

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2578) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes:

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my reserved support for the legislation before us today.

This bill, like so many others that we vote on, is far from perfect. I have reservations about the continued expansion of Administrative authority to waive laws that we enact here in Congress and I have reservations about continuing to expose some of the most wild and pristine areas of our country to development. However, I will support this bill because of its positive impacts for the people I was sent here to represent.

As many of you are aware, water is the lifeblood of the San Joaquin Valley, the most productive agricultural region in the world. Since I entered Congress, I have made it a priority to increase water supply reliability for both the San Joaquin Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta. Title I of this bill helps to achieve that purpose.

It achieves this purpose in a very simple way, by allowing for the consideration of a 10-foot increase in the spillway of an existing dam. This raise in the spillway will allow for critical year water supply increases of 15,000 acre-feet and will generate an additional 10,000 Mega-Watt Hours per year of clean, renewable energy, all at no cost to the taxpayer. And importantly, the project still has to meet environmental standards. This is a common sense approach to solve a problem incrementally, and one that I liked so much that I carried the bill in previous Congresses.

I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of June 8, 2012, upon request of a leave of absence after 11:00 a.m., a series of votes were held. Had I been present for these roll call votes, I would have cast the following votes: On agreeing to the Broun (GA) amendment (Roll No. 372)—I vote “No”; On agreeing to the Scalise amendment (Roll No. 373)—I vote “No”; On agreeing to the Moran amendment (Roll No. 374)—I vote “Yes”; On agree-

ing to the Flake amendment (Roll No. 375)—I vote “No”; On motion to recommit with instructions (Roll No. 376)—I vote “Yes”; On passage (Roll No. 377)—I vote “No”; and On motion that the House instruct conferees (Roll No. 378)—I vote “No.”

HONORING DARTMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL UPON ITS RECOGNITION AS A SCHOOL TO WATCH

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Dartmouth Middle School upon its recognition as a “School to Watch” by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform in 2012.

Located in San Jose, California, Dartmouth Middle School is a public middle school in the Union School District that teaches grades six through eight. It was recently named as one of the top performing middle grade schools in the country and will be recognized by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform at their annual conference in Arlington, Virginia from June 21–23.

In 2012, only 103 schools around the country were named “Schools to Watch” by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. The Forum is an alliance of more than 60 educators, researchers, and officers of national associations and foundations committed to improving schools for young adolescents across the country. Forum members choose schools that are academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable.

Dartmouth Middle School meets and exceeds the criteria for a high-performing middle grade school. It involves students in service activities, celebrates diversity, and actively engages its students in their own learning. It has a Homework Club four days a week where students may drop in to get help from teachers with homework questions. At a time when schools are cutting back on afterschool activities, Dartmouth still allows students to put on a school play, participate in various sports, and perform in different levels of band.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to have such a dedicated and nurturing institution in my district that appreciates its students, the community, sports, and the arts. I wish Dartmouth Middle School continued success for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO KENNETH FARRELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Kenneth Farrell.

Kenneth Farrell was born the only child of James and Ruby Farrell on the island of Trinidad. At the age of five, the Farrell family migrated to Brooklyn, New York. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Yvonne. Together they raised three delightful daughters, the couple's A-Team: Arroya, Ashley and Alexandria.

Mr. Farrell completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree at Baruch College, followed by a Juris Doctorate at the James E. Beasley School of Law at Temple University. While in law school, Ken wanted an opportunity to work with the community. As a proud graduate of the New York City public school system, Mr. Farrell was drawn to the school board and was elected to three terms as a Board Member of the NYC Board of Education, serving District 32. Upon graduation, he continued to serve the community by joining the staff of Congressman Major Owens as a special assistant.

Mr. Farrell found another opportunity to serve his community on a larger scale after working with Congressman Owens. He would do so in my office as my legislative assistant in the 10th Congressional District. He worked with hospital administrators, planning boards and managed special projects. His dedication to the community put Mr. Farrell in touch with real people and issues in the community, and allowed him to see first-hand the true state of Brooklyn communities.

Mr. Farrell, in his quest to reach the community on a different level, began a career in mortgage banking. As a federal and state licensed mortgage loan originator, he provides his clients with pure honesty and guides them in making the right choices for them, not the most profitable choices for himself. Finally, he offers his clients a reason to have faith that they can make their home ownership dreams a reality. Kenneth is very passionate about his work and works hard for his clients.

Mr. Farrell continues to serve as a community advocate, by serving as a board member on the board of the Black Veterans for Social Justice.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Farrell for his leadership in the community as well as the excellent work he performed in my office. I am honored to have had the chance to work with him as we work to make our communities a better place to live.

RECOGNIZING GORDON HIRABAYASHI, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gordon Hirabayashi for posthumously receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his stand against Japanese American internment following the attack on

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Pearl Harbor. This award is our nation's highest civilian honor and is presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the United States.

Mr. Hirabayashi was a Seattle native and a student at the University of Washington when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Shortly afterwards, Japanese-Americans were ordered to board buses for internment camps. In an act of bravery and civil disobedience, Mr. Hirabayashi, a second-generation Japanese American, refused to board the bus.

Mr. Hirabayashi, with the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union, filed a lawsuit against the military executive order stating that Japanese Americans were a threat. Unfortunately, Mr. Hirabayashi lost the suit and was sentenced to 90 days in prison for curfew violation.

In 1987, Mr. Hirabayashi's conviction was overturned after it was determined that there was no military reason for the internment of Japanese Americans. After more than four decades, the effort he put into protecting the rights of citizens during times of war has finally been realized.

