

HONORING THE LIFE
ACHIEVEMENT OF JO JOHNSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Jo Johnson, the Executive Director of the Fresno-Madera Agency on Aging in Fresno, California as she prepares to retire after 18 years of dedicated service to seniors and the community of Fresno.

Jo Johnson is a Valley native, born in Fresno, California. She is a graduate of the Class of 1968 from Roosevelt High School and received her Bachelor's Degree from California State University, Fresno in 1972. Jo is married to Mr. John J. Johnson, Jr.

Jo has spent the majority of her career working as a selfless public servant. In 1973, she was hired by the Fresno County Probation Department as a Research Analyst. Then, in 1974, she moved to the State of Oregon to work as a Social Worker in the Children's Services Division. Jo returned to the Central Valley in 1975 and worked as a Probation Officer for the Tulare County Probation Department in Tulare, California until 1984. After spending time in the public sector, Jo worked as a paralegal in her husband's office in Big Bear Lake, California. In 1991, Jo was hired by the Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging (FMAAA).

Serving as Executive Director, Jo has helped direct the Fresno-Madera Agency on Aging to numerous accomplishments. When she was first hired in 1991, Jo created the Valley Coalition of Area Agencies on Aging which brought together the various county agencies to plan and direct legislation which would benefit the elderly. At the National level, Jo has participated in the 1994 Health Care University conference in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Administration on Aging. Jo also received a Congressional appointment to the California delegation for the 1995 White House Conference on Aging. At the State level, she was appointed by the California Department on Aging to numerous committees helping to create nutrition policy and shape administrative structure.

Under Jo's guidance, the Fresno-Madera Agency on Aging became the first California area agency to own real estate. The Fresno-Madera Agency on Aging is the only statewide Agency to develop a campus of collocated services that facilitates immediate responses to consumer needs. Jo helped create a system that supports a team that investigates elder abuse and was the first to be recognized by the California Attorney General. The Fresno-Madera Agency on Aging has taken their original investment of \$1.5 million in community development block grants provided by the City of Fresno and helped create \$25 million worth of real property on an 8 acre campus. Furthermore, over 17 years ago, Jo was instrumental in the creation of the FMAAA's annual event "Seniors Serving Seniors". This event honoring seniors and those who help seniors is held in May of each year and is overwhelmingly successful because of Jo's love for seniors.

The leadership that Jo has shown for the senior community of Fresno has been steadfast during her time of service. Jo serves as

an outstanding example for those who truly want to make a positive difference. I am honored to not only call Jo a friend but also a champion for seniors. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise with me today to express our appreciation for Jo Johnson's dedicated service to seniors and her community.

HONORING DR. TERRI JULIAN, DIRECTOR FOR THE JACK H. WISBY JR. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER TREATMENT CENTER

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Terri Julian, Director for the Jack H. Wisby Jr. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinic and newly instituted Women's Residential Program, at the Batavia Campus of the Veterans Administration Western New York Health System VAWNYHS. Dr. Julian is the past recipient of the Federal Woman of the Year Award, 2006, and it is my privilege to recognize her significant contributions to the VA system, made on behalf of our veterans.

Dr. Julian was the major force behind the development of the Women's Residential Program at the Batavia campus of VAWNYHS. This is one of two programs nationwide in the Veterans Health Administration, VHA, that provides female veterans treatment for military sexual and/or combat trauma. The all-female staff includes a psychologist, social worker and social service assistants who collectively work to improve the care provided to afflicted female veterans. Dr. Julian's dedicated efforts to the program enable its practitioners to provide high-quality care to our nation's female veterans, who, it is recognized by the VHA, have a recovery process that is unique from their male counterparts.

In addition to the Women's Residential Program, Dr. Julian has improved the organizational capacity of the Jack H. Wisby Jr. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinic used by the entire Batavia campus of the VAWNYHS so it now provides the highest quality care for stress-related injuries to all veterans, regardless of gender.

One need only look to Dr. Julian's numerous accolades to understand her commitment and passion for comprehensive care to veterans. As a leader in her field, she is often requested by her peers to lead workshop and training programs, author professional articles and give expert advice on PTSD program development and implementation.

