

Thank you, Norman Borlaug. This nation—and many nations—thank you.

TRIBUTE TO THE MASSEY
AGENCY—30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the Massey Agency as this Newark firm celebrates its 30th anniversary. With Emma and Ramelle Massey at the helm of this woman/minority-owned insurance and brokerage firm, they offer services that are important to residents and businesses in the area.

Fortunately, for the City of Newark, the Massey Agency has always been committed to the needs of the community. Beginning with the late Raymond J. Massey who opened the agency's doors and continuing with his wife, Emma and daughter, Ramelle, the Massey Agency has been providing job opportunities and internship programs for local residents. In addition to the employment opportunities the Massey Agency has offered, they have also contributed financially to local community organizations which have assisted many young people and programs to achieve success for themselves and others in the community. Along the way, the agency has earned a standing as one of the predominant Minority Business Enterprise/Women's Business Enterprise in the Northeast. The agency has also received proclamations from the Mayor of Newark and the Independent Insurance Agents of New Jersey, which recognized the agency's longevity, dedication to the City of Newark and the quality of its insurance products and services.

Educated in some of the finest schools and universities, the Massey women are true professionals and exemplary role models. They are both multiple licensed insurance brokers offering a wide array of services. One of their goals is to expand their reach beyond the local community. With the tenacity, energy, intelligence and willpower of Emma and Ramelle, there is no doubt they will meet this self imposed challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that the Massey Agency and the Newark community have every right to be proud of the lasting contributions the agency has made to the Greater Newark Community. I am pleased to congratulate Emma and Ramelle Massey along with their employees on their 30th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING SUE MAXWELL

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Sue Maxwell has been named as the 2005 Vinton County Southeastern Ohio Regional Council Person of the Year; and

Whereas, Sue Maxwell has been acknowledged for her success in operating Ravenwood Castle; and

Whereas, Sue Maxwell should be commended for her business savvy and her dedication to Hocking Hills and Vinton County.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Sue Maxwell for her outstanding accomplishment.

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GRAND OLE OPRY, NASHVILLE, TN

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN. As one of the most renowned traditions in American music and broadcasting, the Grand Ole Opry continues to entertain and delight music lovers around the globe every week. Broadcast live from the Opry stage every Friday and Saturday night, the Grand Ole Opry is the Nation's longest-running radio show and the beloved home of our Nation's most celebrated music.

The show's original host, George D. Hay, introduced the first performance in 1925: 77-year-old Uncle Jimmy Thompson, who could "fiddle the taters off the vine," played "Tennessee Waggoner." Since then its audience has grown from a group of local Nashville listeners to the millions of music fans who tune in through satellite radio, television, and the internet.

The Ryman Auditorium's original well-worn oak wood Opry stage has moved with the show's changing venues through the years and has hosted some of America's most legendary country musicians—Patsy Cline, Roy Acuff, the Carter Family, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, and Bill Monroe. For many generations of Americans, Minnie Pearl's cheerful shout of "How-dee! I'm just so proud to be here!" will forever signify the start of another memorable and captivating Grand Ole Opry show.

My own personal connection to the Grand Ole Opry began when I met the legendary Opry duo Earl Scruggs and Lester Flatt during my father's 1950s political campaigns throughout Tennessee. Like so many others, I tuned in every week to listen to the gifted musicianship of the performers. And in a visit I shared with Earl Scruggs not too long ago, he told me that growing up in Shelby, North Carolina, he would walk across the hollow to a neighbor's house just to listen to the show every week because his family didn't have a radio. Both accomplished musicians and fans alike continue to hold the Grand Ole Opry in the highest esteem among America's musical traditions.

While the Opry has always stayed true to the musical roots upon which it was founded, it continues to evolve with the latest country sounds. The Grand Ole Opry's elite membership now includes accomplished artists like Martina McBride, Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson, Vince Gill, Brad Paisley, Patty Loveless, and Dierks Bentley who continue to entertain fans on the same oak wood stage every week.

In its 80 years, the Grand Ole Opry has come to mean something more than a weekly country show. In addition to extending Nashville and America's musical traditions through-

out the country and world, it is a way to connect with and pay tribute to America's musical influences and heritage. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of this beloved American musical institution and to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Grand Ole Opry.

CONGRATULATING IRON CITY PIPE
AND SUPPLY FOR WINNING THE
ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
AWARD

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, owners Ray Brewer, Rick Smith and Eric Massie in true entrepreneurial spirit recognized a market opening in southern Ohio and capitalized on it; and

Whereas, Iron City Pipe and Supply has been able to adapt and grow and now serves the needs of businesses in a tri-state area; and

Whereas, Iron City Pipe and Supply is looking forward to continued growth and diversification to further benefit the Jackson area.

Therefore, I join with family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Iron City Pipe and Supply for winning this prestigious award.

BETTY LEE STRECKFUSS, DELEGATE
TO THE 2005 WHITE HOUSE
CONFERENCE ON AGING

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, during the second week of December, the 2005 White House Conference on Aging will take place in Washington, D.C. This is a once in a decade event where delegates from across the United States gather to make policy recommendations to the President and Congress on issues of importance to aging generations.

I had the privilege of nominating Betty Lee Streckfuss, RN, as a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging, and I am proud to say that she will be in attendance as the delegate from the Second Congressional District of Texas.

Betty has a long and distinguished background in healthcare. A former Head Nurse of the Acute Care Pediatric Unit at Ben Taub Hospital in Houston, TX, Betty is currently serving as founder and associate partner of Streckfuss and Associates, a Texas based medical consulting endeavor specializing in clinical policies, procedures and regulatory issues. She is also secretary of the Houston/Harris County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council and a member of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature.

