

**WATER GROUP HONORS HASTINGS, GREGOIRE, PRIOR**

Former Congressman Doc Hastings and Former Governor Gregoire were awarded Honorary Life Membership for their support of the Columbia Basin Project and its continued development with tireless and significant dedication. Art Prior of Warden was selected to receive a Perseverance Award for his lifelong commitment of support for the Columbia Basin Project.

The awards were given by the Columbia Basin Development League at its recent annual conference in Moses Lake. The League supports the Columbia Basin Project by protecting its water rights and educating the public on the renewable resource and multiple-purpose benefits.

**Former Governor Gregoire** recognized the economic and environmental benefits and worked during her entire time in office to include Columbia Basin Project development in state funding opportunities. Following the 2003 lifting of the 10-year moratorium on additional Columbia River withdrawals, she secured the adoption of the Columbia River Water Management Act which was signed into law in 2006 paving the way for multiple projects in the following years.

**Former Congressman Doc Hastings** served as the U.S. Representative for Washington's 4th District and chaired the House Committee on Natural Resources from 2011 to 2015. His support contributed to advancing and broadening understanding among DC policy makers of the value of Reclamation projects like the Columbia Basin Project.

**Art Prior** moved to Warden in 1956 to farm after serving in the Army and marrying his high school sweetheart, Patsy. He had trouble with high sodium in his wells and tried to gain access to an irrigation canal bordering his farm. Elected to a position on the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District Board in 1982 and a member of the Columbia Basin Development League Board of Trustees, he worked to address Columbia Basin Project issues and ultimately helped get a federal bill passed that allowed farmers to pump from the canal. Art served several terms on the East District Board and was involved in the Grant County Cattlemen, Washington Cattle Feeders Association, Warden Community Church, and Warden School Board. Art and Patsy raised three daughters who all live in the area with their families.

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Since 1964, the Columbia Basin Development League has supported the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project and its future development. We protect its water rights and educate the public on the renewable resource and multiple-purpose benefits of the project.