

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 305. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." I ask unanimous consent that this be noted at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

**COLORADO RIVER QUANTIFICATION SETTLEMENT FACILITATION ACT**

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the story of the American West is one of a relentless quest for our most precious resource: water. Hundreds of rivers have been diverted and dammed, and thousands have lost their lives over this precious resource. Many of these battles continue today as our Western population rapidly grows, environmental regulations increase, and farmers find themselves in the outrageous predicament of arguing over what should have a priority during water shortages: the livelihood of their families and communities—or fish.

Today I am proud to introduce the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Facilitation Act. This legislation will enable California to avoid future water conflicts by establishing the means for new conservation measures. In addition, it will ensure a reliable source of water for Southern California's many agricultural and urban users.

For decades, California has been using approximately 800,000 acre feet per year more from the Colorado River than its 4.4 million acre feet water right. Understandably, the other river basin states, with many of their communities growing rapidly, have long expressed concern. They feel our continued use of their surplus water, with no plan to wean ourselves from such use, will come into conflict with their inevitable need to utilize their full water rights.

In recent months, the California Colorado River water agencies and the other basin states came to an important agreement. This agreement established a time-line for California to gradually, over fifteen years, decrease its dependency on the Colorado River and live within its 4.4 million acre feet annual allotment. The agreement establishes new operating procedures that allow California to continue to use excess river water, while they develop ways to establish agricultural conservation measures. This will make possible increased transfers of water to urban areas and ensure our future compliance. Further, the agreement mandates that California adhere to specific benchmark conservation goals, which if go unmet, California would immediately be forced to live within the 4.4 million acre feet allotment. Such a scenario would prove disastrous to our state.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

My legislation will help California avert such a crisis by providing a degree of certainty in completing the agreement's required benchmarks, funding off-stream reservoirs to store surplus water, and insuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act by funding environmental mitigation in and around the Salton Sea. The Sea, in my district, is the largest lake in California and habitat for hundreds of species of birds and fish, which I aim to protect against the effects of any water conservation measures.

Again, I introduce the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Facilitation Act. This bill will promote conservation and enable reliable water supplies for California for decades to come. I urge my colleagues' thoughtful consideration.

**TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE**

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, once again it is with pride that I rise to pay tribute to the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade, on its thirteenth year of celebrating the culture and contributions of the Puerto Rican community to our nation.

The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade will be held on Sunday, August 5, in my South Bronx Congressional District. The event is the culmination of a series of activities surrounding Puerto Rican Week in the Bronx.

Under the direction of the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee, Inc., the parade has grown into one of the most colorful and important festivals of Puerto Rican culture in the five boroughs of New York City and beyond. The Parade brings together people from all ethnic backgrounds, including Puerto Ricans from the Island and all across the nation.

It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of thousands of people who will march with pride along the Grand Concourse in celebration of our Puerto Rican heritage. The Puerto Rican flag and other ornaments in the flag's red, white, and blue will decorate the festival.

As one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest to the excitement it generates as it brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It is wonderful that so many people can have this experience, which will change the lives of many of them. There's no better way to see our community in the Bronx.

The event will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. The Parade will end with live music, Puerto Rican food, crafts, and other entertainment. It is expected that this year's parade will surpass last year's number of visitors.

In addition to the parade, the many organizers have provided the community with nearly a week of activities to commemorate the contributions of the Puerto Rican community, its culture and history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying trib-

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ute to this wonderful celebration of Puerto Rican culture, which has brought so much pride to the Bronx community.

**RECOGNIZING ANDY AND BETTY BECKSTOFFER FOR BEING CITIZENS OF THE YEAR**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andy and Betty Beckstoffer for being named St. Helena 2001 Citizens of the Year. As residents of St. Helena for over 25 years, they consistently contribute positively to my hometown.

Two of my great friends, Andy and Betty Beckstoffer, have been at the helm of one of the most successful grape growing operations in the country. Beckstoffer Vineyards now owns and operates vineyards in Mendocino, Lake, and Napa counties, all three of which I am honored to represent in Congress.

I admire the Beckstoffers for their success in the grape growing business and in community service. Andy has always been a leader in utilizing new technologies to increase the quality of wine grapes from Northern California. The highly respected winegrowing region in my district owes a lot of its success to the innovative style of Andy Beckstoffer.

Betty Beckstoffer is currently a member of the board of the St. Helena Boys & Girls Club. She works tirelessly to improve the lives of the young people in the Napa Valley. Betty has been a real star in generating support for the Club—she has coordinated fundraising efforts to bring thousands of dollars to support the goal of aiding at-risk children.

The Beckstoffers moved to my hometown, St. Helena, in 1975, the same year Andy became a founding director of the Napa Valley Grape Growers Association. Beckstoffer Vineyards came to life after Andy invested \$7,500 to buy a small grape growing company in 1973. The company has grown under the care of the Beckstoffers to a company that now owns over 2500 acres of Northern California vineyards.

Andy and Betty were married in 1960, and are the proud parents of five children. Our community and our country are fortunate to have citizens like the Beckstoffers promoting the wine industry and working to improve the lives of our nation's youth.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the achievements of Andy and Betty Beckstoffer. The town of St. Helena, the entire Napa Valley, and our nation should aspire to achieve the success of these two great Americans.