

Mr. President, the authors of the AFA certainly took into account the particular circumstances of other vessel owners and companies. This technical amendment simply qualifies two vessels, the *Providian* and the *Hazel Lorraine* under the AFA for fishing rights that they otherwise should have received allow for the participation of two additional catcher vessels in the Alaskan pollock fishery. These vessels were able to demonstrate that they should have been included in the Act when it passed in 1998.

I would like to thank Senator KERRY, the ranking member of the Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee for his hard work and support of this bill. I would also like to thank Senator INOUE for his support, particularly for his contributions to the coral reef conservation section of the bill. In addition, I would like to thank Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, and Senator HOLLINGS, the ranking member of the Committee, for their bipartisan support of this measure. We have before us an opportunity to significantly improve our nation's ability to conserve and manage our marine resources and I urge the Senate to pass H.R. 1653, as amended.

#### RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSMAN NEIL STAEBLER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the life and accomplishments of a distinguished and principled public servant who served as a Member of Congress from my home state of Michigan, Neil Staebler. For nearly six decades, Neil embodied the very ideals on which this nation was founded. Born in 1905, Neil Staebler is widely credited as a founder of the modern Michigan Democratic Party. However, Neil's greatest desire was to make our government work for all its citizens.

Throughout his life, Neil dedicated himself to serving the United States of America. At the age of thirty-seven, he joined the World War II effort by enlisting in the United States Navy, where he served as a lieutenant.

After the conclusion of the war, Neil and a group of other distinguished citizens from Michigan, including former Governor G. Mennen Williams, former Congresswoman and Lieutenant Governor Martha Griffiths, and Martha's husband Hicks, helped to re-shape the Michigan Democratic Party and alter the landscape of Michigan politics. They sought to reinvigorate the Democratic Party and make it more responsive to the will and the needs of Michigan's citizens. Their efforts led to a renewed vibrancy within the Michigan Democratic Party, and propelled Neil to the chairmanship of the Party.

Neil served as state chairman for over a decade, and was able to use his position to encourage active political

participation by all people. In addition to serving as state chairman and winning a seat to Congress in 1962, he ran an unsuccessful but hard fought challenge of Governor George Romney in 1964.

While he was a loyal member of the Democratic Party, Neil Staebler was first and foremost committed to our nation's institutions and the need for all citizens to participate in the democratic process. President Gerald Ford recognized Neil's commitment to civic participation when he appointed him to serve on the first Federal Elections Commission.

Throughout this year's election, people of differing political allegiances have remarked on the stable and resilient nature of our nation's institutions. Our health as a democracy is due, in a large part, to the dedication and efforts of individuals like Neil Staebler. Neil Staebler was one of the true lions of Michigan and American politics. I am sure that my Senate colleagues will join me in honoring the memory of Neil Staebler, and in wishing his wife Burnette and their family well in the years ahead.

#### THE MILLENNIUM HOLIDAY TREE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, the wonderful tree currently gracing the West lawn of this Capitol is from Colorado. I have had the pleasure of working towards getting this tree to DC for 2½ years, and I wanted to share with my colleagues a little about my home state's gift to the nation.

The Millennium Holiday Tree is a gift from the entire state of Colorado to our nation. It is a celebration of all that is Colorado: natural beauty, many cultures, cities and rural communities, and our rich history. The Colorado tree will be shining through early January 2001. The Millennium Holiday Tree is a native Colorado Blue Spruce which stands 65' tall and was projected to be 77 years old at the time of cutting. It was grown on the Pike National Forest near the community of Woodland Park. The tree was selected from this area because it is in the shadow of Pikes Peak, often referred to as "America's Mountain".

The Colorado State Forest Service is growing seedlings from the "grandma" tree. Seedlings from the Millennium Holiday Tree will be replanted at the cutting site. The Governor and Francis Owens were among the first to receive a Holiday Tree seedling for their support of this project. Hundreds of seedlings will also be planted in memorial forests around the state as part of Holiday Tree celebrations.

Colorado school children made over 4,000 ornaments for the tree. They each depict the theme: "Valuing the Past—Looking to the Future". Each county had the opportunity to supply 100 ornaments for the Millennium Holiday Tree and the companion trees.

Through the many community events, we celebrated the richness of Colorado. Each reflected the wide range of cultural and historical influences present in our communities—Native American, Hispanics, pioneers, and others. Local celebrations were encouraged in each of Colorado's 64 counties and at each of the 10 stops along the Tree route. Santa Fe Trail communities in Kansas and Missouri joined the celebrations too, including one in St. Louis at a National Park Service historic site. After the cutting ceremony on November 20th, the tree was moved indoors where the limbs were drawn up and secured for the long journey. A 65-foot trailer, designed to look like a historic Conestoga pioneer wagon, hauled the tree. Organizers used an experimental shrink wrap method to keep the tree fresh and secure from weather damage. The tree traveled caravan-style here to our nation's Capitol following the Santa Fe Trail, a historic trade route through Colorado, Kansas and Missouri. My friend and our colleague from Colorado, Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL, actually drove the tree carrying truck all the way out here. He told me he had a great time, and I believe him.

Sixty four smaller companion trees, one from each county, traveled with the Millennium Holiday Tree and were placed in various government offices throughout DC.

This entire project was made possible through generous financial and in-kind support from the many sponsors. Volunteers, donations, and sponsorships made it all possible. Unused surpluses from this project will be set aside for a rural endowment fund. The year 2000 will be the 31st year a tree has been provided by the U.S. Forest Service and its partners. And I want to especially thank Dr. Raitano and Bill Nelson for their incredible work on this. They "parented" the project for years and it is due to their efforts it all turned out so well.

#### "SHALL ISSUE" LEGISLATION IN MICHIGAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, late Wednesday night, the Michigan Legislature passed a bill that, if signed, will have a negative impact on public safety in my home state. The legislature passed the "shall issue" bill which would require that local licensing authorities "shall" or must issue a concealed handgun license to a person who passes a background check and a safety course. Notably, the legislature waited until after the election to pass the legislation.

The current law in our state now gives local gun boards discretion to issue concealed gun licenses where a need is shown. Current law allows local gun boards—each made up of a local sheriff, a county prosecutor and a designee of the State police—to determine