I commend Betty's commitment to healthcare. I have no doubt that her experience, insight, and sincere desire to advocate on behalf of our aging Americans will serve our community well at the 2005 White House Conference on Aging.

A TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL
KATHLEEN K. PAIGE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize the service of an outstanding leader in our Nation's Armed Forces. After more than 34 years in uniform, Rear Admiral Kathleen K. Paige will soon retire from the United States Navy and move on to private life.

Admiral Paige's sustained, superb service culminated in a series of highly challenging senior assignments where she demonstrated dedication to one primary goal: providing highly effective military capabilities to warfighters.

Her first Flag assignment was as Commander, Naval Surface Warfare Center in July 1996. Two years later, she assumed duties as Director, Theater Air and Missile Defense and Systems Engineering in the Program Executive Office for Theater Surface Combatants. Then, in April 1999, she was given the additional concurrent assignment as the first Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development & Acquisition) Chief Engineer—the Navy's senior technical authority for development of system and technical architectures. Because of her extraordinary talent and expertise in complex systems, in July 2001, the Missile Defense Agency selected her to be the first Ballistic Missile Defense System Technical Director in charge of integrating the engineering development of all the systems comprising the missile defense program.

Since August 2002, Admiral Paige has also served as the Navy's senior Engineering Duty Officer—nurturing the engineering community's rich heritage of scientific fact-finding and integrated, top-down engineering to ensure continuous innovation. At the same time, she made certain that the Navy remained anchored to fundamental operational realities.

TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan as they celebrate the 14th anniversary of their Independence from the Soviet Union. On October 18, 1991, Azerbaijan adopted its Constitutional Act on Independence declaring their independence as a sovereign state.

Having lived under Soviet rule, the people of Azerbaijan have a great appreciation of living in a democratic civil society and understand that they need to continue to democratize and hold free and fair elections in order to develop and integrate into western structures.

On November 6, 2005, Azerbaijan will hold important parliamentary elections. As a sign of his commitment to ensuring free and fair elections, President Ilham Aliyev issued an Executive Order earlier this year outlining important steps that will be taken prior to the election. Since then great progress has been made to:

allow all political parties to organize rallies free from violence and intimidation, welcome domestic and international election observers, provide appropriate access to media, and ensure central and regional authorities create the necessary conditions for exit polls.

Azerbaijan has come forward as a strong strategic partner and ally not only to the United States but also among the democratic societies in our world. I congratulate Azerbaijan on this important day and look forward to them having free and fair elections next month.

IN RECOGNITION OF FORMER TAIWANESE PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui to Washington, DC.

President Lee Teng-Hui is truly a founding father of democracy. As president of Taiwan from 1988 to 2000, Mr. Lee Teng-Hui helped Taiwan develop into the strong democracy it is today. Today, Taiwan is a vital, growing democracy committed to the universal principles of human freedom and dignity. I am certain that President Lee Teng-Hui's visits to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall and his viewing of the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence has only deepened his appreciation of America's struggle for democracy.

It is my hope that one day there will be open dialogue between high level officials in the United States and in Taiwan for the development of democracy beyond our two countries and around the world.

CONGRATULATING RANDY EVANS
AND RANDY EVANS CONSTRUCTION
FOR WINNING THE SEORC
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Randy Evans, with effort and desire, started Randy Evans Construction and has made it a significant competitor in the Jackson area construction business; and

Whereas, Randy Evans and Randy Evans Construction have helped shape the Jackson area community; and

Whereas, Randy Evans' commitment to perfection, perseverance and fortitude are an inspiration to everyone in Jackson County and beyond.

Therefore, I join with family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Randy Evans and Randy Evans Construction for winning this prestigious award.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COURT, OFFENDER SUPERVISION,
PAROLE AND PUBLIC DEFENDER
EMPLOYEES EQUITY ACT OF 2005

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today Chairman TOM DAVIS and I introduce a bill that will correct a long overdue oversight affecting the non-judicial employees of the D.C. Courts, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), and the D.C. Public Defender Service (PDS).

Under the 1997 National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, the federal government took over the operation of the District of Columbia Courts and related services making the non-judicial employees of the D.C. Courts and the employees of CSOSA federal employees. In 1998, employees of PDS were similarly transferred as part of the District of Columbia Courts and Justice Technical Collections Act. As federal employees, these Court, CSOSA and PDS employees were brought under the federal retirement program (FERS). However, for the employees transferred in 1997 and in 1998, "creditable service" for the purposes of determining when they would be eligible to retire and the amount of annuity they would be entitled to under FERS only began from the date of the transfer. That is, the 1997 and 1998 laws made no provision for treating their year of service as Court and related services employees prior to these laws as creditable service for retirement.

Accordingly, the bill we introduced today will amend these laws to require that the time served by these employees before 1997 will count towards their overall federal retirement eligibility as "creditable service". So for example, if an employee is 60 years old today and has worked 20 years (i.e. since 1985) for the D.C. Courts under our bill he would be eligible for federal retirement today (whereas without our bill he would have to work another twelve years).

I should also note that to avoid the problem of "double dipping," since the employees are still entitled to their D.C. retirement benefits (based upon their work status up until 1997), our bill does not count the pre-1997 years spent as D.C. government employees towards the amount of federal retirement annuity an employee is eligible to receive.

However, it is only fair and just that the Court and related services employees who started their jobs with the expectation that would be able to retire without penalty after 20 years of service or more should be allowed to do so. Our bill today does just that, it restores their "lost time."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the following votes on Monday, October 17th, I would have voted as follows: