

and received his Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Iowa State University in Ames. After completing one year of graduate work at the Biology School at Harvard University, he went to work for the Colorado State Game and Fish Department, and eventually became the Coordinator for the Federal Aid to the Wildlife Restoration Program.

In 1946, he went to work at the Regional Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, where he was responsible for wildlife, recreation, and land use planning in reclamation projects in a four state region.

During the 1950s, Ted worked with other conservationists to encourage Colorado legislators to enact legislation to establish a state park system. Thanks to the efforts of Ted and this group, today all Coloradans—and our visitors as well—can enjoy State Parks throughout Colorado.

In 1957, Ted joined the National Park Service and steadily ascended to various planning positions, eventually becoming the Assistant Director for Cooperative Activities in 1964. In this capacity, he was responsible for studying potential areas, and master planning existing areas of the National Park System, Wilderness, Federal Agency and State Assistance, Park Practice and the International Affairs Programs of the Service.

The large number of additions to the National Park System during the middle and late 1960s reflect the magnitude of this activity.

In September 1969, Ted became Superintendent of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service. In March 1971, he became the Assistant Director to the Director.

From 1972 to 1976, Ted was responsible for the National Park Service program activity in Alaska as related to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and was key to development of National Park areas in Alaska.

During this period, he became Chairman of the Alaska Planning Group for the Department of Interior and coordinated the multi-agency effort that produced the 28 "Four System" legislative proposals and related Environmental Impact Statements as submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C.B. Morton, in December 1973. In February 1976, Ted retired from the National Park Service.

Ted's work thus set the stage for enactment of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which was signed into law by President Carter on December 2, 1980. This Act is often called the most significant land conservation measure in the history of our nation. The statute protected over 100 million acres of federal lands in Alaska, doubling the size of the country's national park and refuge system and tripling the amount of land designated as wilderness.

While with the National Park Service Ted was Chairman of the United States Section, Joint Japan-United States Panel on National Parks and Equivalent Reserves. He was also a member of the Canadian-United States Committee on National Parks; a Board Member of the Wilderness Society Governing Council; a member of the International Union Conservation of Nature; and Chairman of the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas.

After his retirement he was president of the Wilderness Society Governing Council from 1978 to 1980; a Board Member of American Rivers, Inc.; and Management Consultant to Silvertip Consulting and the Defenders of Wildlife.

He was the recipient of the Meritorious and Distinguished Service Award of the Department of Interior, was recognized in 1981 by the Japanese Government by receiving the 50th Anniversary Award for his distinctive work in their behalf, and received the Robert Marshall Award from the Wilderness Society on their 50th Anniversary—the Society's highest award presented to a private citizen.

Ted also received the Alaska National Parks Conservation Leadership Award and recognition for his initial work on the making of the Klondike Goldrush an International Park between the United States and Canada.

At the time of his death, he was living in Colorado, where he had served on the Bureau of Land Management Land Disposal Committee for Clear Creek County, and performed work on the Task Force for Evergreen Lake, as well as on some of the Open Space areas in Jefferson County.

Ted and his wife Helen were married 57 years. Their four children now live in Denver, Alaska, and Brazil. I hope the sadness of their loss is tempered by pride in their father's record of achievement and the many lasting gifts he has left to our country and the world.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS NATIONAL MARFAN AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in recognition of February as National Marfan Awareness Month and to pay tribute the thousands of people across the nation who are living with the Marfan syndrome and related connective tissue disorders.

The National Marfan Foundation is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary this year and continues to dedicate itself to saving lives, and improving the quality of life for individuals and families affected by Marfan syndrome and related disorders by raising awareness, providing support and fostering research.

This year marks the 15th annual National Marfan Awareness Month, a national awareness campaign which focuses on Marfan syndrome, a genetic disorder of the connective tissue that can affect the skeleton, eyes, heart and blood vessels. Because of the disorder, the aorta, the large artery that carries blood away from the heart is weakened and prone to enlargement and rupture, which is often fatal.

It is estimated that 200,000 people in the U.S. are affected by the Marfan syndrome or a related connective tissue disorder. Marfan syndrome is often hereditary, but 25 percent of affected people are the first in their family to have the disorder. It affects both male and females and all ethnicities. Thousands do not even know that they are affected and if left undiagnosed, it can result in an early sudden death from aortic dissection.

There is no cure for Marfan syndrome, but with an early diagnosis, proper treatment and careful management of the disorder, the life span can be extended into the 70s. Without a diagnosis and treatment, people may die as early as their 20s, 30s or 40s.

In addition, to National Heart Month, February was designated National Marfan Aware-

ness Month because of President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday. Lincoln is believed to have been affected by Marfan syndrome because of the many outward signs of the disorder he portrays. People with this condition are frequently taller than other non-affected members of their family with disproportionately long limbs, fingers and toes. They often have an indented or protruding chest bone, a curved spine, flat feet, a high arched palate and loose joints.

Other famous people with the Marfan syndrome include Jonathan Larson, the Tony Award-winning playwright of the Broadway musical *Rent*; Flo Hyman, captain of the U.S. Olympic Volleyball team who won a gold medal in 1984, Charles de Gaulle, Rachmaninoff, and Mary Queen of Scots.

Mr. Speaker, according to the National Marfan Foundation, in my district in Pennsylvania there are approximately 190 families that have to live with this disorder and the fear of dying at an early age.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately 14,000 people die each year of aortic aneurysms and dissections, 20 percent of which can be contributed to those carrying a genetic disorder such as the Marfan syndrome.

Due to lack of medical awareness about the disorder, many people still die undiagnosed and untreated.

I rise today to commend those working in my district and State who work tirelessly on this issue in the hopes of one day finding a cure for Marfan syndrome.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me and the National Marfan Foundation in raising awareness of this potentially life threatening disorder. I look forward to working with members on both sides of the aisle to increase federal support for critical research and prevention programs aimed at improving the quality of life for Marfan syndrome patients and their families.

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD R. CUMMINGS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Edward R. Cummings of Maryland and lament his untimely passing. Mr. Speaker, we all know of the many unsung heroes that make this great institution work, the staff and advisers who labor in obscurity but without whom we could not do our work to represent the American people. It is even more so in the Executive Branch, where an individual can spend a whole career and never be introduced to the wider public, laboring not for the recognition that drives so many in the public sphere but instead toiling to uphold the public interest to and to serve his country. Our government cannot function without such individuals and it is they who can bring order and sanity to an ever changing kaleidoscope of figures who pass through the United States Government as elections occur and administrations change.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday this Nation lost such a person, a remarkable public servant and a remarkable human being, Edward R.

Cummings. Mr. Cummings served his country for over 30 years, first with the U.S. Army and then with the U.S. Department of State. Mr. Cummings earned a bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1972, and then became an active military officer in 1972, where he completed training to become an airborne ranger, one of this Nation's elite forces. Instead of what surely would have been a distinguished career in armed combat, Mr. Cummings took another path and with the support of the U.S. military, entered George Washington University Law School. He studied a variety of subjects that were directly relevant to legal work in the international sphere, such as international law, Chinese law, human rights law, diplomatic and consular law, and United Nations law, and served on the G.W. international law journal. In 1975, he graduated first in his class of 317 students.

Mr. Cummings was on active duty with the U.S. Army until 1979, graduating from judge advocate general's schools, and serving in the Office of the Judge Advocate General where he represented the Department of Defense at a number of international negotiations related to the Law of War. He remained in the Army Reserve from 1979 to 2000, assigned to the War Crimes and Prisoners of War Branch of the Office of the Judge Advocate General. He retired as a lieutenant colonel.

In 1979, because of his distinguished representation of the Defense Department and his exceptional contributions to the U.S. delegations in which he participated, Mr. Cummings was invited to join the Office of the Legal Adviser of the U.S. Department of State where, over the course of nearly twenty five years, he has served as an attorney and adviser to numerous U.S. officials throughout the Government. Among other positions, he has been the Assistant Legal Adviser for Politico-Military Affairs, Assistant Legal Adviser for Nonproliferation, Assistant Legal Adviser for Arms Control and Verification, and Counselor for Legal Affairs at the U.S. Mission in Geneva. From 2000 to the present, he has served as the U.S. Head of Delegation to negotiations relating to the Convention on Conventional Weapons. Appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1987, Mr. Cummings has received numerous awards for superior service to the Department of State and has written on such subjects as the law of belligerent occupation, war crimes, arms control, international humanitarian law, and extradition.

But this description of his career does not do justice to his accomplishments. Last year, after he was diagnosed with the pancreatic cancer that killed him yesterday, George Washington University Law School organized a symposium entitled *Lawyers and War* in honor of Mr. Cummings, which was held on September 30, 2005. Mr. Cummings was fortunate not only to hear a set of knowledgeable remarks, but to hear the gratitude of his colleagues and proteges and to reflect on the amazing set of accomplishments that he participated in. Whether it was negotiating status of forces agreements to protect our troops abroad, helping draft the first set of comprehensive sanctions against South Africa during the apartheid era, supporting and then leading negotiations to control the use of conventional weapons that might cause unnecessary suffering, or aiding in the positive developments in international human rights and international humanitarian law, Mr. Cummings

made an invaluable contribution to this nation and to humankind.

