

After several years of processing, the William H. Natcher Political Collection will open to the public Friday, October 1, 2004, at the Kentucky Library and Museum on the campus of Western Kentucky University. The collection will display volumes of correspondences, photographs, awards and memorabilia, accumulated throughout Congressman Natcher's distinguished life and career.

I would like to extend the collective gratitude of the U.S. House of Representatives to the Natcher Family and Western Kentucky University for assembling a collection that will allow future generations to appreciate and learn from Congressman Natcher's exceptional life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PETE LARSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mourn the death of Pete Larson, who was killed in an all-terrain-vehicle accident while conducting land health assessments for the Bureau of Land Management near Grand Junction, Colorado. Pete was an active, enthusiastic individual, who loved his job and was a loyal friend to Colorado's Western Slope. I am honored to stand here today before this body of Congress and this nation to celebrate his life and recognize his many accomplishments.

Pete married Rita Graham in 1966, and they raised their family in Grand Junction, where Pete was very active in the community. He taught science for twenty-nine years at Grand Junction High School where his natural curiosity and wide-ranging interests allowed him to connect with students of every personality. His students recall his enthusiasm for explaining chemistry, physics, biology and botany to generations of Grand Junction students.

Pete was always ready to help a friend or a stranger and willingly shared his knowledge of the environment. He knew its plants and its animal inhabitants, its soils and its water, its weather and its moods. Pete's love of the land and the people of Mesa County led him to continue his service to others as he worked to combat tamarisk while working at the Colorado National Monument. He was instrumental in creating the Tamarisk Coalition and served on their board of directors. After ten years of dedication to the National Park Service, Pete took a job as a biological technician for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field office in Grand Junction where he worked for three years before his unfortunate accident on August 2, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call the attention of this body of Congress to the life of Pete Larson. He always had a bright outlook on life and his curiosity and love of learning inspired those who knew him. The Grand Junction community and the State of Colorado are a better place as the result of his many contributions. Pete was a great man who dedicated his life to helping others, and I know that he will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Rita, his two daughters Kristen Kasel and Kari Larson, and his son Tor Larson at this difficult time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STOUGHTON HOSPITAL

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Stoughton Hospital located in Stoughton, Wisconsin. Since 1904, Stoughton Hospital has provided high quality individual healthcare to the people of Stoughton and the surrounding communities.

Stoughton Hospital was founded by Dr. Michael Iverson in 1904 as the Stoughton Surgical Hospital. The hospital was purchased by the city in 1924 upon Dr. Iverson's retirement. Over the years, the hospital has seen many renovations and improvements, but Stoughton Hospital's core values have remained the same. The Norwegian born and educated Dr. Iverson was committed to a small hospital that offered personalized care to each of its patients. Today, a century later, Stoughton Hospital is still firmly committed to that same philosophy.

The hospital offers a variety of services to the community in its facility that include an urgent care complex, intensive care unit, medical and surgical inpatient units and both outpatient surgery and rehabilitation facilities. At Stoughton Hospital, state-of-the-art care is provided for each patient. In addition to providing care for community members, the hospital also meets the needs of the community by offering community education courses and service programs.

Today, I proudly join the Stoughton Hospital staff and volunteers, residents of Stoughton and the surrounding communities in celebrating Stoughton Hospital's 100 years of quality healthcare and personalized service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2004, and September 21, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 441, 442, 443, 457, 458, 459, and 460.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB NERO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mourn the passing of Bob Nero from my home state of Colorado. Bob, who recently retired as the head of Public Relations for the University of Colorado system, passed away at the age of fifty-nine after battling pancreatic cancer. He was known for his fun-loving nature, excellent wit,

and abiding sense of professionalism. As his family and friends mourn this loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Bob and pay tribute to him for his contributions to the state of Colorado.

