

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD RECEIVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S 2007 CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PERFORMANCE AND INNOVATION AWARD

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today I stand supporting the passage of H. Res 832. This legislation recognizes the Texas Water Development Board for receiving the Environmental Protection Agency's 2007 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Performance and Innovation Award. The award recognizes states that have been the most innovative and effective in advancing EPA's goals of performance and protection through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. The award is given to one State in each of the ten EPA regions.

The ten State programs were nominated by the regional offices based upon the following criteria: pace level greater than 80 percent, audit with no serious programmatic or financial problems, outstanding performance in at least two of the following areas: better management practices, full-cost pricing, efficient water use, watershed approach, creative use of technologies, leveraging practices, innovative partnerships, innovative lending practices, and effective outreach.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) was region six award winner because of its support of water efficiency through water reuse and conservation. One of its major accomplishments in 2007 was a \$10.7 million Northwest Water Reuse Initiative consisting of a five-phase project in El Paso County to deliver treated wastewater for reuse to irrigators, industries, and homeowners from El Paso's Northwest Wastewater Treatment Plant.

I would like to thank TWDB for their work with the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District to institute well metering on wells of a number of irrigators using groundwater from formations other than the Edwards Aquifer. The District will use the TWDB grant and local funds to purchase and install 80–90 meters.

The TWDB continues its goals of assisting with regional planning, and preparing the state Water Plan for the development of the state's water resources, and administering cost-effective financial programs for the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control and agricultural water conservation projects. For being the recipient of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Performance and Innovation Award, I recognize Texas Water Development Board on this day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on January 22 and 23,

2008. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "yea" on each of the following bills:

Roll 19, January 22, 2008: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass: H.R. 4211, Naming the Judge Richard B. Aallsbrook Post Office.

Roll 20, January 22, 2008: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree: H. Res. 866, Honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records.

Roll 21, January 23, 2008: On Ordering the Previous Question: H.R. 3963, Children's Health Insurance Program Extension and Improvement.

Roll 22, January 23, 2008: Passage, Objections of the President Not Withstanding: H.R. 3963, Children's Health Insurance Program Extension and Improvement.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES LUCE

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, as we look forward to considering legislation in Congress this year to address our Nation's energy shortage, it is my sad duty to announce that one of the real giants of the energy business in the United States has passed away. Charles F. Luce, the former chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Consolidated Edison, died this past weekend at age 90 after a brief illness.

Starting as a meter reader for a power company when he was a teenager, Chuck Luce rose to become a legend in the electric power industry through an interesting career progression. Following his clerkship for Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, Chuck Luce practiced law in Walla Walla, Washington, for 15 years. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy summoned him into public service as the Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets the power from the Columbia River hydroelectric system in the Pacific Northwest. At BPA, he was an enlightened leader who keenly understood federal energy issues, pioneering many jurisdictional arrangements that established the distribution of federal power resources in the Northwest, including the Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie.

During the Johnson Administration, Interior Secretary Stewart Udall brought him back to Washington to serve as Undersecretary of the Interior Department, but his talents were quickly recognized and summoned when Con-Ed, New York's largest utility, needed a steady hand to confront looming problems of growth and supply. He led Con-Ed during the toughest times that any American utility has faced in our Nation's history, including the oil supply crisis of the 1970s and the infamous New York City blackout in 1977. His leadership through those times of crisis set an example of calm and focused action, and he is remembered as one of the most effective and thoughtful leaders in an industry that affects every American every day.

I want to take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, to insert into the RECORD Mr. Luce's obituary, printed today in the New York Times, so that Members can read the story of a truly legendary figure in the history of electric power generation and transmission in the United States.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 29, 2008]

CHARLES F. LUCE, EX-CHIEF OF CON ED, IS DEAD AT 90

(By Dennis Hevesi)

Charles F. Luce, the chairman and chief executive of Consolidated Edison, the giant New York electric and gas utility during some of its most difficult times, died Saturday in Torrance, Calif. He was 90 and lived in Bronxville, N.Y.

The cause was prostate cancer, said Joyce Hergenhan, a former company spokeswoman.

Mr. Luce headed Con Ed from 1967 to 1982 and dealt with the oil crisis of the 1970s, customer rage over rising rates, the 1977 blackout that paralyzed New York City and the settlement of a decades-long struggle with environmental groups over construction of a power plant at Storm King Mountain on the Hudson River.

A liberal Democrat and an environmentalist, Mr. Luce did not fit the standard profile of the big-business executive when he agreed to leave his post as under secretary of the interior in the Johnson administration to take over Consolidated Edison.

"The metropolitan area's need for electric energy doubles about every 15 years," Mr. Luce said then. "To supply these vast new quantities of energy at reasonable cost, but protect the city's environment from pollution and unsightly structures, is a king-size job."

It became particularly difficult in 1973, when fuel prices skyrocketed because of the Arab oil embargo, and Con Ed's rates followed.

Facing customer protests, Mr. Luce chose to soften the monthly billing blow by eliminating the company's April 1974 dividend. That prompted shareholder protests, and on May 24, 1974, Mr. Luce presided over a meeting at the old Commodore Hotel on 42nd Street at which customers and shareholders boisterously expressed their views.

A New York Times headline the next day said, "Days of Anxiety for the Man Who Saved a Watt."

That was a reference to the "Save-a-Watt" program, which Mr. Luce had instituted soon after taking over as Con Ed chairman. It was a shift from the electricity industry's traditional marketing strategy, succinctly expressed as "Live better electrically."

For 25 hours, starting on the evening of July 13, 1977, New York City could not live electrically at all. Two lightning strikes on major tie-lines in Westchester County led to the collapse of the entire system.

