

BYRD grew up as the adopted son of a miner, graduated as class valedictorian in the depths of the Great Depression. Unable to afford college, he worked where he could find employment—pumping gas, selling produce, cutting meat, welding metal in shipyards. He courted, married, and relied for almost 70 years on his beloved wife, Erma. He earned a law degree even while serving as a Member of Congress. The qualities of discipline, industry, integrity, and commitment underlying that personal history would define greatness in any man no matter his station in life.

Second is his profound connection to the people of West Virginia. Senator BYRD is of the people and he is for the people. He has given West Virginians a lifetime of commitment and faithful service, and the people in turn have given him an unbreakable bond of trust, respect, and deep affection. I cannot imagine ROBERT C. BYRD representing any state other than West Virginia—and I cannot imagine West Virginia without the decades of service Senator BYRD has given it.

Finally, Senator BYRD's greatness derives from his devotion to the Senate and reverence for the Constitution that established it. As that other icon of the Senate, Ted Kennedy, put it, "Bob Byrd personifies what our founding fathers were thinking about when they were thinking about a United States Senate. He brings the kind of qualities that the founding fathers believed were so important for service to the nation."

Madam Speaker, even as we congratulate Senator BYRD for his years of service to his state and his country, we also recognize that it is not the number of those years we are celebrating but the content of those years. That content demands that for as long as there are people who care about the history of this nation, the name ROBERT C. BYRD will be mentioned in the same breath as Daniel Webster, Robert La Follette, Henry Clay, Edward Kennedy—the half dozen or so true giants of the Senate.

HONORING 90 WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to honor a group of 90 World War II veterans from South Carolina who will make their way on November 21st to Washington, DC, in order to visit the World War II Memorial among other national monuments. Their visit will include the Korean, Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials, along with the National Cemetery at Arlington.

The veterans who make the journey to Washington represent all four branches of service, and they fought in all of the major theaters of the war. They fought in Europe in places like France, Italy, and Germany, and in the Pacific in islands like Guadalcanal and Okinawa. Represented in this group are veterans who saw service in pivotal battles such as D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, and Tarawa.

WWII was a time when America was at her best. Our nation met the threats of tyranny and fascism and came to the aid of our allies.

The valor of our veterans never shone more brightly, and the sacrifice borne by these veterans should never be forgotten.

We can never forget that WWII was a time of triumph and tragedy. Sixty million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American servicemembers were slain during the war.

In South Carolina, the war was a time of special sacrifice. 166,119 servicemembers from our state participated in the war. 4,153 lost their lives. We prize our WWII veterans in South Carolina and their tales of victory over tyranny.

Accompanying these veterans and representing the future leaders of our military and our next generation of veterans are students from Andrew Jackson High School's Reserve Officers Training Corps. These young leaders will benefit from the mentoring and guidance provided by the WWII veterans during this trip.

I would like to thank the volunteers from the Honor Flight of South Carolina. This group, ably led by Bill Dukes, Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer and Medal of Honor winner Charles Murray are to be commended for ensuring that these veterans have the opportunity to see the memorial dedicated to them.

I ask the House of Representatives to join with me in honoring these 90 veterans who make this memorable visit to Washington, and pay tribute to their service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD AND PUBLIC POWER UTILITIES

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rich history of Oregon's People's Utility Districts, PUD, and the efforts of Northern Wasco County PUD, the lone PUD in Oregon's Second Congressional District. Last month, Northern Wasco County PUD joined Oregon's numerous Municipal Electrical Utilities and Rural Electrical Cooperatives to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of Public Power Week and to recognize over seven decades of public power generated by the clean and renewable federal hydropower system in the Pacific Northwest. I commend Northern Wasco County PUD for their continued commitment to the utilization of clean renewable power in Wasco County, as well as their exemplary efforts in energy efficiency and conservation.

On September 28, 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt stood on Oregon soil as he dedicated the newly constructed Bonneville Dam, which became one of the first in a series of dams to be installed along the Columbia River as part of the President's vision to improve economic opportunities, flood control and, more importantly, provide electricity to communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. Since that day, public power utilities across Oregon, including Northern Wasco County PUD, have harnessed the renewable power of the region's hydroelectric dams to provide clean renewable electricity to Oregon's communities and deliver steady supplies of power to small and large businesses. By providing some of the lowest-cost power to businesses in the Nation, public power utilities play a major role

in maintaining thousands of jobs throughout rural and urban Oregon.

Besides delivering reliable hydropower, public power utilities and their ratepayers' across the West have invested a tremendous amount of financial resources in energy conservation and renewable energy projects. Since Congress passed the 1980 Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana have conserved a combined 3,700 average-megawatts of energy. This savings is equal to the annual combined energy needs of Idaho and western Montana, or the output of seven 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants. These conservation efforts have also resulted in a reduction of 13.5 million tons of CO₂ emissions and nearly \$2 billion in consumer savings per year.

Over the years, Northern Wasco County PUD customers have invested \$27 million in two hydroelectric projects, both of which allow for enhanced fish passage and an increased supply of renewable power. These projects include a five-megawatt generator located at The Dalles Dam and a 10-megawatt generator at the McNary Dam. Both projects generate clean power with no emissions and enhance the survival of listed fish along the main stem of the Columbia River.

In addition, Northern Wasco County PUD is developing a methane gas capture energy project in partnership with the The Dalles, Oregon at the city's wastewater treatment plant as well as a micro-hydroelectric generation installation on the city's water mainline. Furthermore, Northern Wasco County PUD is exploring a U.S. Department of Energy grant for potential geothermal generation in cooperation with a group of other northwest utilities. From my conversations with Northern Wasco County PUD officials, I know they are most proud of their commitment to providing their residential and industrial customers with adequate and predictable supplies of energy at affordable prices, especially in light of the difficult economic circumstances facing rural Oregon.

I also know that the commitment of public power utilities to providing clean renewable energy options for customers is strong. In fact, many now offer their residential, commercial and industrial customers the option of purchasing up to 100 percent renewable electricity produced from resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, biomass and low-impact hydro.

Madam Speaker, as the debate continues about how to best address climate change, energy independence, and our smarter energy future, it is imperative that entities providing public power in the Pacific Northwest, like Northern Wasco County PUD, receive credit for the work and investments they have already made in protecting our environment through the responsible use of the renewable energy hydropower system and through energy conservation. I commend them for these efforts.

IN MEMORY OF KEITH ROMAINE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Brookhaven Town Councilman