

Neufeld will be honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Born third in a family of nine children in the Ukraine at the turn of the 20th century, William Neufeld moved to the United States and blossomed into a world-class track and field performer in the javelin and other throwing events. His father, a Mennonite minister, eventually settled the family in Reedley, California, where the 6-foot-2, 201-pound teenager played football, basketball, baseball and track and field in high school while earning money working in the fields. He went to Bethel College in Kansas where he played basketball and starred in track and field. Mr. Neufeld then decided to follow his brother Henry to the University of California, Berkeley. It was a perfect match, as he dominated the throwing events and led the Bears to the national collegiate title in 1923.

The following year, Mr. Neufeld won the discus title at the collegiate nationals, but he was just getting started. He won the javelin competition at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Cambridge, Massachusetts, by more than five feet, throwing for 191½ feet. Following a week-long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, he placed fifth in the javelin in the 1924 Olympics in Paris. William Neufeld was a familiar face at many Olympics to follow.

After coaching at Riverside College and Harvard, Mr. Neufeld entered the Navy during World War II and later returned to Harvard as the Director of Physical Education. When Neufeld's competitive career ended, he traveled the globe as a coach and athletics liaison for the U.S. State Department. He served as a liaison to the 1952 Japanese Olympic team and also coached sports in Iran, Taiwan and Africa. Mr. Neufeld passed away at the age of ninety-one in Riverside, California in 1992.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to posthumously honor William Neufeld's achievements and for his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in offering my congratulations in memory of Mr. Neufeld's many accomplishments.

#### TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA KREBS

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Virginia Krebs, my former colleague on the Johnson County Community College Board, JCCC, who recently stepped down from that position at the age of 89.

My tenure on the JCCC overlapped with Virginia Krebs for 6 years in the 1990s. She is truly a distinguished public servant whose concern for our community has benefited her friends in neighbors, both in tangible and intangible ways, since the 1960s. Today, Sun Publications of Johnson County posted an editorial reflecting on her distinguished service and an article detailing some of the ways in which she served Johnson County and the JCCC over the past several decades. These two pieces tell her story much better than could I. I include them in the RECORD for review by the House membership and wish my

good friend, Virginia Krebs, many happy returns on her long-delayed retirement, although I am certain she will continue to find ways of being indispensable to the JCCC and Johnson County.

[From Sun Publications, Nov. 19, 2008]

#### A MODEL FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

The departure of Virginia Krebs from the Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees is a reminder of her long and distinguished service to the college. Her leadership, from JCCC's beginning, helped bring it recognition as one of the nation's most prestigious community colleges.

Actually, her dedication predates the life of the college. Krebs served on the task force, appointed by the county commission in 1963, to examine the feasibility of a community college here. That three-year chore led to establishment of the college district and, in 1967, voter approval of a tax to support it.

Rather than running for the board of trustees, as she was urged to do, Krebs signed on as the first employee, a part-time job as the board secretary. Later she became special assistant to the governing body. In that role she worked closely with the trustees in forming the mission and fundamental objectives of the college, along with the hiring of its first president.

Her career at the college mirrored the widespread entry of women into the professions and work force. She was in her late 40s and the mother of four sons, two of them elementary school age and younger, in the early years of her time at the college. She knew from personal experience the needs of working women.

As the college's director of community services—its first—in the 1970s and '80s, Krebs played a major part in creating one of the most highly respected continuing education programs in the Midwest.

Her awareness of societal and economic changes led to creation of a program for women who, having raised their families, were interested in work outside the home. It helped prepare women for a new career.

Krebs was on the leading edge of many activities that enriched our cultural and intellectual life. She helped organize the first county arts council, a JCCC "Evening With the Stars," an astronomy venture for the public, and a speakers bureau that arranged for faculty members to appear at meetings of civic, service and community groups.

A year after she retired from the college in 1984, Krebs found another way to serve. She ran for and was elected to the JCCC Board of Trustees. Voters returned her to the board six times, the most recent in 2005. She retired in mid-October.

As a trustee, Krebs drew from her experience on the faculty to bring the needs of continuing education to the board. She was known as a good listener, well-read and with the ability to analyze issues with keen insight. She was not a frequent speaker at trustee meetings, but when she spoke, her comments were considered a valuable addition to the discussion and decision at hand.

Virginia Krebs has been an imaginative, innovative force in this community. She deserves our praise and gratitude.

[From Sun Publications, Nov. 19, 2008]

#### RETIRING JCCC ICON WILL BE MISSED

(By Kristin Babcock)

The history book about Johnson County Community College is dedicated to her. As Charles Bishop, professor emeritus at the college, researched and wrote the book, one influential name appeared more than any other: Virginia Krebs.