Mr. Hirabayashi passed away on January 2, 2012, at the age of 93 in Edmonton, Alberta where he served as a sociology professor from 1959 until his retirement in 1983. His family will receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in honoring Gordon Hirabayashi for his tireless commitment to justice.

HONORING BRANDON ELIZARES

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as I take time to remember Brandon Elizares, a young man who left us two and a half weeks ago. He will always be remembered for his smile, his personality, and his desire to serve as an inspiration to others.

Brandon, like 11.7 million people in this country, was gay, and like so many of his peers, was harassed and bullied until he took his life on June 2nd after being threatened with being buried alive and shot. His last message-echoed his infinite love for his family and his apologies for not being strong enough to continue taking the abuse he had faced for over two years. His final words read, "My name is Brandon Joseph Elizares and I couldn't make it. I love you guys with all of my heart."

High school is an exciting time with an array of new experiences and challenges, but one thing it should not be is an environment where young people must worry about being bullied. Children in high school should be focused on their education. The sad reality is that for many students their primary concerns don't lie in textbooks or exams, but in fear that they will not be accepted by their peers, that they will be physically abused, and, in the case of Brandon and countless others like him, that they may consider taking their own life to escape the pain.

Brandon was a young man who exemplified the best in the El Paso community. He em-

bodied what this nation looks for in all of its young people. He was a best friend, a loving son, an aspiring model and artist, an excellent student, and, to a teenage girl who had contemplated suicide due to encounters with bullying, Brandon was a superhero and an older brother.

Like so many El Pasoans, I feel a personal connection to Brandon, and his death reflects the unfortunate truth that many young people in our community continue to suffer. I stand before you today asking you to help me in ensuring that Brandon's death was not in vain. Please join me in support of the Student Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 998) and the Safe Schools Improvement Act (H.R. 1648) to protect LGBT students from discrimination and bullying in schools. I also ask you to stand with me in support of the "It Gets Better" campaign, a project whose goal is to prevent suicide among youth by having adults and allies convey the message that these teens' lives will improve.

In our country today the facts are clear:

56 percent of students have personally felt some sort of bullying at school. Between 4th and 8th grade in particular, 90 percent of students report being the victim of bullying.

9 out of 10 LGBT youth reported being verbally harassed at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation.

1 in 4 teachers see nothing wrong with bullying and will only intervene 4 percent of the time.

A victim of bullying is twice as likely to take his or her own life compared to someone who is not a victim.

41 percent of principals say they have programs designed to create a safe environment for LGBT students, but only 1/3 of principals say that LGBT students would feel safe at their school.

Every day thousands of children wake up fearing for their well being as they go to school; if the Student Non-Discrimination Act and the Safe Schools Improvement Act were enacted today, we could provide students a sense of relief and some reassurance that their government is working to improve their lives by increasing awareness about their daily struggles.

This issue, as all of you know, is not limited to one district or state, but has been felt throughout our country from California to New York. As a proud grandfather, I could not imagine what it would be like to have any of my grandchildren be bullied at school. There is no place in our society for bullying or discrimination, whether it's in our schools, communities or in our military. I want to provide hope to our youth and remind them they are not alone and that there are many venues they can turn to for help. I want to send a simple and powerful message: it gets better. If you are a student or a teacher there are resources available and I encourage you to visit www.stopbullying.gov or www.itgetsbetter.org for more information.

To the family of Brandon Elizares, no words can lessen your pain or bring your son back, but I stand with you today in honoring this kind young man. The display of love and affection from those who were close to him, those he helped, and those who have gone through experiences similar to his are a testament to the person he was and to the way you raised him. Brandon's genuine spirit and love will live on in all of those he touched. Today, the House

of Representatives and our nation honors Brandon Elizares.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was ill with food poisoning and missed rollcall vote No. 379 and rollcall vote No. 380 on Monday, June 18, 2012, as well as rollcall vote No. 381 and rollcall vote No. 382 on Tuesday, June 19, 2012.

If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" for each of the following: rollcall vote No. 379 (S. 684), rollcall vote No. 380 (S. 404), rollcall vote No. 381 (On Ordering the Previous Question), and rollcall vote No. 382 (H. Res. 688.)

A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR MOLINELLI JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to Mr. Arthur Molinelli Jr.

Mr. Molinelli Jr. is the owner and operator of The Modern Meat Market located on 771 New Lots Avenue. The Modern Meat Market was founded by his father after their family moved from Manhattan to Brooklyn in 1914. The market opened at 383 Milford Street on the corner of New Lots Avenue and has been in his family since 1944. Mr. Molinelli emphasizes that education and leadership, community service and entrepreneurship are deeply rooted values in his family.

Mr. Molinelli was in the Army Reserve and also served as a New York City Police Department Detective from 1974 to 1982. He and his wife, Louise, recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Arthur's brother, Steven, was the Principal of Public School 302. His brother's wife, Rose, is currently the Assistant Principal of Public School 218. Arthur was born and raised in East New York in 1945. He went to St. Rita Catholic School located at Sheppard and Liberty Avenue. Arthur also attended and graduated from Franklin K Lane High School where he was a member of the Varsity Baseball Team. His son Justin started his career as a public school educator at Intermediate School 292 located at Wyona and Pitkin Avenue.

Arthur's entrepreneurship experience spans from the time The Modern Meat Market was opened by his father to when he had officially joined the family business as the owner and operator. The Modern Meat Market services numerous Day Cares and Private Schools in East New York. Presently, he is still the owner and operator of the family business.

Lastly Arthur Molinelli Jr. and The Modern Meat Market are very active in the community. Mr. Molinelli demonstrates his commitment to community service through The Modern Meat Market yearly Turkey Giveaway, in which they distribute over 500 turkeys to the community. Arthur is a member of The New Lots Avenue