

facilities in the county. She helped establish the Buies Creek Sewer District and later served on the Northeast Metro Water District Board.

She was also on the organizing board of the Harnett County Habitat for Humanity. She served as president of the Dunn-Erwin Rotary Club, conducting their foreign exchange program and leading an exchange group back to her homeland in 1993. She was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow and was Rotarian of the Year in 1993. Also a member and past president of the Coats Kiwanis Club, she was honored as a George F. Hixson Fellow in 1999. Always interested in promoting and recognizing the work of women, Lenore was the county coordinator for the N.C. United for ERA. A devoted Democrat, she was a member and officer of the county and state Democratic Women. Last year she received the state Democratic Women's Star Award. Her political activism began long before she came to the United States.

She grew up during the Japanese occupation of her homeland, where she became a patriot and resistance member. Later she was a member of CONDA, a YMCA-sponsored Congress to promote post-World War II understanding among students in the Asian countries. She served as president of the Congress, which is credited with the election of Romoán Magsaysay as President of the Philippines.

Mr. Speaker, I marvel that any single human being could have been as active in so many agencies, organizations, and associations. Or that any single individual could have accomplished so much. Moreover, Lenore's accomplishments include being a mother to Dr. Paul D. Tuck, mother-in-law to Sarah Tuck, sister to Julia Borromero, as well as six brothers, and grandmother to Ryan, Hunter, Alden, and Karson Tuck. All of whom will truly miss her.

I know that Lenore would not want us to be sad. I know that she would caution us that life is for the living, that day will follow the darkest of nights, and that we should leave this place with our spirits high, our hopes redeemed. I believe, based on what I knew about her, the life she lived, the successes she enjoyed, the way she loved life, she would want to say to us: "Be happy, my friends. I went willingly into that long night." Heaven is a happier place since Lenore arrived. Lenore is rushing around greeting those who have gone before. She is already planning projects that, even in Heaven, need doing. She is seeking out children she can help, and planning her flower garden for this spring. Indeed, in this case, as the Bible tells us:

"O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory?" Amen.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH AND
AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION
DRUGS

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, May is Older Americans Month, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our parents, grandparents, and all others who have gone before us, protecting and nurturing us through good

times and bad, and providing opportunities for younger generations to grow and live responsible, comfortable lives.

Our responsibility, in return, is to ensure that our parents and all older Americans live the rest of their lives free from overly burdensome financial concerns related to their health. Yet today, one of the greatest worries of older Americans is how to pay for prescription drugs since Medicare does not provide for this most basic need. On average, one in three Medicare beneficiaries have no drug coverage for the duration of any given year; nearly half have no coverage for some portion of the year. Of those who have coverage, most have it from their employer. Seventeen percent are covered by Medicare HMOs. But in North Dakota, very few of our seniors have employer-provided prescription drug coverage and none of the Medicare beneficiaries in North Dakota have access to a Medicare+Choice plan offering drug coverage. In my state that has the highest per capita population of seniors, M+C plans offering drug coverage are not an option!

The need for a comprehensive prescription drug benefit is clear. Older Americans make up 13 percent of the population but account for 34 percent of all prescriptions dispensed and 42 cents of every dollar spent on prescription drugs. Seniors in my state, Mr. Speaker, are regularly forced into the absurd choice of paying for their prescription drugs or covering their food and rent for the month. This is no choice at all and we should be ashamed for allowing it to come to that.

This month, the Alliance for Retired Americans and other groups will provide buses for seniors from states that border our northern neighbor, including North Dakota, to travel to Canada to fill their prescriptions. It is an embarrassment to our health care system that older Americans must leave the United States in order to purchase affordable prescription drugs. We must correct this by including meaningful prescription drug coverage as a standard option to all Medicare beneficiaries.

Many states have become frustrated by the lack of action here in the nation's capital. They are trying to take steps on behalf of their own citizens to curb prices. But, they are facing challenges in the courts and in the press. States are trying their best to make drugs affordable to seniors, but this is a national crisis. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that prescription drug prices will incur double-digit inflation each year over the next decade. This crisis is only getting worse and we must act now to protect our seniors today, and in the future.

Congress has the authority to make an affordable and comprehensive prescription drug benefit available to all Medicare beneficiaries. We have the authority, now we must show we have the will. Let's not kid ourselves: a meaningful prescription drug benefit is going to be very expensive—the \$350 billion some are talking about probably isn't even in the ballpark. We must make some hard—and responsible—budgetary decisions to fund such a plan, but our seniors deserve nothing less. Mr. Speaker, let us honor older Americans by enacting a comprehensive, affordable, and voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALFRED A.
MCKETHAN

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to Mr. Alfred Augustus McKethan, a devoted civic leader and philanthropist in Hernando County and the State of Florida, who passed away on April 1 at the wonderful age of 93.

