

peace. Before Neil passed away he was living in India, surrounded by family and everything he loved in life. He was learning meditation, practicing yoga, and playing any number of sports every day.

Even though we often measure life in years, with Neil it is more fitting to measure it in terms of accomplishments. Everything Neil did, he did in splendid fashion. After graduating from Clovis West High School in 2003, he went on to attend the University of California, Irvine, and received a degree in Psychology in 2008. While at U.C. Irvine he was a member of the Crew team, a researcher in the Brain Imaging Center, and a great friend to all his classmates. His success at U.C. Irvine included receiving a patent for MEFWAY, and being awarded a 1st place prize at the Young Investigators Award by the Society of Nuclear Medicine, in Toronto. He continued his academic pursuits as a Fulbright Scholar, attending the Karolinska Institute where he continued his research in brain imaging. Soon after, he attended the University of Cambridge, in England, on a full scholarship. Neil's most notable accomplishment however was not academic, but moral—living compassionately, selflessly, and always thinking of those around him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering Neil for his thirst for life, love of nature, insatiable curiosity, humble spirit, and warm heart.

HONORING CAROLE DILLON-KNUTSON

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 11, 2011*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carole Dillon-Knutson of Novato, CA, who is retiring after 20 years of public office. She served 16 years on the Novato City Council and four years on the College of Mann Board of Trustees, earning the appreciation of her constituents and peers for her many accomplishments that enhanced the community's quality of life.

First elected to the Novato City Council in 1994, Carole is especially proud of significant projects that she worked with colleagues to create including the Novato Arts Center, the Gymnastics Center, several development projects at the former air field at Hamilton from a large wetlands restoration to transitional housing, improvements on Grant Avenue (the city's downtown artery), restoration of City Hall, and refurbishment of the Novato playgrounds.

Carole also represented the community on key boards and commissions such as the Association of Bay Area Government's Executive Committee, the North Bay Division of the League of California Cities (President in 2001), the Marin County Council of Mayors and Council members (President in 2004), the Transportation Authority of Marin Executive Committee, and the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit Agency Board.

Carole says she feels "a deep comfort in the priorities and accomplishments that I originally set as my goals: to create a balanced approach and focus on the quality of life issues so important to the residents of Novato."

Mr. Speaker, I know Carole-Dillon Knutson is looking forward to spending more time with her family, including five grandsons. Please join me in congratulating her on her years of service and in wishing her well in her retirement.

OPENING REMARKS FOR THE  
SCREENING OF THE LAST MOUNTAIN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 11, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following. Thank you for coming this evening and welcome. I am excited to introduce to you The Last Mountain and I am proud to host its screening. It left quite an impression on me when I saw it and I trust it will do the same for you.

Scientific research shows that Mountaintop removal mining is devastating to both the environment and the health of Appalachian communities. It has created a water quality crisis in streams where the debris and spoil from mining sites have been dumped. It has created an environmental crisis for aquatic life in those streams and for the most biologically diverse forests in the world, which are being systematically destroyed by Mountaintop removal.

Mountaintop removal mining has created a public health crisis for people depending on those streams. The research shows that Appalachian residents of areas affected by mountaintop mining experience significantly more unhealthy days each year than the average American; and women who live in areas with high levels of mountaintop coal mining are more likely to have low birth-weight infants and poor birth outcomes.

Not only is mountaintop removal mining environmentally harmful, but it is actually a job destroyer, not a job creator. Studies have shown that mountaintop removal mining has actually had a negative impact on Appalachian employment. Because Mountaintop removal mining relies on enormous machines instead of individual, skilled miners, the number of mining jobs needed to produce each ton of coal has been drastically reduced. Mountaintop removal mining is essentially eliminating the miner from coal mining, contributing to a decrease in mining jobs.

In 1948, there were 126,000 coal-mining jobs in West Virginia and 169,000,000 tons of coal mined. In 2010, however, only 20,000 of these jobs remain despite the fact that almost the same amount of coal—144,000,000 tons—had been mined. This job loss did not result from any regulation. Instead, it occurred because coal companies themselves have replaced workers with machines and explosives. The evidence is clear: mountaintop removal mining destroys both mountains and jobs.

Coal mining in general has experienced a diminishing share of employment in Appalachia as well. The cause is falling demand for coal. According to the Federal Reserve, the capacity of already permitted and active coal mines set an all-time record in 2010, while the utilization of that capacity was at a 25-year low. So, while enough permits have been approved to achieve a new record level of coal

mine capacity, there is simply not enough demand for all of the coal that these mines can produce. Demand for coal, or the decision by consumers to use cleaner, more energy efficient forms of energy, is not something the EPA controls. It is a decision by made by electric generating plant operators and investors. Increasingly, they have chosen to fuel their power plants with natural gas, rather than coal.

Just last week, a study in the prestigious American Economic Review found that the damage from coal-fired electrical plants costs more than twice as much as the electricity they generate. Coal plants wreak \$53 billion worth of damage per year, not considering the enormous harm from climate change.

The Environmental Protection Agency is in the process of trying to fulfill its duty to increase scrutiny of Appalachian mountaintop mining permits. The efforts in the House to undermine the EPA are wrongheaded. I have fought them on the floor and I have fought them as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. And I will continue to fight to stop not only mountaintop mining, but also coal.

Coal-based energy creates ponds of ash that are so toxic the Department of Homeland Security will not disclose their locations for fear of their potential to become a terrorist weapon; it fouls the air and water with sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, particulates, ozone, mercury, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and thousands of other toxic compounds that cause asthma, birth defects, learning disabilities, and pulmonary and cardiac problems . . . for starters.

In contrast, several times more jobs are yielded by renewable energy investments than comparable coal investments. We must redirect the resources of this great nation away from things like war and counterproductive spending cuts and toward creating millions of new jobs in the economic sector of tomorrow; green energy. I will be introducing a bill to create a Works Green Administration which will harness the innovative power of NASA to help create, refine, and ready for distribution the very technologies that put the power in the hands of the people. It will put people to work promoting and installing wind and solar micro-technologies, energy efficiencies, and much more.

Until then, I hope you enjoy the screening tonight. Thank you for your interest and for your time. I look forward to working with you to save mountains, streams, forests, and livelihoods.

IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER  
DANIEL G. CAHILL

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 11, 2011*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Daniel G. Cahill. On September 17, 2011, Father Dan will be recognized as Festival Chieftain at the Irish Festival at the Jersey Shore in Sea Girt, New Jersey. Father Dan continues to provide outstanding spiritual guidance for the members of