

Though American arms had lost only one battle, the war itself was lost. Nearly all of us were home by that terrible day in 1975. Choked with emotion, I ran to my church for comfort and found it empty and locked. I realized I would have to keep my sorrow to myself for years to come and that is exactly what happened.

Over 58,000 American men and women—more people than live in Whitley County—died. Thousands more have died since from causes born in the war. Our friends from Australia, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines lost over 6,000 more, and the Army of South Viet Nam's losses were nearly a quarter of a million. Future generations will ask to what avail, since Viet Nam became one more brutal communist dictatorship. Here is the answer I like: There are some who say that Viet Nam made WW III unnecessary. That so many brave men could stand so firmly against a bully 9,000 miles away deeply impressed that bully.

CONGRATULATING DOUGLAS M. WAGONER, SR., ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Douglas M. Wagoner, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of service to the Northern Virginia community and to our Nation.

Mr. Wagoner began his business, Wagoner Welding Supply, 40 years ago. The company has been integral in servicing the growing construction needs of the Northern Virginia area. Wagoner Welding Supply has held a prominent role and an outstanding service record in the construction community as it has serviced many of the area company's welding needs and has had a working relationship with most of the construction companies in the area. Wagoner Welding Supply has also served the White House Engineering office for 35 years and has been recognized for outstanding service. The White House Engineers are responsible for the upkeep of the residence and Executive Office Buildings, and demand nothing short of outstanding service which Mr. Wagoner's company has provided for over three decades. Servicing the White House entails being on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and Wagoner Welding Supply has always answered that call.

As a long time resident of Alexandria, Virginia, Mr. Wagoner has made time to service his community by belonging to organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria Art League, and the Knights of Columbus. Now in retirement, Mr. Wagoner will certainly look forward to some additional leisure time and spending time with his granddaughters Lydia and Madeline.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Douglas M. Wagoner, Sr., and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES RECKNER

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. James Reckner, Director of the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University.

Dr. Reckner, a combat veteran who served two tours in Vietnam, is a dedicated historian who has created an internationally renowned program dedicated to all aspects of the Vietnam War. The main focus at the Vietnam Center has been the Virtual Vietnam Archive. Second only to the U.S. National Archives, Texas Tech University is home to one of the most complete collections of artifacts related to America's involvement in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Reckner's vision began in 1989 when he asked his freshman history class to name a general from the Vietnam War. He was amazed to discover that only 1 student out of 100 knew the name of General William C. Westmoreland, the commander of American military operations during the Vietnam War.

As a result, Dr. Reckner organized a meeting with a group of West Texas veterans to talk about what steps could be taken to preserve the stories, information, and lessons from the Vietnam conflict and pass them on to future generations. It was then that the Texas Tech Vietnam Center was born.

For 15 years, dedicated veterans, scholars and students have been collecting and preserving materials relating to the American Vietnam experience. The Virtual Vietnam Archive now contains more than 2 million pages of material. Earlier this year, James Harton, a Rating Specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs sent a letter to U.S. Representative STEVEN BUYER, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, outlining the successes of the archive. Mr. Harton wrote, "Because of the documents provided by Texas Tech, I am often able to resolve a veteran's claim within fifteen minutes as opposed to the request sent to the USASCURR." Often times requests sent to the U.S. Armed Services Center for Unit Record Research take 6 to 12 months for a reply. With the help of Texas Tech's virtual archive, Mr. Harton has been able to resolve over 500 veteran's claims in the past four years.

America's men and women in the military give their time, and in many cases life and limb, to serve our country. Dr. Reckner served his country admirably during the Vietnam War. Today, he continues to serve this country and the memory of a significant time in American history. Thanks to his efforts, the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University will assist future generations in remembering the Vietnam experience.

It is our duty to ensure that our children and grandchildren never forget our country's finest heroes and always know of their sacrifices. Their sacrifices and those of our military families serve as freedom's foundation. Without the brave efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and their families, our country would not stand so boldly, shine so brightly, and live so freely.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere concern with the funding level for nuclear physics programs in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act Conference Report for FY2006.

