

returned to the News and Observer in 1946, where he became the managing editor in 1948. From 1957 to 1968 he served as the executive news editor for the News and Observer and the Raleigh Times.

In 1968, he moved to Southern Pines and purchased the Pilot Newspaper; serving as editor, publisher, and business manager until his death. Under his stewardship, the paper grew from a weekly with circulation of 3,000 to a twice-a-week newspaper with circulation of 16,000.

Former Gov. Terry Sanford said "Sam Ragan was one of North Carolina's treasures. He was a crusading editorial force at the News and Observer where he fought for the improvement of education, the elimination of racial injustice and the broadening of economic opportunities.

In 1972, North Carolina led the Nation by creating the first State cabinet-level position for the arts. Sam Ragan was appointed as the first secretary of cultural resources by then Gov. Bob Scott who said he appointed Sam because he embodied the perfect mix of businessman, manager, and artist.

In 1982, Gov. Jim Hunt appointed Sam Ragan North Carolina "Poet Laureate for Life." He was only the third person to hold the honorary title.

Sam's tall frame, flowing white hair, trademark bow tie and fedora hat, made it easy, even for those who did not know him, to pick him out of the crowd. He had an affinity for people which was readily acknowledged and returned by those who met him.

Sam always found a moment to speak with a visiting tourist, a student, or a local resident, who dropped by his office to visit; along with the civic leaders, business leaders, political candidates and elected officials who sought his counsel.

Those who are acquainted with Sam Ragan's professional activities are fully aware that as an editor he fashioned a distinguished career of recording and examining newsworthy events. How remarkable, then, that in his poetry he focused on ordinary people, the small incidents of daily life, the quiet unfolding of nature—events that never rated a headline. His unique talent transformed simple everyday occurrences. He made ordinary people special and special people ordinary.

Throughout his life, Sam used his indomitable spirit, his influence and his opinion to steadfastly champion the arts. He enriched our literary, cultural, and journalistic heritage and the quality of our life.

To paraphrase our beloved poet laureate:

And sometimes remembering is all we have.
Other sights and sounds
Flood the memories
of someone very special.
Sam, you had a wonderful journey,
And it's the journey that counts,
Not the getting there.
Here in Washington the azaleas are in bloom

Across the miles I am proud
and others share my pride in you—
The very special you.

Mr. Speaker, Sam Ragan was truly a Renaissance man, a man for all times. How fortunate we are that he graced our time.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following information from "Who's Who in America" regarding Samuel Talmadge Ragan.

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA 1996

Ragan, Samuel Talmadge, newspaper editor, publisher, educator, poet laureate; b. Berea, N.C., Dec. 31 1915; s. William Samuel and Emma Clare (Long) R., m. Marjorie Usher, Aug. 19, 1939; children: Nancy, Ann Talmadge, A.B., Atlantic Christian Coll., 1936, Litt.D., 1972; Litt.D., U.N.C., 1987; D.Letters, Meth. Coll., 1980; D.Lit., St. Andrews Coll., 1987. Newspaperman in N.C. and Tex., 1936–; mng. editor, author column Southern Accent in Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer, 1948–69, exec. editor Raleigh News and Observer, also Raleigh Times, 1957–69; editor pub., author column The Pilot, Southern Pines, N.C., 1969–; sec. N.C. Dept. Arts, Culture and History, 1972–73; conductor program, commentator sta. WTVD, Durham, 1969–; spl. lectr. contemporary issues N.C. State U., 1959–68; dir. Writer's Workshop, 1963–; instr. creative writing St. Andrews Coll., 1970–, Sandhills Coll., 1969–; cons. editor St. Andrews Rev., Pembroke Mag. Author: (collected poems) The Tree in the Far Pasture, 1964, To the Water's Edge, 1971, Journey Into Morning, 1981, In the Beginning, 1985; The Democratic Party: Its Aims and Purposes, 1961, The New Day, 1964, Free Press and Fair Trial, 1967, (with Elizabeth S. Ives) Back to Beginnings, 1969, In the Beginning (with Thad Stem Jr.), 1984, A Walk Into April, 1986, Collected Poems, 1990, Editor: Weymouth Anthology, 1987; Contrb. editor: World Book Ency., 1964–; author articles, poems. Pres. Friends Coll., Inc., N.C. State, 1961–62; mem. N.C. Library Resources Com., N.C. Govt. Reorgn. Comm., 1970–; moderator N.C. Writers Forum of Charlotte, 1963–; Trustee N.C. Sch. Arts, 1963–72; mem. N.C. Adminstrn. of Justice Council, 1964–, chmn., 1980–83; bd dirs N.C. Symphony Soc., 1975–79. Served with AUS, 1943–46, PTO. Recipient N.C. Tercentenary Poetry award, 1963. Spl. Citation for Contbns. to Journalism Atlantic Christian Coll., North Caroliniana Soc. award, 1981, Disting. Svc. medal DAR, 1974, Edward Arnold Young award, 1981, Disting., Svc. medal DAR, 1974, Edward Arnold Young award for Poetry, 1965, 72, 91, Morrison award for contbns. to arts N.C., 1976, N.C. award for achievements in arts, 1979, R. Hunt Parker award for contbns. to lit., 1987, N.C. Artists awarded United Arts Coun., 1990, Caldwell award for contbns. and achievements in humanities, N.C. Humanities Coun., 1993; inducted into N.C. Journalism Hall of Fame, 1984; appointed Poet Laureate N.C. for life, 1982. Mem. N.C. Lit. Forum (moderator 1956–), N.C. Writers Conf. (chmn. 1962–63), Eastern N.C. Press Assn. (past pres.), N.C. Press Assn. (pres. 1973–74), Asso. Press Mng. Editors Assn. (dir. gen. chmn. continuing studies 1961, sec. 1962, v.p. 1963, pres 1964), Am. Soc. Newspaper Editors (dir., chmn. freedom of info. com. 1968), Roanoke Island Hist. Soc. (dir.), N.C. News Council (past pres.), N.C. Arts Council (chmn. 1967–72), Am. Newspaper Pubs. Assn., N.C. Lit. and Hist. Assn. (pres. 1977), Friends of Weymouth (pres. 1979–84), Sigma Delta Chi, Democrat. Presbyterian Club: Sandhills Kiwanis (Southern Pines); Builders Cup 1985. Homes: 255 Hill Rd Southern Pines NC 28387–6633 Office: 145 W Pennsylvania Ave Southern Pines NC 28387–5428