Our servicemen and women sacrifice immensely for our great nation and I am honored that they are recipients of the quality care provided by Dr. Julian and those like her in the VHA. On behalf of the United States Congress, it is my privilege to publically and permanently laud Dr. Terri Julian's dedicated efforts to our veterans.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Madam Chair, I rise to support the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act because it is time that the Wild West of financial "innovation" had a sheriff.

Just over a year ago, I stood on this floor and twice voted against President Bush's taxpayer-funded bailout of Wall Street. I would cast the same votes again. I hope that this legislation will mean that taxpayers will never again be on the hook for the reckless behavior of financiers.

This legislation will help to end "too big to fail" by providing dissolution authority to regulators. Instead of being bailed out with tax dollars, a company like AIG would be dismantled in an orderly and fair process. Shareholders would be wiped out and executives dismissed. This would be paid for, not with tax dollars, but by an assessment on financial firms. The ideal solution would be the reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act, preventing the merger of commercial and investment banks. However, I am glad that this bill at least enables swift intervention and provides a financing mechanism so that bailouts will be a thing of the past.

In addition to being forced to pay for the excesses of Wall Street, consumers have been preyed upon by financial services companies. These companies have profited from unfair and abusive lending practices, including steering families into subprime mortgages. Regulation has been lax or non-existent and there is no single entity charged with looking out for consumers. With the formation of a Consumer Financial Protection Agency an agency will, for the first time, be charged with ensuring that families are not exposed to toxic financial offerings.

Finally, I wholeheartedly support the so-called "cram down" amendment, to allow courts to reset the principal for home mortgages in bankruptcy proceedings. This judicial discretion is allowed for every other type of debt—a reminder of the double standard that has too frequently separated average families from Wall Street.

I urge all of my colleagues to put consumer interests over those of the Big Banks. Let's finally start policing Wall Street. Vote "yes."

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
LT. FRANK HENTSCHELL

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Lt. Frank Hentschell of Munising,

Michigan on his retirement from the Michigan State Police after 36 years of dedicated law enforcement service. Lt. Hentschell's enthusiasm for his work and commitment to the communities he has served is testament to the caliber of officers in the Michigan State Police.

A native of the Upper Peninsula, Lt. Hentschell started his career in uniform as a Boy Scout. He made Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts, by age 13 and continues to be active in Boy Scouts to this day.

As a graduate of Northern Michigan University's Police Academy, Lt. Hentschell was also certified as an EMT and firefighter. His police career began in 1973 with the Manistique Public Safety Department, where he served for five years before leaving the post to help re-establish the Chocolay Police Department near Marquette, Michigan. He served as chief of the Chocolay Police Department for one year before leaving to join the Michigan State Police in 1984.

Following graduation from the 98th State Police Training Academy in Lansing, Michigan, Lt. Hentschell was assigned to the State Police post in Flat Rock down in Southeast Michigan. There he became a member of the Emergency Support Team and served from 1987 to 1995. He also served as a trooper at posts in Erie and Munising and as sergeant at the post in Gaylord, Michigan. He earned the title of Lieutenant in 1995 when he returned to the Upper Peninsula to serve at the Iron River Michigan State Police Post. In 2001, Lt. Hentschell came back to Munising where he has served since.

Over the years, Lt. Hentschell's hard work and dedication has been recognized through a number of written commendations. He received the 1989 Officer of the Year award from Monroe County while serving at the Flat Rock post, and Kiwanian of the Year while serving in Iron River.

Lt. Hentschell's wife Donna has been by his side throughout his career. They will remain in the Munising area following his retirement and look forward to travelling together and spending time with their daughter Sandra and granddaughter, Katie.

Madam Speaker, Lt. Frank Hentschell has spent 36 years of his life enforcing the law and protecting the citizens of Michigan. His lifelong devotion to law enforcement should be commended. Throughout his career he has touched the lives of countless individuals he has worked with and served. I ask Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in recognizing Lt. Hentschell for his courage, his dedication, and his years of service on his retirement from the Michigan State Police.

THE PUBLIC LANDS REHABILITATION AND JOB CREATION ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Public Lands Rehabilitation and Job Creation Act.