"Dedicating it to her was a very easy decision," Bishop said. "When I looked at the

history, she was someone who was instrumental from the beginning. There was no easier choice than Virginia Krebs."

Krebs, who became the college's first employee in 1967, recently resigned from her position on the college's Board of Trustees. Krebs, who turned 89 this year, said she was ready to stop driving to meetings. She also hopes to become more involved in her retirement community, she said.

"It was not any big thing, and I still hope to do some things with the college," Krebs said.

Her desire to be involved started in childhood, Krebs said. In grade school she started her own civics clubs.

In adulthood she helped form and lead several parent-teacher associations. She served as program chair for Kansas State PTA. She served on state task forces to revise state school codes and to consolidate area school districts.

"She just always had interest in organizing," Virginia's son Fred Krebs said. "There was always an emphasis of trying to group things that brought people together in the community. The community college came along and they were born to meet."

In 1963, the board of county commissioners appointed Virginia to study the feasibility of building a community college in Johnson County. In 1967, county voters approved a taxing district to fund the college. Before the college had its own buildings, Virginia became the college's first employee as assistant to the first board of trustees.

"Community colleges were kind of the new kid on the block in the '60s and '70s," Bishop said. "She always had her ears to the community and tuned into the higher-end world as well. She did a nice job of marrying higher education and community needs."

Those marriages were seen most prominently when Virginia became JCCC's director of community services in 1969. Under her leadership, organizations formed to include senior citizens, art supporters and community civic groups. Through her efforts, students, children and adults found a place to be involved, educated and entertained at the college.

"She is kind of a matriarch of Johnson County Community College," Charles Carlsen, former JCCC president, said. "She was well-networked and promoted relationships between groups and the college."

Some groups Virginia called "among the most interesting" were programs that helped women educate themselves to enter the working world in the 1960s and 1970s.

"It helped ease the transition for literally hundreds of women in the county," Bishop said.

Virginia also helped form a speakers bureau at the college. Professors spoke to civic organizations about a variety of topics. Although it involved extra work with no extra pay for professors, they would volunteer when she asked, Bishop said.

"A lot of professors like to squirrel down in their office and read books, and she got them to get out there," Bishop said. "Her arms were long and her grip was wide. She reached out to aspects of the community, involved people and got you in there. She has a fire in her belly when she needs to."

Virginia retired from work at the college in 1984. She ran for a position on the board of trustees and was elected in 1985.

"I was not surprised when she ran for the board," Fred said. "She felt she had important things to do. She felt she was making a contribution. It was very important to her."

Fred predicted that even in retirement people will still use his mother as a resource. "She still has contributions to make," Fred said. "Lots of people still think of her as a mentor. She has a legacy we all have to follow."

Voters re-elected Virginia for six consecutive terms on the board of trustees. After her retirement, the board named her the first trustee emeritus.

"She was a stalwart throughout," Fred Logan, former JCCC board chair, said. "She is one of the founders but not just a founder. She has been an important part for 40 years. That kind of service will always be remembered."

On Nov. 20, the JCCC Board of Trustees will interview eight finalists to fill Virginia Krebs' term, which ends June 30.

The candidates are: Laura S. Byrne-Harris, Leawood; William A. Dean, Overland Park; Ronnie Metsker, Overland Park; Michael M. Morales, Olathe; Melody L. Rayl, Olathe; Kurtis M. Ruf, Overland Park; Mary R. Tearney, Leawood; and Sandra K. Willsie, Overland Park.

The new trustee will begin Dec. 11. The seat is up for election in April 2009.

---

#### ROBERT MASSEY

### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, on November 8, 2008, Robert Massey died in Fair Oaks, CA. Born on November 5, 1921, "Farmer Bob" (as he is known) contributed to the community throughout his life. As a local historian, Bob frequently shared his knowledge of the area and made a habit of correcting media reports and the Fair Oaks Historical Society whenever their reports conflicted with his own expertise. Bob was a member of the Sunrise Center Toastmasters, sharing with others his great oratory skills and motivational tactics. Many families enjoyed a visit to Farmer Bob's pumpkin patch and truck farm.

While Bob made many great contributions to our region, perhaps his most important work was his strong advocacy for the Auburn Dam. The Auburn Dam Council's website describes Bob as President of the council from 1921–2008. This is an appropriate title for someone who understood the need for greater flood protection and was willing to work for the safety of so many others living nearby. Unfortunately, the dam has yet to be built, but when that day comes it will be in large part thanks to Bob's efforts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's loving wife of 65 years, Beryl, and the rest of his family and friends. Bob brightened the lives of so many people, and he will be truly missed by those of us who were fortunate enough to have known him.