While the Office of Science does receive an increase of \$32.8 million over the fiscal year 2005 level, the nuclear physics programs are actually cut 8.4 percent below fiscal year 2005 levels. The Jefferson Lab in my district in Newport News, VA, is one of the basic research labs that would be negatively impacted by this funding level.

Just last month the National Academy of Sciences issued a report titled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." That report underscored that the nation's economic health is seriously at risk without a sustained investment in science. The report noted that in Germany, 36 percent of undergraduates receive their degrees in science and engineering. In China the figure is 59 percent, and in Japan 66 percent. In the United States the corresponding figure is 32 percent. It seems to me that this is a time the nation needs to invest in science, not cut science programs.

Mr. Speaker, no Member is more concerned about trimming our budget than I am, but we cannot afford to cut programs like nuclear physics, that are the key to our country's success, both now and in the future. I wish to state for the record that I am extremely disappointed with the cuts to nuclear physics programs, and I will continue to work vigilantly in the future for this critical funding.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ACT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, protecting our Nation's natural resources is one of the greatest gifts that we can give to future generations. When one thinks of our national resources, images of Yellowstone National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, or the Grand Canyon National Park often come to mind. However, in recent years, these areas have all experienced the devastating effects of invasive plant species such as salt cedar, or tamarisk.

This is why I rise today to announce the introduction of the Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act.

Invasive plant species know no boundaries. According to the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service currently manages 388 units, comprised of 84.4 million acres of land throughout the United States. Of these units, 196 have been cited as having "serious problems" due to invasive plant species.

Today, I am introducing the Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act.

The purpose of this bill is to allow the National Park Service to enter into cooperative agreements with State, local, educational, and Tribal experts to restore and protect these lands from the effects of invasive plant species. The goal of this legislation is to allow the National Park Service to work with those who are best able to remove these species before they enter federal units, putting the National Park Service into a better position to preserve our native species.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this important bill.

HONORING GORDON AND ANITA MURCHIE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WINE INDUSTRY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me today to pay tribute to two very good friends and fellow Californians, Gordon and Anita Murchie. On the 14th of August, 1955, in the midst of family and friends, Gordon and Anita were married in the Presbyterian Church in Santa Barbara. Both had attended college at University of California at Santa Barbara. As a lifelong ambition, Gordon wanted to join the U.S. Diplomatic Service; thus, when a recruiter from the US. Information Agency arrived on the University of Southern California's campus where Gordon was attending graduate school, Gordon was one of the first to be interviewed. Following a quick trip to Washington, D.C. to take the language and written exam for USA, he subsequently was offered a Foreign Service appointment.

The Murchies moved to Washington, D.C., in early 1958 as new members of that year's junior Foreign Service family. Before year's end, Gordon and Anita began their long string of Foreign Service postings, first in the Philippines, then Indonesia, and on to Thailand, where they spent the next 9 years equally divided between Udorn, in the northeast of the country, and Bangkok, the capital city.

Having learned the Thai language up-country, they both have served as interpreters, Gordon for President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey, and Anita for Lady Bird Johnson, Mrs. Joan Kennedy, Mrs. Stan Getz, and other American political and cultural representatives visiting Thailand. For his service to Thailand, he was awarded the Royal Order of the White Elephant medal by the King.

Returning to the U.S. in late 1969, Gordon attended, on government assignment, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Massachusetts where he earned a Master's Degree in International Law and Public Diplomacy. Returning to Washington, D.C., the Murchies, now with two young children, resided in the Alexandria area of northern Virginia and Anita was completing her Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology.

With things heating up in Central America, the Murchies were reassigned to the U.S. Embassy in San José, Costa Rica, for the next 4 years. Again, working as a team, they immersed themselves in the Costa Rican community and the political, economic and cultural issues of the region. While there, Anita authored the only book to comprehensively re-

search and relate the story of the Anglo-American contributions to Costa Rica from the period of Independence, 1824, to the end of that century, entitled *Imported Spices*. Gordon served as the Public Affairs Attaché at the Embassy. Gordon's last overseas assignment was as an advisor to the U.S. military in northern Iraq to establish a safe zone for the Kurds in 1991.

