

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARINE  
MAMMAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS  
IN ALASKA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Marine Mammal Cooperative Agreements in Alaska Amendments of 2008.

The 1994 amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act created section 119 of the Act, titled "Marine Mammal Cooperative Agreements in Alaska," which allows the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with Alaska Native organizations. These cooperative agreements have been very successful in creating statewide and regional Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions protecting species such as the polar bear, walrus, sea otters, beluga whale, harbor and ice seals, and Steller sea lions. The cooperative agreements have provided grants to Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions to conduct important marine mammal data collection efforts, marine mammal research, and monitor subsistence activities.

Alaska Natives have been excellent stewards of Alaska's natural resources for centuries. The Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions have continued this tradition by working cooperatively with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to successfully manage the species under their respective jurisdictions. In order to further this success, the Commissions have advocated for management of subsistence activities. Section 119 of the MMPA does not currently allow for management of subsistence activities prior to a depletion finding under the Act.

In 2000, the Clinton Administration sent Congress a draft bill to reauthorize the MMPA and included in it authorities for the Alaska Marine Mammal Commissions to manage and enforce subsistence activities. The Bush Administration followed suit including similar language in its own draft bill to reauthorize the MMPA.

I have not taken the exact approach of the Clinton and Bush proposals, however, I do believe this legislation will achieve the same result. I have worked with the administration, the Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions, and State of Alaska representatives to develop a bill that allows for management prior to a depletion finding under the MMPA.

The Whaling Convention Act of 1949, which governs the Bowhead whale subsistence activities, and the more recently passed legislation implementing the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Treaty, governing the subsistence take of polar bears, are two excellent examples of legislation Congress passed to authorize marine mammal management activities.

This legislation will further refine the cooperative management process under the MMPA to ensure that Alaska Natives and the Federal agencies with marine mammal management authority have the tools they need to continue their successful management efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support this important conservation legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
MONSIGNOR JOSEPH CHAMPLIN

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of Syracuse's most beloved priests, Monsignor Joseph Champlin, who passed away on January 17 at the age of 77.

Throughout his life Father Joe was dedicated not only to the priesthood and his faith, but also to the people and communities he served.

Ordained in 1956, Father Joe served for 50 years in the Syracuse Diocese. He served as pastor in three parishes, including as rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from 1995 until his retirement in 2005. Even in retirement, Msgr. Champlin was active in the church and the community. In 2006 he became priest in residence at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Warners, New York.

Father Joe was known worldwide for being a prolific writer. He wrote more than 62 books and pamphlets on liturgy, pastoral theology, love, and marriage. In fact, Father Champlin's "Together for Life" continues to lead Catholic couples across the country and around the world through preparation for marriage.

In addition to his success as a writer, Msgr. Champlin remained committed to the people of the greater Syracuse area throughout his life. In 1997 he founded the Guardian Angel Society, which provides tuition assistance, technological updates, and other improvements to the former Cathedral School in Syracuse. He raised more than \$2 million for the program, and for that effort he was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award by President George W. Bush in 2005. He also received the Post-Standard Achievement Award in 2005 and the Temple Adath Yeshurun Citizen of the year award this past October.

Msgr. Champlin's commitment to the Catholic Church and the people that he served is unquestionable. He was a beloved priest and friend, and will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA W. BARK

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Martha Bark. On February 21, 2008, Mrs. Bark will be celebrated for her contributions to southern New Jersey at the Burlington County Republican Committee and Burlington County Republican Women's Annual Lincoln Day Dinner.

Martha Bark has dedicated a lifetime of service to our communities. A resident of Medford for over 40 years, Martha served on the

township school board for 10 years and the township committee for 7 years. She was also appointed mayor and served two full terms.

Furthering her interest in serving the broad community, Martha was elected to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1984. Given her background in education and community preservation, she became the chairperson of the Water Quality Management Board and worked on several additional committees aimed at increasing open space. Martha served four consecutive terms and was appointed freeholder director for 2 years.