Some Con Ed officials attributed the blackout to "an act of God." Although Mr. Luce did not utter the phrase himself, he became associated with it.

He kept cool in the face of Mayor Abraham D. Beame's accusations of "gross negligence" on the part of the company, saying, "Respectfully, I think he's wrong," and calling for a fair review.

In the end, Con Ed had to concede that the systemwide expansion of the power failure after the local lightning strikes was largely its fault.

Four years before Mr. Luce became chairman, Con Ed had started seeking approval from regulators to build a hydroelectric plant on Storm King Mountain in Orange County, 55 miles north of New York City. Opposition to that plan and to proposals for other power plants along the Hudson River

was fierce and unrelenting for nearly 20 years.

Then, in December 1980, 11 environmental groups, Con Ed and other utility companies reached what became known as the Hudson River Peace Treaty. Mr. Luce had asked Russell E. Train, a former head of the Environmental Protection Agency, to mediate the dispute.

Under the agreement, Con Ed abandoned efforts to build the Storm King plant. In return, the environmental groups and the federal Environmental Protection Agency dropped their demands that Con Ed build six costly cooling towers to protect fish from being sucked into power plants at Indian Point and several other sites along the river. The agreement was widely cited as a model for balancing economic and environmental needs.

Charles Franklin Luce was born on Aug. 12, 1917, in Platteville, WI, a son of James and Wilma Luce. His father owned a furniture store and a mortuary.

As a teenager, Mr. Luce got some early exposure to the utility business as a meter reader for the local power company.

Mr. Luce earned a bachelor's degree and a law degree through a five-year program at the University of Wisconsin in 1941, then received a master's degree in law at Yale in 1942.

Unable to enlist for military service in World War II because of an attack of polio, Mr. Luce became a staff lawyer for the Board of Economic Warfare in Washington.

A year later, on the recommendation of a professor at Yale, he was chosen as a law clerk to Justice Hugo L. Black of the Supreme Court.

For 15 years after World War II, Mr. Luce practiced law in Walla Walla, Washington.

Then, in 1961, President Kennedy chose him to head the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets power from the Grand Coulee Dam and more than 20 other federal hydroelectric plants in the Columbia River Basin.

Mr. Luce also worked with Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall in creating the Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie, a vast power transmission complex. He negotiated a 1964 treaty with Canada for joint hydroelectric development of the Columbia River.

At Mr. Udall's request, President Johnson appointed Mr. Luce as under secretary of the Interior in September 1966. But within six months, Con Ed officials—spurred by a Fortune magazine headline, "The Company You Love to Hate"—asked Mr. Luce to take control of the company.

Mr. Luce's first wife, Helen Oden, died in 2001. He is survived by his second wife, the former Margaret Richmond; two sons, James, of Vancouver, Washington, and Charles Jr., of Boulder, Colorado; two daughters, Christina Gordon of Mansfield Center, Connecticut, and Barbara Luce of Portland, Connecticut; and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Luce was an avid biker. As Con Ed chairman, he would regularly pedal around

Manhattan on a three-speed bike, wearing a meter-reader's cap, inspecting company work crews and peeking into open manholes.

RECOGNIZING THE OHIO NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION'S 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, congratulations are in order for the Ohio Newspaper Association, which is celebrating 75 years of service to its members and those who read and use newspapers every day. The ONA represents 83 daily newspapers, more than 170 weeklies, and over 150 newspaper Web sites.

As you might expect, the ONA provides effective representation for its members before all levels of government, but it does far more than that. The association has long been a strong advocate for open government, benefiting all our citizens. It also provides seminars, workshops, and other tools for professional development.

Just as important are the activities of the affiliated Ohio Newspapers Foundation. This charitable organization provides scholarships and internships for journalism students, assistance to high school newspapers, and sponsors projects promoting literacy across Ohio.

For 75 years, the Ohio Newspaper Association and its members have provided leadership in promoting freedom of the press and a well-informed society, ideals that are important to all of us. I join others throughout our State in wishing them decades of more success.

CONGRATULATING THE SIGNATURE LEARNING CENTER

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Signature Learning Center in Evansville for being recognized as one of the top high schools in the Nation by US News & World Report.

Of course, they aren't telling us anything we didn't already know. In the Evansville community, the Signature Learning Center has developed a well-deserved reputation of academic excellence with 100 percent enrollment in advanced college prep courses and 100 percent graduation rate.

And people are taking notice. In addition to this recognition, the school was listed by

Newsweek as one of the top 100 high schools in the Nation last year, and just this year was named a National Charter School of the Year by the Center for Education Reform.

These students are the next generation of leaders in our community. The quality of education they receive has a direct impact on the strength of our country.

The Signature Learning Center is providing students in southern Indiana with the tools they need to meet their full potential and make a difference in our world. I am proud of their accomplishments and grateful for their continued contributions to the Evansville community.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, throughout the month of January, we observe National Mentoring Month, which calls to attention the importance of fostering positive, helping relationships with our youth. I rise today to recognize the importance of mentoring to the vitality of our Nation.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, there are 3 million mentors in the United States. While impressive at first glance, the reality is, there are far more young people in need of the caring support of an adult mentor that go without one—over 14 million youths across the Nation are still in need of a mentoring relationship.

I would like to commend the many community-based organizations in the Greater Hartford region, in my own State of Connecticut that provide mentoring services and youth focused programs like the Community Renewal Team, Hartford Communities that Care, Mi Casa Family Services and Education Center and Our Piece of the Pie. These groups partner with local, State and non-profit organizations to ensure the positive development of the young people in my district.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the many youths in need of encouragement and support, the many adults who are engaged in mentoring activities, and the organizations that work tirelessly to close the mentoring gap, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking mentors across the country and recognizing National Mentoring Month.