It is impossible to fully describe the extent of Mr. McKethan's reach during his lifetime. He touched so many lives, in such positive and lasting ways.

His family roots were and continue to be solidly embedded in Hernando County—a place his family helped to settle starting in 1842 when Florida was just a territory and not a state. He was very proud to be a fourth generation Brooksville native and devoted his entire life to making the community in which he lived a better place.

After attending the Virginia Military Institute for two years, Mr. McKethan graduated from the University of Florida and returned home to Brooksville to work at Hernando State Bank, fondly known in the community as HSB. The bank was founded in 1905 and, from early in its existence, was led first by his father, Will McKethan, and then by Alfred, and would flourish under this son's leadership. When Will McKethan became ill and could no longer be active in the bank, Alfred's mother, Alice Hale McKethan, known to all as "Allee," became the first, and for many years, was the only female bank director in Florida. Mr. McKethan, and the other stockholders, sold the independent bank to Sun Banks Inc. in 1985 and retired as chairman in 1994.

During his banking career, Mr. McKethan became a mover and shaker in the banking industry. In 1947, he became the youngest person to become president of the Florida Bankers Association. He was only 38 years old at the time and would thrive in the position. He is credited with helping to push through significant banking legislation that, according to the St. Petersburg Times, resulted in the "modernization of the state's banking industry."

Dade City banker and longtime friend, Hjalma Johnson, described Mr. McKethan's banking career this way, "He is the dean of banking. No one has had more influence over the course of the banking industry and its ability to deliver services to the ever-growing state of Florida than the chairman." (St. Petersburg Times)

Jim Kimbrough, who married Mr. McKethan's daughter, and who would one day take over as head of SunTrust Bank/Nature Coast, said of his banking career and role as mentor: "It's been a privilege to be at his side professionally." (St. Petersburg Times)

But his interests and political involvements stretched far beyond that of the banking industry. According to Brooksville lawyer Joe Mason, McKethan's nephew, "His influence is everywhere you look. Probably no one in the last half-century has had as much of an impact on the community as he has had." (St. Petersburg Times) Mr. Mason also pointed out Mr. McKethan's unique and very effective style of conducting business. "Over the years, much important business was transacted at

the "Big House" lunch table over a full platter of Minnie's fried chicken, and he had a huge lunch everyday," Mr. Mason said, referring to Mr. McKethan's home in Brooksville.

Mr. McKethan was a citrus grower and made his mark in one of Florida's major industries by helping to found the Florida Citrus Commission and by serving as director of Florida Citrus Mutual. From 1949 to 1954, he served as chairman of the State Road Board on which he had considerable influence over the development of communities throughout the state. According to the *Hernando Times*, some notable examples of the big road projects that took place with his urging include the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in St. Petersburg, the expansion of State Road 50 from Orlando to the Gulf of Mexico through Hernando County and U.S. 98 from Lakeland to the southern border of Citrus County. Mr. Hjalma Johnson joked at his funeral—with a certain degree of seriousness—that Mr. McKethan had a particular threshold for approving road projects, "They must be potentially beneficial to every Floridian—and they must either originate, terminate or go through Brooksville." (St. Petersburg Times) He served as the first chairman of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's governing board created to address chronic flooding problems in the region. At his funeral, Dale Twachtman who was the first executive director of SWFWMD was quoted in the *Hernando Times* recalling the first days of the agency in Brooksville when its final location was still in question. "But I and the staff never doubted for a minute that he would figure out a way to keep (SWFWMD) in Brooksville, and he did," Twachtman said. Sonny Vergara, Executive Director of SWFWMD, described Mr. McKethan's foresight this way: "He knew water would be a central concern for the future of Florida," Vergara said. "He saw water management as a comprehensive view." (Hernando Today)

He was also a man devoted to his church and to education.

He headed up the committee that selected St. Petersburg as the site for Florida Presbyterian College, now known as Eckerd College and was a generous supporter of his alma mater, the University of Florida, which named its baseball stadium after him. He also established the first endowed chair at UF and several football scholarships. Florida Athletic Director Jeremy Foley told *Hernando Today*, "This is a sad day for everyone that knew Mr. McKethan. The University of Florida has lost a great friend, the state of Florida has lost a great person. No one loved the Gators more than Mr. McKethan."