---

#### PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARD OF MERITORIOUS EXECUTIVE TO DR. L. BRUCE SIMPSON

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the selection of Dr. L. Bruce Simpson for Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive for 2008. Each year, the President recognizes and celebrates no more than 5 percent of career Senior Executives

with this award. Recipients of this prestigious award are strong leaders, professionals, and scientists achieving results and consistently demonstrating strength, integrity, industry, and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service to America.

Dr. Simpson is Director of the 308th Armament Systems Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida and is a 27-year veteran of the Federal civil service. He leads a wing of over 900 personnel and executes a portfolio of programs valued at more than \$46 billion. The wing's programs include the Joint Direct Attack Munition, Small Diameter Bomb, Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile, High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile Targeting System, Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile, Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Extended Range, Miniature Air Launched Decoy, Aerial Target Systems, P5 Combat Training System, Sensor Fuzed Weapon, Wind-Corrected Munitions Dispenser and Joint Stand-Off Weapon System. These programs are all key elements in enabling our warfighters to engage high-value targets and are vital weapons in the Global War on Terror.

Selected for Senior Executive Service in 2003, Dr. Simpson has served as Deputy Manager of the Armament Product Group, Director of the Air Armament Center Special Projects System Program Office, and Director of the Directed Energy Directorate at the Air Force Research Laboratory. Dr. Simpson has been honored as a Distinguished Fellow at Mississippi State University and received Annual Technical Achievement Awards from the Air Force Research Laboratory and Air Force Systems Command.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Dr. L. Bruce Simpson on this most prestigious Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive. America and the United States Air Force depend heavily on the selfless service and leadership he provides. I sincerely wish Dr. Simpson many more years of dedicated public service to this great country.

---

#### HONORING FRANK MECHAM

### HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank Mecham, a resident and community leader from Paso Robles, California, for his outstanding and exemplary leadership while serving as the mayor of Paso Robles from 2000 through 2008.

Frank has been a longtime leader in local government, reflecting the same success, enthusiasm, care, and commitment to his community as nine generations of Mecham Californians and five generations of San Luis Obispo County Mechams before him. His great-great grandfather, Don Joaquin Estrada, was a member of the first County Board of Supervisors in 1852, and his father was Fire Chief at Fort Hunter Liggett for over 20 years. Carrying on this tradition of public service, Frank served our country in the United States Navy and later began his political career on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Planning Commission for the City of Paso Robles. He was elected to the City Council in 1998 and served for two years. In 2000, Frank

was the first mayor of Paso Robles to be directly elected by the voters (in the past, the mayoral post had rotated between elected city councilmembers).

In 2003, Paso Robles felt the devastating effects of the San Simeon Earthquake. Frank showed strong leadership and composure throughout this natural disaster and guided the City through the aftermath and recovery efforts. Through his tireless efforts, the City of Paso Robles was able to rebuild faster and move forward onto the road to recovery quicker than anyone had expected. In addition, as mayor, he also oversaw the completion of the Barney Schwartz Park, the Public Safety Center, the Robert Rader Memorial 13th Street Bridge, and the Niblick Bridge expansion.

In addition to his public service, Frank has also remained active in the Paso Robles community. Frank is a member of the Twin Cities Community Hospital Board of Governors, the Nacimiento Water Commission, and the Paso Robles High School Technology Academy. He has also coached youth baseball and football for over two decades in the community, established a youth football league which continues to this day, and created the first Youth Commission for the City in 1999. In 2004, Frank was honored by the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce as Roblan of the Year in recognition of his outstanding service to the local community.

In a City named for its strong oak trees, Frank has stood strong in times of challenge, and helped create prosperity through a commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparent and accountable government. I commend Frank for his service and leadership as mayor of Paso Robles, and wish him and his family well as he continues to serve our community as a supervisor on the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors.

---

#### HONORING TRAVIS WEBB

### HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Travis Webb from Adrian, Michigan who was injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Mosul, Iraq on January 22, 2007. He lost both legs and his best friend Nicholas Brown died in his arms after the blast. The following poem is dedicated to a true American hero, Travis Webb.

#### A SOLDIER'S STORY

Throughout our Nation's history  
Such magnificent men of honor and glory,  
have so been seen  
Who so went, where angel's feared to tread  
Who went off to war  
All for us, the ones who so lived and died and  
so bled  
All so we could be here!  
As this is a soldier's story!  
All about Heartbreak, Faith and Glory  
All about life and death  
As he put himself in harm's way, as his best  
friend died in his arms that day  
When courage comes to crest!  
All about a young man from Michigan . . .  
Travis, and his heroic stand  
As all of us, he would so bless  
Who came out of such hell and fury!