appointed to several different ministerial positions, but none more career defining than his time spent as Minister of Foreign Affairs. After the German invasion of Norway, Mr. Lie's triumph in saving his country's merchant fleet led to his appointment as Foreign Affairs Minister while the Norwegian government fled to England. This position would prove to be a seminal moment in Lie's career, and would elevate his profile internationally.

As Norway's Foreign Minister, Lie was an outspoken advocate of international cooperation and a more level political playing field, while remaining acutely aware of the responsibilities inherent to the then-current world powers.

Mr. Lie attended the U.N. Conference on International Organizations as Head of the Norwegian Delegation in April of 1945, where he also served as Chairman of Commission III, which was responsible for drafting the Security Council provisions of the U.N. Charter. Lie's diplomatic skills and shining abilities as an expert negotiator led to his near-unanimous election as the first Secretary-General of the United Nations in February 1946.

In his new position, Trygve Lie faced the unenviable task of uniting a world that had been torn apart by the destruction, devastation, and hatred of World War II. Despite the

onset of the Cold War and innumerable other set-backs, Mr. Lie held true to his beliefs in the U.N. Charter, the need for peace, and the importance of building a new world order. Though his new position granted him a great deal of oversight and authority, Lie's vision of the U.N. remained one of a body that would primarily act as a mediator for the world's conflict and friction.

During his time as U.N. Secretary-General, Trygve Lie established his post as one of honor and dignity that held an internationally recognized sphere of influence. His rise to the top position in the U.N. illustrated as much about Lie's professionalism and diplomacy as did his decision to step down in April 1953. Upon realization that his departure could better facilitate peace in Korea and therefore help restore international harmony, he graciously offered his resignation. His sacrifice for the greater good is seldom seen. Trygve Lie was an outstanding contributor to his native Norway and to the international community at large. His success in transitioning the global society away from a period of seemingly irreparable damage created a legacy of peace and hope that should be both commended and emulated.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, twenty-five years ago this April the Taiwan Relations Act was signed into law. For the last quarter of a century, there has been relative peace and tranquility in the Taiwan Strait—thanks in large part to the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, which spells out the extent of our commitment to Taiwan in the event of an armed invasion from the People's Republic of China against Taiwan.

Today the people of Taiwan enjoy freedom and prosperity. In the years ahead, I am confident that the relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan will only grow stronger as we continue to build on common principles, including freedom, democracy and human rights.

On the eve of the 25th anniversary of the TRA, I commend the foresight and wisdom of my colleagues and former colleagues in Congress for having written this landmark piece of legislation, which has benefited both the people of Taiwan and people of the United States. Today I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the strong tradition of cooperation and friendship between the United States and Taiwan. I look forward to the continuation of a relationship that will last for the next twenty-five years and beyond.

CONGRATULATE ELLWOOD CITY AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Ellwood

City Area Public Library in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania for their week long celebration commemorating their 90th anniversary starting April 26, 2004. It is an honor to represent such a steadfast facility within the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

For the past nine decades the Ellwood City Area Public Library has provided the residents of Ellwood City with a useful, high-quality institute. The success of the library is often attributed to its ability to constantly adapt to the changing times—always providing the citizens of Ellwood City with the most up-to-date resources available. Now the Ellwood City Area Public Library offers over 45,000 items, ranging from large-print books and magazines to audio and videotapes. Furthermore, the library offers computers for free public internet access and a variety of children's programming. The 90th anniversary celebration is not only a festival to celebrate all the past accomplishments of the library but also to focus on the success that are sure to come in the future.

I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in honoring this institution in my district. The Ellwood City Area Public Library has provided an invaluable service to the community for 90 years and, undoubtedly, the next 90 years will be just as successful.

HONORING THE 432ND CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House the brave members of the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion, who today return home from a 14-month deployment overseas.

Northeastern Wisconsin is often called "the land of legends" for our fabled football team—the Green Bay Packers. The gridiron leadership of men like Vince Lombardi, Curly Lambeau and Ray Nitschke helped make Green Bay synonymous with strength, courage and triumph. But, it's not our heroes of the playing field that make our area truly legendary—it's the men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line to defend freedom.

Under the most dangerous conditions, the brave troops of the 432nd served 14 intense months overseas, striving to rebuild an Iraq ravaged by tyranny, war and strife. They fought to rebuild schools, reactivate power grids, train police, and so much more. They knew well that all their hard work and they themselves were under constant threat of attack. But, because of their commitment and unwavering devotion to the cause of freedom, this nation reborn can continue to move toward a brighter, more peaceful future.

Our war in Iraq is obviously not finished. But, even with the ongoing challenges, Americans can take comfort in the fact that some of our finest countrymen carry the torch of liberty in Iraq. The proud men and women of the 432nd carried this torch for 14 months, traveling far from here and from their loved ones, putting their lives on hold to fight for democracy and freedom. Today, they are home with us again, and my constituents and I couldn't be happier.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to thank the soldiers of the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion on behalf of myself, my family, the state of Wisconsin and the people of a grateful nation. It is my distinct pleasure and privilege to serve them and their families in Congress. They, along with all our servicemen and women, deserve our continued praise, support and gratitude. They are our genuine heroes.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI MICHAEL MELCHIOR

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Rabbi Michael Melchior, a distinguished member of the Knesset. Rabbi Michael Melchior was born in 1954 in Denmark. He received his rabbinical ordination from Yeshivat Hakotel in Jerusalem. Rabbi Melchior comes from a long line of Scandinavian rabbis, and has served as rabbi of a Jerusalem congregation since 1986. He also has held the title of Chief Rabbi of Norway since 1980.

Since 1996, Rabbi Melchior has been the chairman of Meimad, a modern-Orthodox party, which in 1999 became a faction of One Israel. He was elected to the Knesset in May 1999. From August 1999 until March 2001, Melchior served as Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, responsible for Diaspora and social affairs. Michael Melchior served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs from March 2001 until October 2002.

Rabbi Melchior has a passionate interest in the improvement of Israeli society. To this end, he established many programs that deal with the narrowing of gaps in the society between rich and poor, Arab and Jew, secular and religious. Rabbi Melchior has eloquently advocated for an Israel that allows Israelis to feel a strong sense of Jewish identity without pressure or coercion. He has won appreciation both in Israel and abroad for his tireless work for tolerance, democracy and peace. Furthermore, he is universally recognized, from the Israeli Knesset to the international stage, as a figure of vision, conciliation, and peace.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Melchior was part of a very unique group of religious leaders at a summit meeting in Alexandria, in January 2002, which resulted in the historic Alexandria Declaration and initiated the Alexandria process, in which mainstream religious leaders of the Holy Land gave legitimacy for the first time to a religiously authorized peace process. Over the past 2 years the Alexandria process has created positive waves in Israel, Palestine, and throughout the entire Arab world.

Among Rabbi Melchior's many awards are the Norwegian Nobel Institute's Prize for Tolerance and Bridge-Building, and Yeshivat Hakotel's Award for Work in the Diaspora Rabbinate. Rabbi Melchior has written numerous articles published in the Israeli and foreign press.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Melchior's passionate commitment to a comprehensive and lasting peace reveals true leadership and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring him today.