

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD RECEIVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S 2007 CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PERFORMANCE AND INNOVATION AWARD

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today I stand supporting the passage of H. Res 832. This legislation recognizes the Texas Water Development Board for receiving the Environmental Protection Agency's 2007 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Performance and Innovation Award. The award recognizes states that have been the most innovative and effective in advancing EPA's goals of performance and protection through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. The award is given to one State in each of the ten EPA regions.

The ten State programs were nominated by the regional offices based upon the following criteria: pace level greater than 80 percent, audit with no serious programmatic or financial problems, outstanding performance in at least two of the following areas: better management practices, full-cost pricing, efficient water use, watershed approach, creative use of technologies, leveraging practices, innovative partnerships, innovative lending practices, and effective outreach.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) was region six award winner because of its support of water efficiency through water reuse and conservation. One of its major accomplishments in 2007 was a \$10.7 million Northwest Water Reuse Initiative consisting of a five-phase project in El Paso County to deliver treated wastewater for reuse to irrigators, industries, and homeowners from El Paso's Northwest Wastewater Treatment Plant.

I would like to thank TWDB for their work with the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District to institute well metering on wells of a number of irrigators using groundwater from formations other than the Edwards Aquifer. The District will use the TWDB grant and local funds to purchase and install 80–90 meters.

The TWDB continues its goals of assisting with regional planning, and preparing the state Water Plan for the development of the state's water resources, and administering cost-effective financial programs for the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control and agricultural water conservation projects. For being the recipient of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Performance and Innovation Award, I recognize Texas Water Development Board on this day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on January 22 and 23,

2008. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "yea" on each of the following bills:

Roll 19, January 22, 2008: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass: H.R. 4211, Naming the Judge Richard B. Allbrook Post Office.

Roll 20, January 22, 2008: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree: H. Res. 866, Honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records.

Roll 21, January 23, 2008: On Ordering the Previous Question: H.R. 3963, Children's Health Insurance Program Extension and Improvement.

Roll 22, January 23, 2008: Passage, Objections of the President Not Withstanding: H.R. 3963, Children's Health Insurance Program Extension and Improvement.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES LUCE

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, as we look forward to considering legislation in Congress this year to address our Nation's energy shortage, it is my sad duty to announce that one of the real giants of the energy business in the United States has passed away. Charles F. Luce, the former chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Consolidated Edison, died this past weekend at age 90 after a brief illness.

Starting as a meter reader for a power company when he was a teenager, Chuck Luce rose to become a legend in the electric power industry through an interesting career progression. Following his clerkship for Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, Chuck Luce practiced law in Walla Walla, Washington, for 15 years. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy summoned him into public service as the Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets the power from the Columbia River hydroelectric system in the Pacific Northwest. At BPA, he was an enlightened leader who keenly understood federal energy issues, pioneering many jurisdictional arrangements that established the distribution of federal power resources in the Northwest, including the Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie.

During the Johnson Administration, Interior Secretary Stewart Udall brought him back to Washington to serve as Undersecretary of the Interior Department, but his talents were quickly recognized and summoned when Con-Ed, New York's largest utility, needed a steady hand to confront looming problems of growth and supply. He led Con-Ed during the toughest times that any American utility has faced in our Nation's history, including the oil supply crisis of the 1970s and the infamous New York City blackout in 1977. His leadership through those times of crisis set an example of calm and focused action, and he is remembered as one of the most effective and thoughtful leaders in an industry that affects every American every day.

I want to take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, to insert into the RECORD Mr. Luce's obituary, printed today in the New York Times, so that Members can read the story of a truly legendary figure in the history of electric power generation and transmission in the United States.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 29, 2008]

CHARLES F. LUCE, EX-CHIEF OF CON ED, IS DEAD AT 90

(By Dennis Hevesi)

Charles F. Luce, the chairman and chief executive of Consolidated Edison, the giant New York electric and gas utility during some of its most difficult times, died Saturday in Torrance, Calif. He was 90 and lived in Bronxville, N.Y.

The cause was prostate cancer, said Joyce Hergenhan, a former company spokeswoman.

Mr. Luce headed Con Ed from 1967 to 1982 and dealt with the oil crisis of the 1970s, customer rage over rising rates, the 1977 blackout that paralyzed New York City and the settlement of a decades-long struggle with environmental groups over construction of a power plant at Storm King Mountain on the Hudson River.

A liberal Democrat and an environmentalist, Mr. Luce did not fit the standard profile of the big-business executive when he agreed to leave his post as under secretary of the interior in the Johnson administration to take over Consolidated Edison.

"The metropolitan area's need for electric energy doubles about every 15 years," Mr. Luce said then. "To supply these vast new quantities of energy at reasonable cost, but protect the city's environment from pollution and unsightly structures, is a king-size job."

It became particularly difficult in 1973, when fuel prices skyrocketed because of the Arab oil embargo, and Con Ed's rates followed.

Facing customer protests, Mr. Luce chose to soften the monthly billing blow by eliminating the company's April 1974 dividend. That prompted shareholder protests, and on May 24, 1974, Mr. Luce presided over a meeting at the old Commodore Hotel on 42nd Street at which customers and shareholders boisterously expressed their views.

A New York Times headline the next day said, "Days of Anxiety for the Man Who Saved a Watt."

That was a reference to the "Save-a-Watt" program, which Mr. Luce had instituted soon after taking over as Con Ed chairman. It was a shift from the electricity industry's traditional marketing strategy, succinctly expressed as "Live better electrically."

For 25 hours, starting on the evening of July 13, 1977, New York City could not live electrically at all. Two lightning strikes on major tie-lines in Westchester County led to the collapse of the entire system.

Some Con Ed officials attributed the blackout to "an act of God." Although Mr. Luce did not utter the phrase himself, he became associated with it.

He kept cool in the face of Mayor Abraham D. Beame's accusations of "gross negligence" on the part of the company, saying, "Respectfully, I think he's wrong," and calling for a fair review.

In the end, Con Ed had to concede that the systemwide expansion of the power failure after the local lightning strikes was largely its fault.

Four years before Mr. Luce became chairman, Con Ed had started seeking approval from regulators to build a hydroelectric plant on Storm King Mountain in Orange County, 55 miles north of New York City. Opposition to that plan and to proposals for other power plants along the Hudson River