

Ridge Reservation. The agents were pursuing a fugitive on June 26, 1975; one of the three people in the vehicle the agents were tracking was Leonard Peltier. A fugitive from justice wanted for attempted murder, Peltier and his associates abruptly emerged from their vehicle and opened fire on the agents. Williams and Coler were shot point blank in the head, and died instantly. Peltier was captured after several months, and now serves two consecutive life sentences at Leavenworth.

Time and again, Peltier rightly has been denied parole for his heinous crimes, most recently just two weeks ago. Each of his appeals has failed. Even after a quarter century, and amid the constant barrage of liberal Hollywood actors glorifying this murderer, the American people have not forgotten Peltier's fatal assaults. Leonard Peltier slaughtered two young FBI special agents at the beginning of their careers, for which he deserves to spend the remainder of his life in prison.

As a fellow former FBI special agent, I am honored today to recognize the supreme sacrifice of Ronald A. Williams, age 27, and Jack R. Coler, age 28. These slain heroes gave their lives in defense of justice for all. I join law enforcement officers throughout the nation in saluting their memories on this day. Their fidelity, bravery, and integrity live on in their comrades.

I commend to my colleagues' attention the following statement by FBI Director Louis Freeh.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
Washington, DC June 26, 2000.

STATEMENT OF FBI DIRECTOR LOUIS J. FREEH

On behalf of the men and women of the FBI, and in memory of all who have lost their lives in the line of duty, I would like to observe the 25th anniversary of the brutal slaying of Special Agents Ronald A. Williams and Jack R. Coler.

Twenty-five years ago today, these two outstanding Special Agents of the FBI were summarily executed by a gunman in South Dakota. Ron Williams and Jack Coler had been searching for a robbery suspect near Pine Ridge on 6/26/75 when they were shot from a distance of 250 yards. They were grievously wounded and on the ground when the killer approached and shot them, one after the other, at point blank range, through their faces.

The FBI cannot forget this cold blooded crime, nor should the American people. I was a new Special Agent, still in training school, when this horrific crime was enacted. Its cold blooded disregard for law and order ensured that it would never be forgotten, its criminal nature never obscured.

In February 1976, Leonard Peltier was arrested and charged with the murder of these two agents. The evidence was unarguable and conclusive. On 4/18/77, he was found guilty of the first-degree murders of Williams and Coler and sentenced on 6/1/77 to two consecutive life terms. All his many appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit have failed. The Supreme Court of the United States has twice denied Peltier's petitions for review of his case. Most recently, on 6/12/2000, his parole board held its regular 2-year statutory review of the case, pending the full hearing it is required to hold in 2008. Once again, parole for Leonard Peltier was not recommended. It is a testament to the American judicial system and the American people that 25 years have not been able to erase or soften the facts of the case. The rule of law has continued to prevail over the emotion of the moment, the

cornerstone attribute of our criminal justice system.

The men and women of the FBI—and law enforcement officers everywhere—put their lives on the line on a daily basis to protect the American people. They, with me, would like to remind the nation of the fidelity, bravery, and integrity of Agents Williams and Coler who 25 years ago today lost their lives but not their places in our hearts.

A TRIBUTE TO CONANT HALSEY
FOR 47 YEARS OF MUSICAL EXCELLENCE AT THE REDLANDS BOWL

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to call your attention to nearly five decades of dedication to music and love of community by Mr. Conant K. Halsey, who has guided the Summer Music Festival of the Redlands Bowl through decades when many local concert series declined—and has helped make it into a regional event attended by 100,000 people each year.

The Redlands Bowl Summer Music Festival was created in 1924 by founder Grace Stewart Mullen, and is the nation's oldest continuing outdoor concert series that has never charged admission. Thanks in large part to the financial expertise of Conant Halsey, the festival has also never asked for government funding for operations—it has survived and prospered entirely on the donations and volunteer work from those who love good music in the surrounding communities.

Halsey, a stockbroker who came West for his health, joined the board of the Redlands Community Music Association in 1953, and took over as chairman when Grace Mullen died in 1967. Under his guidance, the association created an endowment fund that is now self-sustaining—the festival only uses income, not principal. When he joined the board, the annual budget was \$50,000—now it is \$317,000.

In a white dinner jacket and bow tie, Conant Halsey has been a fixture at many of the 940 concerts he has helped stage in the past 47 years. He has made the announcements, led children in the Pledge of Allegiance, and greeted visitors from other states and foreign countries.

Mr. Chairman, the City of Redlands is known for its grace and appreciation of culture in no small part because of the continuing success of the Redlands Bowl summer concerts. After 47 years of helping guide that dedication to excellent music, Conant Halsey is retiring from the board on June 30 at the bowl's first concert of the 21st Century. I ask you and my colleagues to please join me in offering our congratulations on this tremendous accomplishment, and wish Mr. Halsey well in years to come.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4733) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to give my strong support to H.R. 4733, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2001. The legislation supports two important priorities, the restoration of the Kankakee River and the construction of the Tunnel and River Project.

The Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2001 provides resources to continue environmental cleanup and restoration of the Kankakee River, a critical habitat for wildlife and one of Illinois' greatest treasures. For years, the Kankakee River has been choked by sand and sedimentation. This legislation continues the funding of studies to cleanup the River and solve its problems.

Mr. Chairman, I am especially pleased that the Appropriations Committee has provided \$600,000 for the ongoing Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study of the Kankakee River and \$300,000 for the State Line Sand Removal Project. The goals of these projects will be to restore the natural hydrology and aquatic habitat back to the river, the removal of excessive sand buildup, the restoration of adjacent wetlands, and the reintroduction of native mussels into their natural habitat. The cleanup and restoration of the Kankakee River deserves high priority; the legislation before us today recognizes the importance of this project.

Additionally, the Committee awarded \$7.8 million for the construction funding for the McCook and Thornton Reservoir projects of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. The McCook and Thornton Reservoirs are part of the Chicago Underflow Plan, a comprehensive flood protection and water quality protection plan for the Chicago metropolitan area.

Mr. Chairman, this system has been enormously effective in achieving its goals as evidenced by the elimination of 86 percent of combined sewage pollution in a 325 square mile area. The result of this progress is the dramatic increase in water quality of the Chicagoland waterways and the protection of Lake Michigan, our drinking water source. 131,000 home owners rely on the continued construction of the "Deep Tunnel" flood relief and clean water project. This appropriation will add to the \$30 million already appropriated for flood relief in the South Suburbs and will eventually produce \$104 million in savings and benefits annually.

Mr. Chairman, I commend the hard work of Chairman PACKARD and Chairman YOUNG and urge my colleagues to support this good legislation.