After her tenure as a freeholder, Martha went on to become a member of the New Jersey State Assembly for 2 years and finally, a member of the New Jersey State Senate in 1997. As a senator, she served on the Transportation and Economic Growth, Tourism, and Agricultural Committee, where she was elected chairperson. As a former business owner, it was natural for Martha to become a member of the Senate Community & Urban Affairs Committee and also a member of the Senate Budget Committee.

Outside public office, Martha has volunteered her time to various organizations. She was a member of the Burlington County Farmland Preservation Advisory Board and the Burlington County Open Space Advisory Board. Martha also sat on the Burlington County Family Services Board and was a member of the HB Industrial Village Conservancy Board of Trustees.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for her leadership, commitment, and service to the public.

HONORING OF ONE ACCORD MINISTRY  
AND ALL FIRST DISTRICT  
VOLUNTEERS

**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of the volunteers of Tennessee and the First District. Of One Accord Ministry is a charity that is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Tennessee has been called the "Volunteer" state by the great efforts of our citizens during The War of 1812. Since The War of 1812 the people of Tennessee continue to show pride, dedication and service through volunteer efforts. People from around the nation are moving into my district to enjoy the wonderful quality of life found in its beauty and the spirit of its people. Our first volunteers were heroes serving in The War of 1812 and our citizens today are heroes sacrificing their time and effort to volunteer in an assortment of ways.

Of One Accord Ministry serves two rural and lowly populated counties in my district and continually utilizes the efforts of nearly 500 people during 2007. These 500 volunteers have sacrificed over 51,533 hours of service and have served over 71,695 people in various ways. The ministry serves from four physical sites offering emergency food distribution, meal delivery for seniors five days a week, participating in our states summer feeding program, offering a free medical clinic, doing

home repairs, organizing the county's Christ-mas programs and others.

Of One Accord does not work alone. They work hand-in-hand with schools, clubs, scouts, and Postal workers to help complete their mis-sion. Similarly, partnerships with businesses, hospitals and laboratories provide other serv-ices for the clinic. The help does not stop there; many others supply resources and help in any way possible.

We tend to overlook the millions of volun-teers across the nation giving their time and efforts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ap-plaud the volunteers from Of One Accord Min-istry who have served for 20 years and all of the volunteers in Tennessee's First District alike.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DOLORES  
"DEE" BENSON

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and honor of Dolores "Dee" Benson, a beloved figure in Cleveland area politics and a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

Dee was born in 1925 in Altoona, Pennsylv-ania, where she spent most of her early life. She was an exceptional student at Altoona High School, and had a special gift for foreign languages and science. She was offered a full tuition scholarship to Penn State University, but chose to go to work instead. She married Bud in 1947 and they moved to Cleveland to raise their seven children, Robert, Patrick, Jacqueline, Mary, Elizabeth, Denise, and Christine. She will also be dearly missed by her 11 grandchildren and six great grand-children.

Dee was incredibly active in her Cleveland neighborhood, serving as President of the Southwest Military Moms; President, Treas-urer, and Secretary of Parma Women's Demo-cratic Club; Precinct Committeewoman and Democratic Ward Leader for the community of Seven Hills; and a founding member of St. An-thony of Padua Parish; just to name a few of her many accomplishments and activities.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Dee Benson, a much-loved activist whose contributions to her community will continue to uphold her legacy.

IN MEMORY OF CHERIE LOVE

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my longtime friend, Cherie Willard Love. She passed away a couple of weeks ago but she will always be remembered by those she touched.

And she touched many.

Cherie was a Ventura County, California, native, having been born in Oxnard 76 years

ago. After earning a bachelor's degree from Whittier College and a master's from La Verne College. Cherie embarked on a career as a kindergarten teacher. For the first twelve years, she taught in Oceano and San Luis Obispo, but then returned to her roots and taught in the Ventura Unified School District for the next 26 years.