Having received two Superior Service Medals during his 35 years of government service, Gordon retired in 1993. Upon retirement, Gordon and Anita were asked to take on the management of the Virginia-based organization as President and Executive Secretary, which they have continued to administer to the present day. In recognition of their contributions to the growth of the Virginia wine industry, Gordon was presented the first Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Gordon is also credited with promoting a renewed public interest in the evolution of viticulture and enology in America, from 1607 Jamestown to the present day. For the past 9 years, he has served as the wine consultant to George Washington's Mount Vernon, which conducts annual wine and history events.

The Murchies remain active participants in the support of the growth and development of the U.S. wine industry, as a whole, with particular attention to the rapid growth of the wine industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As a team, the Murchies are well known in the American wine industry, on Capitol Hill, and in a number of foreign communities abroad. As Gordon says of their partnership through life, he would never have been able to realize his career dreams if it had not been for the above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty support of Anita.

As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Wine Caucus, I wish to commend and recognize the contributions of the Murchies for their lifelong work in promoting the American way of life and the democratic principles of our Nation. I wish them continued health and happiness and success in their endeavors as American ambassadors in an increasingly challenging world.

HONORING MICHAEL A. CONDUFF,
DENTON CITY MANAGER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael A. Conduff, retiring City Manager of Denton, Texas, for his outstanding service to the local community for the past four and a half years.

Since Mr. Conduff assumed the duties as Denton's City Manager on May 14, 2001, the City was able to accomplish many goals including the completion of the Downtown improvements, implementation of computer aided dispatch in the police department, and the opening of the North Branch Library and the Water Works Park. Mr. Conduff was also implemental in multiple economic development projects including Denton Crossing, Presbyterian Hospital of Denton, improvements to Denton Regional Medical Center, and Peterbilt expansion. Additionally, Mr. Conduff has won over 130 awards, including 3 Texas Municipal

League Awards and personal awards, during his time in Denton.

Mr. Conduff earned his B.S. in civil engineering at the University of New Hampshire, graduating Cum Laude. His M.B.A. is from Pittsburg State University. He is also a charter graduate of the Carver Policy Governance® Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, and serves on the Board of Directors and as Secretary of the International Policy Governance® Association. Prior to assuming the City Manager's position in Denton, Mr. Conduff was a nine-year City Manager of Bryan, Texas. Before he came to Texas, Mike served as City Manager in Manhattan, Kansas, home of Kansas State University, for five years. He also served as City Manager of Pittsburg, Kansas, home of Pittsburg State University, for five and a half years. Prior to his city managerial roles, Mr. Conduff was City Engineer for Pittsburg.

I am honored to today to recognize the exceptional service of Mr. Michael A. Conduff as Denton City Manager. His leadership and dedication to the improvement and development of Denton, Texas deserves the highest thanks and recognition. Michael, his wife, and grandchildren have my best wishes and prayers for the future.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419,
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the House-passed version of the legislation, this conference report is not perfect. But it is not so bad as to require opposition, and does provide funding for many important purposes. Therefore, I will vote for it.

The conference report includes a number of items of particular importance to Colorado.

In particular, I am very pleased that it includes funding for the final stages of work connected with the cleanup of Rocky Flats.

Once home to a nuclear weapons factory, Rocky Flats is located just 15 miles from downtown Denver. At one time it was the location of large quantities of nuclear materials and other hazardous substances—and because of its proximity to our state's major metropolitan area, timely and effective cleanup and closure of the site has been a matter of top priority for all Coloradans.

Just last month, the overall contractor for the cleanup, Kaiser-Hill, announced that their work was done. The Department of Energy must still confirm that, and there still must be a formal decision by state and federal regulators. But those who knew Rocky Flats as it was can hardly recognize the site as it is today.

The cleanup of Rocky Flats is a major achievement for which we can all be proud. I want to especially note the efforts of the workers and their dedication not only the security of this country, but their dedication to performing a safe and extensive demolition and decommissioning.

This was very complicated and difficult work involving dangerous and toxic materials. The