

HONORING ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE BLM NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS, ABBIE JOSSIE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative GARAMENDI and Representative HUFFMAN, rise to recognize and honor Assistant Director Abbie Jossie for her great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Assistant Director Jossie to further our mutual goal of preserving our nation's great open spaces, and we look forward to collaborating in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 111, 112 and 113. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 111, 112 and 113.

CONGRATULATING THE ROMEO BULLDOGS HOCKEY TEAM ON WINNING THE DIVISION 2 MICHIGAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize a special achievement recently accomplished by the Romeo Bulldogs High School Hockey Team. Romeo capped off a remarkable and extremely memorable 2015–2016 season by taking home to Macomb County the school's first ever Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Division 2 State Championship. After a hard fought season, the Bulldogs finished with an overall record of 27–2–1 and charged into the playoffs facing off against tough competition before stunning the Livonia Stevenson Spartans at the USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

In his second year as head coach, Nick Badder and his team have had great success. Last year's team won 20 regular season games for the first time in school history and was crowned the regional champion. But, Coach Badder and the rest of the team knew they could achieve more. There is always a learning curve for head coaches, but Coach Badder did not waste much time in turning the Romeo Bulldogs into champions. With hockey in his veins from playing NCAA hockey for the Central Michigan Chippewas, Coach Badder used both his youth and hockey experience to relate and teach the 22 young men to be better players, teammates and students. Coach Badder knew he had a fast and physical team, but they needed to focus on the details and play a better defensive game. All of these attributes came together at precisely the right time and the Romeo Bulldogs are now State Champions.

Before making it to the State Championship game, the Romeo Bulldogs faced many competitors in the tournament. The Bulldogs faced a Davison team coming off of a 6–0 win over Lapeer and defeated them 8–3 in the pre-regional final. Next, Romeo faced Port Huron Northern and beat them by a score of 7–1 in the regional final. From there, the Romeo Bulldogs faced the Anchor Bay Tars at Suburban Ice Arena and bested them 8–3 in the quarter-final. In the semifinals, Romeo faced a tough Ada Forest Hills Eastern team. This was Romeo's toughest test yet, but the Bulldogs remained unscathed in the playoffs with a 5–2 victory. With their sights on the championship, the Romeo Bulldogs would play in one final game and face their toughest challenge of the season. The Livonia Stevenson Spartans were now the only team that separated them from history.

The Livonia Stevenson Spartans won the state championship in 2013 and finished as last year's runner-up, while the Romeo Bulldogs had never appeared in a championship game. The perennial powerhouse Spartans had the wind at their backs and history on their side, but history was about to change. Seven minutes into the game, Junior forward Brett Lanski scored to give Romeo a 1–0 lead. Stevenson scored less than four minutes later to even the score. Not long after, Logan Jenuwine scored a power play goal to give

Romeo a 2–1 lead. In the next five minutes, Stevenson would score three goals to take a 4–2 lead. Coach Badder decided to call a crucial time out at this point to settle his team and slow the pace of the game. This decision proved to be a critical turning point in the game. Brett Lanski went on to score his second goal of the game, putting the Bulldogs within one shot of a tie. Less than a minute later, Luke Kaczor deflected defenseman Logan Ganfield's shot to tie the game with a minute and a half left in the period. In the third period, Stevenson received a five minute major for head-butting that put Romeo on a critical power play. The Bulldogs took advantage and Logan Jenuwine scored his second of the game giving Romeo a 5–4 lead. Steven Morris capped off the comeback victory with an empty net goal that sealed the 6–4 victory for the Romeo Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs throughout the season exhibited all the qualities that make up a championship hockey team: heart, discipline and a positive attitude. As legendary Hall of Fame Defenseman Paul Coffey once said, "Hockey's a funny game You have to prove yourself every shift, every game. It's not up to anybody else. You have to take pride in yourself."

I applaud these young men for remaining both mentally and physically ready to compete. In addition, I want to commend the Bulldogs for staying energized and focused each time they stepped on to the ice. I understand this can be an extremely difficult task considering the numerous pressures and distractions high school student-athletes can encounter.

I wish to recognize the hard work and sportsmanship displayed by all the members of this hockey team. These individuals are: Harrison Hunt, Brett Lanski, Zach Peters, Lorenzo Evangelista, Frank Ruffino, Logan Ganfield, Blake Gabler, Jacob Sunderliik, Chase Gillem, Andrew Cate, Luke Kaczor, Ryan Peters, Joey Morris, Jake Petri, Dan Geffert, Nick Blankenburg, Nolan Kare, Garrett Ganfield, Steven Morris, Max Citro, Logan Jenuwine, and Grant Williams along with Head Coach Nick Badder, and Assistant Coaches Adam Krefski, Brennan Cavanagh and Kyle White, Athletic Trainer Kim Ostrolencki and Manager Kim Gamble.

I also want to congratulate administrators, teachers, cheerleaders, parents, students and fans alike for their assistance and for making this an unforgettable season. The Bulldogs proved they had the skill, heart and resilience to rise to the challenge and accomplish their ultimate goal—a State Championship. Teamwork, perseverance and friendship all contributed to this title as well. I know the community takes great pride in what these young men were able to achieve.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I share that same pride. I want to offer my personal congratulations. All the accolades, awards and trophies are rightfully deserved. Way to go Bulldogs.

HONORING DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR THE HONORABLE SENATOR BARBARA BOXER, TOM BOHIGIAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative GARAMENDI and

Representative HUFFMAN, rise to recognize and honor Director Tom Bohigian for his great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates like Mr. Bohigian. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

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The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Mr. Bohigian to further our mutual goal of preserving our nation's great open spaces, and we look forward to collaborating in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF BILL ROTCH'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of one of my distinguished and active constituents, Mr. Bill Rotch, on his 100th birthday; he is a beloved member of the Peterborough, NH community that I am proud to represent in Congress. On March 28, 2016, Bill will celebrate his 100th birthday. We commemorate Bill's birthday with awe and inspiration as he is a true example of what has made the Granite State such a strong and vibrant place.

Bill Rotch was the publisher and editor of The Cabinet, an iconic New Hampshire newspaper, for many decades. Last year Mr. Rotch was recognized with the Boston Post Cane, an honor bestowed upon the oldest resident of Peterborough.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the 100th birthday of one of my most engaged constituents, Bill Rotch. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating this milestone in his remarkable life.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE WALLA
WALLA FRONTIER DAYS

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Walla Walla Frontier Days.

I am extremely proud to represent Walla Walla in Congress. The Walla Walla Valley is one of the most fertile agricultural areas in the nation, producing crops such as wheat, asparagus, strawberries, and of course, Walla Walla Sweet Onions. Yet, with more than 100 wineries, the area is also known as world-class wine country.

The Walla Walla Frontier Days is the oldest fair in the state of Washington. According to the history of the Walla Walla County Fair and Fairgrounds:

In 1866, the Walla Walla Agricultural Society staged a large agricultural and industrial exposition to showcase the valley crops and the latest farming methods. This event, the first county fair, was held on the horse-track racing grounds which had been built in 1862 three miles west of the then city limits. Throughout the years, the fair was known by many names, hosted at many locations throughout the county, and governed by many civic organizations in the area.

In 1906, the historic pavilion was built for a fruit exhibit and concert hall. In 1913, the management decided to inaugurate a new order of business and as a result the "Frontier Days" came into existence with its spectacular display of bull dogging, relay races, stagecoach races, cowboys, cowgirls and other local participants representing one of the last stands of the "Wild West."

Walla Walla County purchased the present Fairgrounds in 1923 and after two years of the successful pageant "How the West was Won," the fair came back under sponsorship of the Walla Walla County Farm Bureau. The next year, the Farm Bureau was joined by the Chamber of Commerce as the two sponsoring groups.

In 1935, Fair royalty was an added element and young ladies from the region competed and this tradition has continued to date, with the exception of the World War II years. In 1939, as an acknowledgment of commitment to the Fair, the committee added an annual parade marshal to the Frontier Days parade.

In 1974, world class country entertainment was added to the annual fair. In 2008, the Rodeo Legends award was implemented acknowledging the outstanding men and women of the valley who have attained a high level of achievement in the sport of Rodeo.

Throughout the years, the 4-H and Future Farmers of America programs have become the annual showcase of the region's younger population, fostering the next generation of the agricultural community.

The remarkable legacy of the Walla Walla Frontier Days would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the Fair's board members and managers, elected officials, community leaders, businesses, sponsors, and most importantly, thousands of community volunteers who collectively have maintained a steadfast commitment to ensur-

ing its success. Although much has changed about the Frontier Days over the past 150 years, its importance to communities throughout Southeastern Washington has remained constant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of our colleagues join me in celebrating the sesquicentennial anniversary of the oldest fair in the state of Washington, the Walla Walla Frontier Days.

HONORING THE U.S. FOREST
SERVICE CHIEF TOM TIDWELL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative GARAMENDI and Representative HUFFMAN, rise to recognize and honor Chief Tom Tidwell for his great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

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MEDIA IGNORES DISMISSAL

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the national liberal media routinely ignore scandals