APPRECIATION FOR ALL WHO FOUGHT RECENT NEW MEXICO FOREST FIRES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, imagine being face to face with a powerful beast that can frighten the most ferocious bear. This beast is a forest fire, and the U.S. Forest Service has recently confronted two immense fires in northern New Mexico. The U.S. Forest Service in our State has done a splendid job in containing these two fires and they deserve great credit.

I want to express my appreciation to Chip Cartwright, the regional forester in New Mexico; Leonard Lucero, the head of the Carson Forest; Al Defler, head of the Santa Fe Forest; and Gary Schiff of the Forest Service, whose well-executed planning led to the containment of these fires which threatened our communities and our treasured forests in New Mexico.

I also want to include for the RECORD a step-by-step analysis of exactly what the Forest Service has to do to contain a forest fire, and I will submit that information for the RECORD.

The statement highlights the mission of the Forest Service, which involved air attacks, the safe evacuation of residents, the coordination of hundreds of firefighting crews, and the overall exceptional communication that was coordinated by the Service. All this was being done while fire was burning on very steep slopes with high fuel loads, strong wind gusts, and unseasonably hot and dry weather.

Over 7,000 acres were burned. Entire communities were threatened by the fires, which creates a tremendous amount of stress that Forest Service officials must endure while making on-the-spot decisions. One decision included an ordered evacuation of the residents of Lama in northern Taos County.

As the raging storm headed their way it was critical that the evacuation was handled in an orderly and calm fashion. Most individuals worked around the clock fighting both fires, which occurred one after the other. Gary Loving, for example, just completed his duties as incident commander for the Dome fire in the Santa Fe when he was called to duty in the Carson.

While our Federal employees who manage public lands have been the subject of much criticism, now is the right time to acknowledge them for their true dedication and devotion to their duties as protectors of the land.

Before I close, I also want to mention the wonderful efforts of the volunteer firefighting organizations, New Mexico forestry officials, Federal, State, and local agencies, the Red Cross, the residents of Lama and Red River, Questa, Taos, White Rock, Jemez, Los Alamos, and Santa Fe, and everyone who gave their time toward fighting these fires. These individuals have shown an entire

Nation how caring about one another and rallying together and working together can overcome any tragedy.

I also want to thank the Small Business Administration, Phil Lader especially, the Administrator. Just today, the Small Business Administration has announced that Taos County, where this fire took place, is a Federal disaster area. That means that the residents of Lama who lost their homes, and there is a total of 31 families, can now apply for low-interest loans. In the same vein, businesses that were struck down by the fire can apply for low-interest loans to rebuild.

Mr. Speaker, here is evidence of the Federal Government being able to help. Recently, the Federal Emergency Management Agency went to northern New Mexico to inspect damage, and they are working to see if they can be helpful, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Here we have a situation where nature strikes, there are a lot of victims, and then the Federal Government can come in with some good programs and well-trained people and help citizens.

Mr. Speaker, New Mexico is also not burning. Only 1 percent of northern Taos County burned. We are sending a message out to the rest of the country from New Mexico that we welcome visitors; that the State is not on fire; that we have some of the best hiking and fishing and cultural representation of our country in our State. And we hope that despite this tragedy, that America will come to New Mexico.