His tremendous generosity will certainly have a lasting influence throughout Hernando County and the state, but particularly in Hernando County. According to former State Rep. Chuck Smith of Brooksville, "He was a person who above everything else believed Hernando County was the only place on earth." (Hernando Times) Through his efforts, he helped to bring about the Brooksville campus of Pasco-Hernando Community College, the Brooksville-Hernando County Airport, the West Hernando/Staffordene T. Foggia Library, Alfred McKethan Park at Pine Island and the Alfred McKethan Civic Auditorium at the Hernando County Fairgrounds.

Brooksville lawyer Bruce Snow told *The Hernando Times*, "He was willing to share his

wealth in ways that people weren't even aware of." Len Tria, a former Hernando County Commissioner, recalled a surprise commission meeting attended by Mr. McKethan after the County applied to his bank for a loan for a new library. He told the Commission that the bank would not secure the loan. Tria told *The Hernando Times*, "My heart dropped. Then, he reaches into his inside coat pocket and said, 'However, I have a check here for \$200,000 . . . We want you to build that library.'"

Reporter Lara Bradburn of *Hernando Today* describes the personality of this fine man known as "Mr. Hernando County" in vivid detail. She writes: "It wasn't so much his stature; the fact that he owned more assets than most anyone in the county, or that his name is plastered on various parks, buildings and institutions. It was more in his demeanor and the personal way he connected with those around him. He was charming, dapper and undeniably cunning in business. He was the man who dined with presidents and governors, blue-collar workers and poor country preachers. Titles meant little, unless they were the means to an end. He was the quintessential Southern gentleman, was just as comfortable with the rich as the poor: always cordial, always interesting, always ready with a good yarn from the old days."

Mr. Mason agrees: "Despite his exceptional business and financial successes, he was a very real person who was interested in the well being of everyone he came into contact with and was always eager to help whoever he could."

Because of his generous and kind spirit, Mr. McKethan's legacy will forever live on in the hearts and souls of his many admirers and through the residents of Hernando County far into the future who will continue to enjoy the many facilities that he made possible during his lifetime. He was, and will always be, loved and appreciated for all the good he represented and for the lives he changed for the better. Whenever we donate to the Boy Scouts of America or our local church, we should think of Mr. McKethan. Whenever we go out of our way to help a neighbor in need, we should remember Mr. McKethan. Whenever we mentor a young person or help an up-and-coming professional trying to make it in business, we should remember the great legacy of Alfred McKethan. He trained and mentored many leaders in his day and as Mr. Hjalma Johnson said with great emotion as he quoted Sir Isaac Newton at his funeral, "If I have seen farther, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants. All of us will see farther because we stood on the shoulders of this giant. Mr. Chairman, you will be well missed and never forgotten." (St. Petersburg Times)

I would also like to submit for the record the below quotes showing the great love and respect that Alfred McKethan earned during his remarkable life. He certainly left a lasting impression in Hernando County and throughout the State of Florida that will remain for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF CALLISTA YATES NANCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Callista Yates Nance on the occasion of her 90th Birthday.

Callista Yates was born and raised in Chadbourn, North Carolina. She was one of six children born to Willis and Gloria Yates. She had two sisters and three brothers. She attended the Johnson High School in Chadbourn. She married Willie Rufus Nance and together they had thirteen children. Callista was never overwhelmed by her large family. In fact, she opened the doors of her home to her children's friends and treated them as if they were her own children.

In addition to Callista's family obligations, she was also very active in her church and her community. She taught Sunday school for years and served as a deaconess in the church. She is loved throughout the community for her kindness and generosity. She is known as "ma" or "grandma" throughout the community. Others attribute her open door policy to one of her favorite sayings, "in God's eyesight we are all equal".

Sadly, her husband, Willie, died when he was only 60 years old, but Callista has never failed to persevere. She has always been known for her beautiful smile—a trait that she passed on to her luckiest children.

Mr. Speaker, Callista Yates Nance is a beacon in her community, in her church, and in her family. She has spread joy for her first 89 years and I expect she always will. As such I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman on the occasion of her 90th Birthday.

RECOGNIZING BRYAN F. SIEBENALLER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, Bryan F. Siebenaller of Bascom, Ohio, who recently accepted his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Bryan will soon graduate from Hopewell-Loudon High School. During his high school career, he has maintained a 3.9 grade point average, ranking high in his graduating class. He is an accomplished athlete, earning varsity letters in football, basketball and track. And he has clearly demonstrated his leadership ability, serving as President of the Student Council and as President of the National Honor Society.

Bryan Siebenaller can be very proud of his many accomplishments. He is a credit to his family, his school, and his community. By accepting his appointment, Bryan is accepting a unique challenge.

The Academy is the pinnacle of leadership development for the United States Army. As a member of the U.S. Corps of Cadets, he will