

partnered with the National Park Service to create a one-on-one mentoring program. MCC also provides young people with summer jobs through a combination of outdoor education, community service and recreational activities through its Project ReGeneration.

Under the leadership of Marilee Eckert since 1992, the nonprofit has grown to provide year-round employment to 116 people, operating under a budget of more than \$5 million and helping more than 3,000 young men and women gain job skills along with an education. Marilee also holds leadership roles in many local and national organizations. Her efforts have earned her recognition and awards from the county and the Sierra Club, as well as the gratitude of the many corps members who have benefited from her hard work.

Many of those who have benefited come from under-served populations. One such corpsman is Matthew Rainey, a 21-year-old convicted felon. "I didn't have an opportunity to work anywhere else," he says. "Honestly, I was living in my car, didn't have anything going for myself, but every single day, I would come to work."

Because of MCC, Rainey has earned his GED, saved enough to rent an apartment, and is considering following the trade he learned through his work at MCC.

"He has so totally blossomed," notes Deborah Schoenbaum, MCC's deputy director. "He has won just about every award you can get in the corps. It's been a life-changing experience for him."

Working at MCC has been a life-changing experience for many others, as well. An average of 300 young people go through the various MCC programs each year. In fact, some of MCC's sponsors and greatest supporters were previously in the corps program.

Corpsmembers not only arrive at work at 7 a.m. for a full day of work each day, but must put in 10 hours of education each week, as well. Marvin was one such young man willing to work this hard for a better future. Marvin came to the corps speaking absolutely no English, Schoenbaum remembers. "He now speaks English and has gotten a job with a top landscaping firm because he went through a landscaping program we have with College of Marin."

Such success stories, Madam Speaker, is why the Marin Conservation Corps deserves to be congratulated for its past 25 years of service. May it have an equally successful future.

THE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 25, 2007*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the Department of Energy (DOE) on the groundbreaking of their Research Support Facility (RSF) on October 30, 2007.

The Research Support Facility will be an important building for the DOE and NREL. The building will house several hundred DOE and NREL staff in over 200,000 usable square feet

without sacrificing high priority special spaces. The building will include shared spaces to assist in optimizing human performance, enhancing creativity and recruiting the workforce of tomorrow.

The RSF is designed to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) "Platinum" rating as defined by the U.S. Green Building Council. The building will be a shining example of sustainable high-performance design. It will demonstrate the integration of high performance design features and practices, showcase technology advances, and capture the public's imagination for renewable and energy efficient technologies.

Investing in and expanding the National Renewable Energy Laboratory is good for national security, good for the climate and good for jobs.

I am honored to have the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the future Research Support Facility in the 7th Congressional District.

CELEBRATING OXI DAY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 25, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to join the Hellenic-Americans and Philhellenes in my district and throughout the country in celebrating "OXI Day (No Day)," which falls on the 28th of October. This year marks the 67th anniversary of a very important day in Hellenic history, the day on which brave Greek patriots said "No" to fascism, "No" to injustice, and "No" to slavery. For those individuals who lived through that momentous period and their descendants, many of whom live in the 14th Congressional District of New York, "OXI Day" is more than a memory: it is the embodiment of Hellenism and its highest ideals.

At dawn on October 28, 1940, General Ionnis Metaxas was confronted with an ultimatum. An Italian ambassador delivered a message directly from General Mussolini demanding that Greece allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory and occupy certain unspecified "strategic locations" or face war. General Metaxas simply replied "No!" and committed the brave people of Greece to resistance against Axis oppression. With level-headed determination and steadfast resolve, the citizenry of Greece mobilized. Men went calmly to their closets and retrieved their military uniforms and weapons. Women went about their necessary tasks, and the children assisted as they were able.

On OXI Day, the people of Greece chose the harder path, the path of resistance. That brave generation of Hellenes refused to submit to oppression even at the cost of their homes, their land, and their lives. Theirs was an act of self-sacrifice that clearly proclaimed the humanitarian ideals of their Orthodox Christian faith and their ethnic heritage. The Greeks' brave defense of their land was a crucial turning point in the Axis eastern advances. Dogged resistance by Greek patriots weakened Axis morale and derailed the Nazi war effort by delaying the eventual attack on Soviet Union. The Greeks' sacrifice will forever

be remembered and honored by the free nations of the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the heroes of OXI Day. In their brave words and deeds we see all of the highest virtues of Hellenic heritage: passion for justice, courage at a time of trial, unity in the midst of conflict, and willingness to sacrifice one's life for the good of others. On this day, we thank Greece for saying "OXI."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 25, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 24, 2007, I was not present for rollcall vote 996, final passage of H.R. 1483, the Celebrating America's Heritage Act. Had I been present for rollcall 996, I would have voted "aye."

REMARKS ON H.R. 1483, CELEBRATING AMERICA'S HERITAGE ACT

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 25, 2007*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, yesterday I voted in favor of H.R. 1483, the Celebrating America's Heritage Act.

I am pleased to support this legislation which creates six new national heritage areas and reauthorizes nine additional heritage areas, including one in my home State of New Jersey.

Since 1988, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, stretching roughly 300 miles from Perth Amboy to Cape May and west along the Delaware Bay to Deepwater, has been successful in encouraging New Jersey residents and visitors alike to explore the State's coastal resources and culture.

For nearly 20 years, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail has played a key role in preventing overdevelopment of the Nation's most densely populated State. The trail has helped preserve a wide variety of natural resources and historical landmarks including bird sanctuaries, wildlife refuges and lighthouses. It has helped boost tourism and economic activity and has provided countless visitors with enjoyable and interesting opportunities for recreation.

Whether visiting the Nation's oldest operating lighthouse at Sandy Hook, canoeing on a fresh water creek in Double Trouble State Park, shopping at the 200-year-old fishing village of Belford, or taking in the view from Mount Mitchill, the highest point on the eastern seaboard, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail offers something for everyone to enjoy.

National Heritage Areas provide great opportunities for Americans to experience the history and culture of a particular State or region. My Central New Jersey district is home to the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area. This heritage area protects and promotes more than 250 historic