The fire is under control. The Carson and the Santa Fe are still at risk, and if visitors come they have to be very careful about not initiating any camp fires or throwing matches on the ground or being careless because we are faced with a very, very precarious situation, especially in the Carson.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by once again thanking members of the U.S. Forest Service for the splendid job they did in containing these two fires in New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, the information referred to earlier is submitted herewith:

REPORT ON THE HONDO WILDFIRE AND OUR APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO FOUGHT THE BLAZE

(By Congressman Bill Richardson)

At 12:30 PM on Sunday, May 5, our Taos Zone Dispatcher, Paul Mondragon, received a report of a fire spreading in San Cristobal canyon. Phil Tafoya, a Carson National Forest law enforcement officer, was dispatched to the scene. Fifteen minutes later, Marc Trujillo, the Carson's Fire Management Officer, ordered an air attack. By 2:15 PM planes were dropping their first loads in efforts to save homes and contain the fire.

In the meantime Ron Burnam, Red River Fire Marshall, and his fire crew as well as the Hondo/Saco and Taos Fire Departments were on site attempting to save homes from the ground. By 3:30 PM, Paul and Marc were ordering bulldozers and other heavy equipment to build fire lines around homes and communities. By 4:00 PM, it was apparent that this was a raging fire storm and Lama residents' lives were in danger as the storm headed their way. Carson National Forest

and local fire officials recommended evacuation of the Lama area.

At 4:00 PM local forest officials, realizing the severity of the fire, requested a full Type I fire team. Within hours this team of world class fire fighting specialists began to arrive. At 5:30 PM Carson National Forest Supervisor Leonard Lucero and Marc Trujillo flew over the fire and sized up the situation. By this time the fire had reached 9000 feet in elevation and was headed for Flag Mountain, just south of the Village of Questa.

Given the rate of spread, Carson National Forest officials in coordination with State Forestry and local officials and the State Police began the evacuation of residents on the southern edge of Questa and the Town of Red River. Before midnight the Class I Team, headed by incident Commander Gary Loving, arrived, having just finished work on the Dome fire near Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Within 24 hours, 32 twenty-person fire crews, six helicopters, 24 fire engines, and five tankers were working to protect homes of local residents and contain the fire. A small city of over 1000 firefighters, fire fighting strategists, safety and information officers, cooks, communications specialists and many more appeared on a mesa just west of the fire. The challenges facing the team were daunting: fighting a fire that had already engulfed almost 7000 acres, devastated one community and was threatening two others. The fire was burning on very steep slopes, fuel loads were very high, wind gusts were strong, and the weather was unseasonably hot and dry.

Yet, within days, the team managed to contain the fire. Much of the work was done by helicopters which dumped over a million gallons of water on the fire. What is perhaps most miraculous is that not a single life was lost, nor any serious injuries, neither firefighters nor residents. And from the time the team arrived, not a single home was lost.

On behalf of all of my constituents, I want to say thanks. Thanks to Supervisor Leonard Lucero and the entire Carson National Forest team for their swift response. Thanks to local volunteer fire fighting organizations, BLM, State Forestry Officials, Red Cross, the National Guard, our State Police and all the local volunteers for all working together seamlessly under great stress. Thanks to a wonderful community who pulled together to help those in need. Thanks to the Class I fire team and firefighters who came from all over the nation to help us. You are truly the best on the planet!

The Forest Service certainly receives their share of knocks from some who sometimes disagree with their decisions. But not this time. No one is knocking this agency in my district for these efforts. The men and women who helped us are nothing less than heroes. And we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. Muchas gracias a todos por su ayuda.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. MCKEON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCKEON address the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ALLOCATION OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the place of the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

EXPLANATION OF BUDGET PROCESS AND VOTES ON BUDGET PROPOSALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk a little bit about the budget process that has just passed, to put on the record the reasons I voted the way I did. I voted for the Coalition budget; I voted for the President's budget, both designed to get us to a balanced budget within a 6-year period, the same as the parameters set in the Republican leadership budget. I voted very strongly against the Republican budget.

Why did I vote for two and not the third? Well, basically the reason is, Mr. Speaker, because the first two at least recognized the importance of investment in the future for our young people, for our economic growth. Because those budgets, while they did balance in a 6-year period, the same as the Republican leadership budget, at the same time those budgets did not attempt to give tax breaks to the wealthiest individuals in this country.

The coalition budget had no tax cuts in it, recognizing that we have contradictory goals if we are trying to reduce the revenues coming in by cutting taxes and at the same time balancing the budget.

The President's budget, while it did have a tax cut in it, was a limited tax cut targeted for middle income working families and low income working families.

Neither of these budgets tried to take it out of the hide of low-income working people, such as the Republican leadership budget did, particularly because the Republican leadership budget sought to greatly reduce the earned income tax credit. That is the tax cut that was greatly expanded only 2 years ago, that gives tax relief to working families earning under \$26,000 a year.

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I was also concerned because the Republican leadership budget would cut education again, and that is a battle we had just fought. It would eliminate the Department of Commerce. If anyone can tell me why, at a time when we have got a department that is actually generating jobs, generating contracts, has brought in \$80 billion of contracts and developed a national export strategy for the first time, why we seek to eliminate it. It seems to me it is simply a matter of ideology, and that is not a satisfactory reason.