

Forest land give me great concern. While this legislation made important improvements over previous versions, motorized/mechanized corridors including at Germania Creek divide one of the nation's most pristine wilderness areas and reduces the habitat available to vulnerable wildlife.

In order to provide stronger protection for pristine wilderness in Idaho and other parts of the Northern Rockies, I have introduced the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA)—which would designate 23 million acres of roadless lands as permanent wilderness. This bill would protect vulnerable habitats, connect biological corridors, and restore habitats that have been damaged by road construction and clear cutting.

I am pleased to see Congress turn its attention to the Northern Rockies, but hope that Members will recognize the significant shortfalls of H.R. 1138. As it is considered in the Senate, this legislation should be amended to preserve one of the largest roadless wilderness areas in the lower 48 states, as well as grant protection to additional areas in the Northern Rockies identified in NREPA.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, the House voted on H.R. 675, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015, a bipartisan bill that protects veterans' benefits from inflation. I was unavoidably detained; however, if I had been present, I would have voted in favor of this much needed legislation.

Veterans and their families have sacrificed greatly for our country, and it is unacceptable that so many military families are struggling every day to make ends meet. These brave individuals should never be faced with the difficult choice of either paying their bills or feeding their families. As the greatest country in the world, we have a moral obligation to fix this situation and provide veterans with the compensation and support they deserve. I believe this bill is a strong first step in the right direction.

Today, I applaud my colleagues in Congress for voting in favor of struggling veterans, disabled former service members, and their families by supporting the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015. Moreover, I ask my fellow Members of Congress to continue advocating for our veterans by encouraging companies to hire vets while also addressing the systemic problems within the VA healthcare system.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS GRIFFIN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Griffin, a very intelligent,

talented, and motivated member of my staff who transitions this week from my office to begin law school next month at the University of Oregon.

Hailing from Central Oregon, Thomas was born at Mountain View Hospital where his mom was a pharmacist. He was raised on a third generation family farm between Culver and Lake Billy Chinook and became involved in the family grass and vegetable seed company.

Thomas graduated from Culver High School, where he was a state champion in football, student body president, and valedictorian of his class of 54. He was also involved in the FFA, rising to be President of the state organization in March of his senior year in high school.

He spent the next year on the road, visiting more than 50 FFA chapters and facilitating agricultural leadership and awareness workshops for over 5,000 high school students. It was through FFA that Thomas made his first trip to Washington, D.C., and first met me during the state convention in La Grande in 2009.

After his dedicated leadership as FFA state president, Thomas started college at Oregon State in 2009. He followed in the footsteps of his parents, both proud Beaver alums. He graduated in 2012 with a degree in environmental economics, policy and management, and a minor in agricultural business management.

I originally hired Thomas as an intern in my office, and since then he has served in my office as a Legislative Correspondent and currently as a senior Legislative Assistant. When Thomas first applied for an internship, he was recommended to me by several top leaders in the agricultural community. Once he started, I quickly took note of Thomas's dedication, work ethic, and passion for serving constituents in Oregon's Second Congressional District. This led me to hire Thomas to work in my office full time after he graduated from Oregon State. In my office, he quickly acclimated to the multifaceted job he was hired to tackle.

Thomas has been assisting me primarily on issues related to federal agriculture, forestry, natural resources, and water policy. With 53 percent of the land in Oregon being owned and managed by the federal government, these issues are of critical importance to the economy and people in my congressional district. Thomas's good work and assistance helped me pass federal forestry reform legislation through the House of Representatives for the first time in nearly 10 years, in addition to several other pieces of legislation that were Oregon focused.

As Thomas proved that he was capable of handling more responsibility in my office, he has since added other issue areas to his legislative portfolio including education, trade, energy, and financial services. I have been impressed as Thomas has approached these new responsibilities with a can-do attitude, demonstrating a high level of commitment and integrity. Thomas has my complete confidence in his abilities, something I hear echoed from my Chief of Staff and others that he works with.

Now, Thomas is headed to the University of Oregon for law school. He plans to focus on environmental and business law to help ensure that our farmers, ranchers, and foresters can focus on what they do best: producing the best food, fiber, and fuel in the world.

On a personal note, as a dedicated Oregon Duck myself, I am eager to see Thomas—a lifelong Oregon State Beaver—join our proud Duck community.

Thomas will be sorely missed by me and my team, but we plan to stay in close touch and will enjoy seeing his successes down the road. With that, Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Thomas the best of luck as he heads West and "Go Ducks!"

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 467, 468, and 469. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on each.

HONORING CARL JENSEN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Carl Jensen, founder of Project Censored, who passed away on April 23, 2015.

Mr. Jensen was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1929, the only child of Danish and Swedish immigrants. His family moved to Northern California at the outbreak of World War II, settling in Arcata in Humboldt County. Throughout his career and life, he lived many places including Europe, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and eventually to Cotati in 1973 where he met his wife Sandra while teaching at Sonoma State University. Prior to his time in academia Jensen served his country as an Air Force intelligence officer in Puerto Rico during the Korean War. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Sherman Jackson of Crescent City and John Jensen of Lucerne, and two daughters, Lisa Jensen of Monterey and Pia Jensen.

Mr. Jensen was a professor emeritus of Sociology and Communications Studies at Sonoma State University in California and author of *Censored—The News That Didn't Make the News and Why* (from 1976 to 1996), *20 Years of Censored News* (1997), and *Stories That Changed America: Muckrakers of the 20th Century* (2000). He founded Project Censored, the internationally recognized media research project, in 1976.

Project Censored has remained a distinguishing aspect of the university's curriculum for 39 years. Jensen's pioneering program of hands-on student training in independent journalism has now been adopted at dozens of college and university campuses across the country and around the world. And today, Project Censored is the longest running research project on news media censorship. A true and lasting achievement to be sure.

His legacy is not fully encompassed by his published work. It also includes the hundreds of undergraduate students, at Sonoma State and in classrooms across the nation, who research news stories from the independent