Let me just cite three accomplishments that can be directly related to Mr. Cummings that may not be his most important but have special significance to some of my colleagues in this body. First, Mr. Cummings was instrumental in fashioning the compromise that allowed the United States to become a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. For those who did not follow that debate, most countries around the world wanted to ban the recruitment of any individual under the age of 18. However, because the United States recruits students in high school, the U.S. military insisted that the age be reduced to 17. This position put the United States in the posture of preventing an international consensus and seeming to be in league with those who were not committed to banning this terrible abuse at all. It was Ed Cummings who originated the idea of allowing voluntary recruitment of 17 year olds but not allowing them in combat until they were 18, creating an international consensus that put the focus where it always should have been, on militias that conscript 12, 13 and 14 year olds.

Mr. Cummings also worked for decades on enhancing the substance and image of the laws of war. One life long accomplishment in this area was the recent decision by the countries that are party to the Geneva Conventions to create a new symbol in addition to the red cross and red crescent to allow the Israeli society, the Magen David Adom, to become an official member of the Red Cross community. This success, which will do much to erase a small but important irritant in this country's relation to the International Committee on the Red Cross, was due in large part to Mr. Cummings 20 year dedication to achieving this end.

Another of his major accomplishments was his success in persuading the international community to agree on the extension of the Conventional Weapons Convention to all forms of armed conflict, whether international or internal in character. It has been in the savage internal armed conflicts of past decades that the civilian population has suffered most from the indiscriminate use of conventional weapons, and Mr. Cummings efforts will help to mitigate and limit this lamentable carnage.

These three examples of a much deeper and richer career represent all that was exceptional about Mr. Cummings's service to this country. Using his full grasp of the complex issues he dealt with, his deft understanding of the U.S. military and the mechanisms of government, his keen eye for cutting through the issues to find a way through controversy, his strong personal relationships with individuals across our government and around the world, and his unwavering commitment to accomplish his mission, Mr. Cummings was able to accomplish these three difficult goals, thereby increasing both stature and national security of the United States. There are countless other successes of this sort which would take up pages of this record if they were described in full.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cummings was an extraordinary human being. His colleagues and friends speak personally and movingly about his commitment to others as individuals and as attorneys. If the law remains a place

where law school is but a starting point and it is the learning from one's colleagues that is the most important basis for success, Mr. Cummings has served as "master" to many "apprentices" who are now serving their own distinguished careers in many walks of life (although Mr. Cummings would have dismissed those terms, calling everyone "colleagues"). This is a legacy that will last beyond Mr. Cummings final horizon. And with his personal warmth and his many avocations such as opera, mountain climbing and skiing, Mr. Cummings was admired by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, it is tragic that just at a time when Mr. Cummings was considering moving on to a new stage in his career and life, he was diagnosed in December 2004 with an untreatable form of pancreatic cancer which took him from us just yesterday. From all reports, his efforts to combat this illness and to show grace in the face of death itself demonstrated once again why Mr. Cummings is respected and loved, and our heart goes out to his wife and life partner, Clair, during this difficult time.

While Mr. Cummings was a clear example to all of us of a life well-lived, his tragic end is still a loss for all of us. We can only be thankful that this fellow traveler was able to do so much for his friends and acquaintances and for his country while he was with us.

IN HONOR OF EARLINE MILES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who can only be described as truly American, Earline Miles.

Ms. Miles began her academic career by attending I.M. Terrell High School. From here, she graduated from Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, Texas then obtained her law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas. Ms. Miles then turned her sights to education by becoming an instructor at Tarrant County College teaching business law.

Ms. Miles was involved in the civil rights movement in which she was a strong advocate of equality for all people. During her employment in Fort Worth, Texas, she was a determined worker for minority hiring initiatives. It was through Ms. Miles' hard work that countless disadvantaged people were able to now find employment.

Ms. Miles' community has benefited a great deal through her involvement in many organizations. She has done extensive volunteer work through her community. Even though Ms. Miles is now retired, she still dutifully works for her community by collecting food, clothing, and essential supplies for the homeless.

Today, we honor Earline Miles for her commitment to education and her dedication to helping others. She will always be remembered for her kindness and generosity to others, and may she serve as a role model for others in the future.