

as “Lou Gehrig’s disease.” Taking her to visit the place she loved most would not be easy. Her family hired an ambulance, placed Nancy in the back, and drove east from her home in Portland. Once there, Nancy saw her beloved gorge for the last time. On September 19, 2008, Nancy Neighbor Russell passed away.

While she is gone, her legacy is not. No individual has had the lasting and profound impact on a Pacific Northwest’s landscape as Nancy Russell has had on the Columbia River Gorge. In my hometown newspaper, *The Oregonian* reporter Katy Muldoon described her this way: “a lion in conservation circles, a fearless but graceful negotiator, a dogged fundraiser, a mentor to young leaders and an inspiration to anyone who had the pleasure of hiking or hunting wildflowers with her on the grassy slopes above the Columbia River.”

Anyone who has seen the Columbia River Gorge know that its steep cliffs, dramatic rock formations, and graceful waterfalls makes it one of the most beautiful places on Earth. It is the crown jewel of a Pacific Northwest landscape filled with a treasure trove of natural beauty. But it took someone like Nancy Russell to recognize that the gorge’s beauty, drama, and gracefulness needed to be protected. She would devote the rest of her life to making sure it was.

In the early 1980s, she founded the Friends of the Columbia Gorge and began an unprecedented effort that in 1986 resulted in passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. As Congressman of the Third Congressional District at the time, I was proud to stand with friends and allies to vote for this historic legislation. That act preserved the gorge while protecting the valuable orchards and agriculture lands and acting as a catalyst to the tourism and recreational values so important to the communities along the Columbia.

But Nancy didn’t stop there. She continued to push the Federal Government to purchase important pieces of property from willing sellers so that stunning views of the gorge would remain open to the public. She personally purchased more than 30 properties and donated them to the public so hikers could enjoy them for generations to come.

Today, the Columbia Gorge faces issues that Nancy would have never contemplated three decades ago. Fortunately, Nancy Russell leaves behind what may be her greatest accomplishment—an organization with members who are inspired by her vision and determined to follow in her footsteps. The gorge may have lost an ardent supporter, but it has not lost support. I am confident that Nancy’s children and grandchildren, her countless friends, and Oregon’s and Washington’s leaders on both sides of the aisle will honor her by continuing to protect this great legacy.

On those times when I return to Oregon and my flight takes me over the Columbia River Gorge, I will think of Nancy Russell and her last visit there. Knowing what I do about Nancy and all that she did for that beautiful area, it will be hard to think of anything else. I pay tribute to her life well-lived today and thank her and her family for all of her many, lasting accomplishments.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:00 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1014. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

H.R. 1157. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

H.R. 3018. An act to provide for payment of an administrative fee to public housing agencies to cover the costs of administering family self-sufficiency programs in connection with the housing choice you her program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

H.R. 3232. An act to establish a non-profit corporation to communicate United States entry policies and otherwise promote tourist, business, and scholarly travel to the United States.

H.R. 3402. An act to require accurate and reasonable disclosure of the terms and conditions of prepaid telephone calling cards and services.

H.R. 6469. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize increased Federal funding for the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

H.R. 6568. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to encourage research and carry out an educational campaign with respect to pulmonary hypertension, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6946. An act to make a technical correction in the NET 911 Improvement Act of 2008.

H.R. 6950. An act to establish the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal for organ donors and the family of organ donors.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1810. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the provision of scientifically sound information and support services to patients receiving a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatally and postnatally diagnosed conditions.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 255. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the United States commitment to preservation of religious and cultural sites and condemning instances where sites are desecrated.

H. Con. Res. 393. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of “National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month”.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1343) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations for the health centers program under section 330 of such Act, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that in accordance with the request of the Senate, the bill (H. R. 3068) to prohibit the award of contracts to provide guard services under the contract security guard program of the Federal Protective Service to a business concern that is owned, controlled, or operated by an individual who has been convicted of a felony, is hereby returned to the Senate.

At 12:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7060. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for energy production and conservation, to extend certain expiring provisions, to provide individual income tax relief, and for other purposes.

At 4:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1382. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 2932. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention, sustain the funding of poison centers, and enhance the public health of people of the United States.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 214. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should grant a posthumous pardon to John Arthur “Jack” Johnson for the 1913