Bob worked for the University of Colorado for nineteen years, most recently as the Assistant Vice President of Institutional Relations. He was an effective and professional communicator who passionately worked to build an understanding of the University of Colorado's mission and its educational contributions to the state.

However, Bob's legacy reaches far beyond the University of Colorado. He was a multi-talented individual who had a diverse career working as a consultant to the cast of *The Lives of the Rich and Famous* in Europe; as an assistant editor in the reference book division of Thomas Y. Crowell Publishing Company; and as the West Coast Bureau chief for the New York Herald. Earlier in his career, Bob served as an oral historian at the American Film Institute and was the Director of Communications at UCLA's Graduate School of Management.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Bob Nero, though take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of dedication that Bob has left with us. I am honored to pay tribute to such a devoted public servant, one who has given many years in service to the state of Colorado. I know that many throughout our state who had the chance to benefit from his experience and dedication will miss Bob Nero. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE LINDY BOGGS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the former Representative and Ambassador Corrine Claiborne "Lindy" Boggs on the acceptance of her portrait into the House collection. While I did not have the pleasure of serving with Lindy Boggs, I am a great admirer of hers. Her Southern charm is infamous. Her legislative and political knowledge is vast. As a champion of education, women's issues, and civil rights, her accomplishments are many and need not be enumerated. Indeed, it is impossible not to admire, to like, and to respect Lindy Boggs, as we are all beneficiaries of her advocacy.

However, I do want to highlight that she shared my commitment to this institution and a love of history. Lindy Boggs believed that a recorded history was important and helped Americans understand the institution of Congress and the House. She successfully worked to establish the Office of the Historian in the House, which was created to collect, preserve, and interpret the documents of the House for Congress, the public and the press. In addition, she chaired the Joint Committee on Bicentennial Arrangements. It is also noteworthy that she served on my Committee, the Committee on House Administration, before taking a seat on the Committee on Appropriations.

As an ex-officio member of the House Fine Arts Board, which serves as the clearinghouse for donations of House-related works of art, furniture and artifacts, I am pleased to support the acceptance of the portrait of Lindy Boggs by the House. I would also like to acknowledge Jan Schoonmaker and his efforts with the Lindy Boggs Portrait Committee in making this project a reality. This House has previously recognized the many contributions of Mrs. Boggs by naming a room in the Capitol in honor of her, and I think it is only fitting that the portrait will be hung in The Corrine Clairborne Boggs Room.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating former Representative and Ambassador Lindy Boggs on her receipt of this honor.

REGARDING CARY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cary Medical Center not only for 80 years of community health care services to Aroostook County but for receiving the National Job Corps Association's 2004 Alpha Award in the Community Category.

The Cary Medical Center has played a unique and integral role in providing health services to the communities in Northern Maine. The Cary Medical Center offers a variety of excellent services to the people of Aroostook County. Its dietary department is one of the best in the country. Cary also has established itself as a leader in Community Health Education and Disease Prevention programs.

The Cary Medical Center also has superior veterans' services. The VA outpatient clinic was the first facility of its type in the nation, providing outpatient medical care for Aroostook veterans since 1987. It has over 6,000 patient visits per year.

The Cary Medical Center has been recognized by many organizations for its excellent service. In 1998, Cary Medical Center earned Accreditation with Commendation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, the highest rating attainable, placing Cary among the top 15 percent of hospitals in the nation in reference to nationally established guidelines on quality patient care.

More recently, the Center received the National Job Corps Association's 2004 Alpha Award in the Community Category. This is an extraordinary achievement: Cary Medical Center will be one of 6 winners out of 107 national nominations. The Alfa Award is given to individuals, organizations and employers who are dedicated to helping Job Corps students. CMC manages the Certified Nurses Assistant program for the Loring Job Corps. The hospital provides both classroom and clinical instruction for students who select the vocation.