The landscape of America is dotted with national treasures, including our national parks, monuments, and forests. From Yosemite Na-

tional Park in my home state of California to Acadia National Park in Maine, national parks are of recognized for the natural splendor that surrounds us and conserving our precious natural resources for future generations must be a priority.

Since 1916, the National Park Service has admirably preserved and protected our natural treasures. In recent years, however, a log jam of maintenance and safety issues has developed. Structures are unsound, trails overgrown, roads impassable, and cabins unusable. A lack of resources, both money and manpower, has contributed to this situation. If we invest in repairing, rebuilding, and rehabilitating these resources now, we will not only have a safer infrastructure and a brighter future, we will employ tens of thousands of people across the nation.

Since January 2008, the number of unemployed Americans has grown each month. In some areas, the unemployment rate has reached more than twenty percent. We have taken steps to stimulate the economy and catch people in the social safety net, but we have not done enough. While a stronger safety net helps families survive, in the end, Americans don't want unemployment checks, they want to work.

We have people without work and work without people. The solution could not be clearer. We can put people back to work now and restore our national treasures by passing this bill to increase funding for the National Park Service and National Forest Service.

Despite almost 8,000 permanent and seasonal employees, nearly every park manager asserts that their current staffing level is woefully insufficient to take on identified maintenance issues. Within four to six months of receiving additional funds, the Park Service can prepare needed plans and complete essential hiring. These new employees will resurface roads; rehabilitate trails; repair visitor centers, museums, and campsites; and restore wild areas to their previous pristine nature. The new opportunities will range from lower-skilled, entry-level work to highly paid, highly skilled, professional and master craftsman jobs.

Similarly, the Forest Service can create at least fourteen and a half direct hire jobs in well-paying fields like engineering, design, and construction for every million dollars we invest in road repair and decommissioning.

Opportunities to improve roads, buildings, and other infrastructure exist in urban and rural areas across the nation, from the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace in New York City, to Fort Sumter in South Carolina; and from Cabrillo National Monument in San Diego to the Hiawatha National Forest in Michigan.

Without additional investment, our infrastructure problems will continue to grow and hinder use and enjoyment of our nation's natural resources. Theodore Roosevelt once said that we should ensure the mountains and trees and canyons and streams are preserved for our children and our children's children, "with their majestic beauty all unmarred." If we continue to neglect our greatest national treasures, our problems will fester and future generations will have less to enjoy.

We can cure this oversight through increased investments that will put more than 50,000 Americans back to work, performing needed, meaningful tasks that our children and grandchildren will enjoy for years to come.

Congress rarely has a chance to act on opportunities this well paired. We should put

Americans back to work and preserve our public lands for future generations. We cannot let this opportunity slip by. We need these jobs, and we need to pass the Public Lands Rehabilitation and Job Creation Act.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, like many pieces of major, ground-breaking legislation, today's product is a hybrid, combining some good with some questionable provisions. On balance, I think the product is positive and begins a step towards reorienting the protections in our financial system to deal with families, consumers, and the integrity of our institutions. The potential meltdown we faced last fall, the bursting of an unsustainable housing bubble, and radically flawed and abusive financial practices are among the many sources to blame. So, unfortunately, were a too lax financial regulatory system and Federal Reserve that in too many cases enabled reckless behavior.

There's plenty of blame for past administrations and Congresses that were too interested in the collection of special interests to appropriately protect the public interest. To be sure, some of this blame rests at the footsteps of American consumers, a few of whom actually abused the system themselves, too many of whom were simply uninformed or did not exercise their own due diligence. On balance, it was the system that failed and we are all paying the price and will for years to come.

This legislation, while the result of a number of compromises, is an important step towards rebalancing priorities and strengthening the protective institutions. I voted in favor of this as a symbol of support for a longer-term process of reform. This is the launch of an extensive process, and it represents a landmark.

Passing the most significant reform bill in decades is an accomplishment that I hope will lead to productive action from the Senate, legislation the President can sign, and, most important, a commitment to continue the process of protection and reform to strike the right balance—legislation and a regulatory process that protects citizens with a touch as light as possible while still being able to do the job. Hopefully, this will inspire everybody—in Congress, in the administration, in the regulatory agencies, in the industry, and in American homes—to play the roles that only they can assume so that the horrific abuses of the financial system become a distant memory.