Teaching was not a job to Cherie; it was her passion.

That passion for her students and profes-sion earned her recognition in October 1986 as the top teacher of the month by the Greater Ventura Chamber of Commerce's Youth and Education Committee. Outside the classroom, Cherie was an active member of the Philan-thropic Education Organization, Alpha Delta Kappa, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the Cali-fornia Retired Teacher's Association.

Cherie also served as president of the Ven-tura Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Foundation, which provides scholarships to local college students studying for a career in education. As a final act toward her beloved profession. Cherie directed friends and rel-atives to donate to the fund in her memory.

Cherie outlived two husbands. Don Crinklaw and Don Love, and a son, Bruce Crinklaw, but is survived by a host of other family, including her twin sister, Charlene Blalock-Carlson, and three other sisters, Carrie Perkins, Cyndie Huntsberger, and Sandy Elkhardt; daughters, Sharlee Villa and Carla Dennis; cousin, George Cady; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering Cherie Love's lifelong passion for education and her love of family and community and in offering our con-dolences to her family and friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF COLEMAN'S AU-  
THENTIC IRISH PUB

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Coleman's Authentic Irish Pub in Syracuse, New York.

Founded in 1933, Coleman's, located on Tipperary Hill, is a fixture of the Central New York community. Throughout its long history, Coleman's has transformed from a working man's saloon in the 1930's to a college hot spot in the 1970's to the first class restaurant and pub it is today. With its great food, won-derful service, and Irish atmosphere. Cole-man's Authentic Irish Pub is a place for all generations to enjoy and is a premiere attrac-tion in central New York.

Coleman's has always strived to maintain the highest standards of public service, and I am proud to recognize them today. I congratu-late owner Peter J. Coleman, his wife Mary Pat and children, and his employees, both past and present, on reaching this milestone. On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I thank them for their 75 years of business that has been such a positive influ-ence on the community.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY CHATZIDAKIS

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Larry Chatzidakis. On Feb-ruary 21, 2008, Mr. Chatzidakis will be cele-brated for his contributions to Burlington Coun-ty at the Burlington County Republican Com-mittee and Burlington County Republican Women's Annual Lincoln Day Dinner.

Since 1985, Larry Chatzidakis has rep-resented the best interests of Burlington Coun-ty residents. He was first elected to the Mount Laurel Township Council and remained until 2000. Proving a valuable asset to the commu-nity, Larry was re-elected mayor four times and spearheaded numerous projects during his tenure. Residents may remember him most for his role in the construction of Laurel Acres Park. It has become a natural choice for Mount Laurel residents looking for recreation, with its many exercise trails, playground equipment, and sledding hill. Most recently, a veteran's memorial was added to the site to honor those who have served in our Armed Forces. In addition to his mayoral duties, Larry was elected to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1995.

From 1997-2008, Larry represented the 8th District as a member of the New Jersey State Assembly. He continued to offer his talents in the Assembly as a member of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and as vice-chair of the Solid and Hazardous Waste Committee. As a conscien-tious elected public official, Larry took the con-cerns of his constituents to heart as he be-came a member of the Commission to Deter Criminal Activity and a member of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

No stranger to the community at large, Larry served on the board of the Burlington County Red Cross and was also chairman of the Bur-lington County Boy Scouts Mahalala District. He is also a member of the Mount Laurel Ro-tary Club for 17 years and served one term as president.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it gives me great honor to recognize Larry Chatzidakis for his tremendous efforts and devotion to his community. I and the people of New Jersey are greatly appreciative of him and sincerely thank him for all of his dedication.

IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAMESE  
NEW YEAR: TET, 2008—YEAR OF  
THE RAT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, 2008, is the Year of the Rat. As the Vietnamese com-munity in Greater Cleveland gathers at St. Helena Catholic Church to enjoy their Viet-namese culture, I join them in celebration of this rich heritage.

The Tet is the time of the year for our Viet-namese neighbors to honor those that have