Beyond excellent programs and the highest honors, perhaps the greatest achievement of all is the duration of service CMC has given to the community of Aroostook County. 80 years is a very long time to be serving people, and Northern Maine is surely a better place be-

cause of their contributions. I thank them for their dedication and service to the people of Maine, and commend them for this most recent award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DON SHEPPARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Don Sheppard, a dedicated Colorado State Patrol Officer from Cortez, Colorado who recently retired after twenty-one years of service to the people of my state. His hard work and love for protecting his community over the years serves as a shining example of the character of our nation's law enforcement officers. It is my privilege to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize the career of Don Sheppard.

Don has compiled an impressive record in helping others. During Vietnam, he served in the U.S. Air Force as a communications specialist working with computers and cryptography. In 1979, he joined the Montezuma County Sheriff's office and then the Dolores County Sheriff's office. He attended the Colorado State Patrol Academy in 1983, and upon completion was assigned to the Cortez office of Troop 5A where he has served for twenty-one years.

Don has received many accolades throughout his law enforcement career for his professional and courteous service. He was an active, hard working officer who was responsible for removing more drunk drivers from the roads than any other trooper in 5A. He still holds the DUI arrest record for his area, ninety-one in a single year.

Mr. Speaker, Don Sheppard has dedicated his career to ensuring the safety and well being of Colorado citizens. His presence in the continuing efforts to fight drunk driving are especially commendable given that he has taken time away from his family and friends to face uncertain danger and unpredictable consequences. I am honored to stand here before this body and recognize the efforts of such an industrious public servant who will be sorely missed in Colorado. Good luck in your retirement Don, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NORTHWEST COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AS IT CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING IN JACKSON, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Northwest Community School District in Jackson, Michigan as it celebrates fifty years of educational excellence in the Jackson community. Our current superintendent, Dennis Desmarais, as well as the

other administrators, teachers, support personnel, and the 25,000 residents and parents of the school district should all be proud of the lasting contribution they have made in shaping the lives of the young people in the Jackson area.

Northwest School District is one of Jackson County's largest school districts, and was established in 1954 when nineteen tiny districts consolidated to become Northwest Rural Agricultural Schools. By the time R. Willard Kidder became superintendent in 1955, more than 1100 students were enrolled in the district, and were transported to 23 buildings on nine buses. The next year, the school's student council chose the Mounties as the district's mascot, a name which was taken from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, symbolizing fairness, devotion, duty, and exemplary service. It was also at this time that red and black were adopted as the official school colors.

Mr. Kidder took over as Northwest's superintendent in 1956 when the original superintendent, Dr. Warran Randall, accepted a position in Hudson. Under Kidder's leadership, the school grew, the Northwest Junior-Senior High School, now R.W. Kidder Middle School, opened for students in grades five through nine in 1956. Enrollment continued to grow, and peaked at 4,200 when Mr. Kidder retired in 1972. In 1960, Flora List Elementary School opened for 700 students in kindergarten through sixth grade, and three years later, Parnall Elementary School opened on Lansing Avenue to accommodate another 900 students. In 1966, Mr. Kidder hired Mr. Joe Koziol to teach driver's education, and Mr. Koziol continued to serve the district for nearly four more decades as assistant principal in the 1970's and then as the district's superintendent from 1998 till 2002.

On behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend our highest praise and congratulations to the Northwest School District for its awards and academic honors as it marks the 50th anniversary of its founding.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud member of the House Native American Caucus, to celebrate the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

I also extend a warm welcome to the members from Wisconsin's seven tribes: the Oneida, Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, Stockbridge-Munsee, Menominee, Brothertown, and Potawatomi who have traveled to Washington, D.C. this week. They join the nearly twenty-thousand Native Americans, representing the nearly five-hundred state and federally recognized tribes, who have gathered here to celebrate the opening of the museum in the largest tribal gathering in our nation's history.

After 15 years of planning and five years of construction, the National Museum of the American Indian celebrates the traditions, diversity and vitality of America's first people. Located within reach of the Capitol dome on