

Future generations will look to his leadership and example to find hope and inspiration. Dr. Hartsfield has truly made the world a better place.●

HONORING MAXINE FROST

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Maxine Pierce Frost, a longtime community leader in Riverside, CA, and nationally renowned leader in education. In November 2007 Maxine Frost announced her retirement from the Riverside Unified School District after 40 years of dedicated service. Due to failing health, she died shortly thereafter.

Since 1967, Maxine Frost has provided leadership to her community, the State of California, and our Nation. As a board member of the Riverside Unified School District, Frost has seen great change in education policy throughout her tenure. Being a member of the first large school district in the Nation to voluntarily desegregate, she has helped pave the way for similar changes across America.

Throughout periods of intense growth in the State and the region, Maxine Frost has worked diligently to ensure that students and educators are provided with adequate resources. The Riverside Unified School District has grown from roughly 23,000 students to 43,000 students during Frost's tenure. Throughout this period of intense growth, she has maintained her resolve that every student have the resources they need to succeed.

Numerous academic committees across the State of California and our Nation have benefitted from the leadership and experience of Maxine Frost. She has held a number of leadership posts: president of the Pacific Region of National School Boards Association, the California School Boards Association Legislative Network, the California Association of Suburban School Districts, the Schools Accrediting Commissions, the Council for Basic Education, and the California Association of Student Council's Board of Directors. In 1981, after serving as president of the California School Boards Association, California Governor George Deukmejian appointed her to the Education Commission of the States, in which she served alongside future President William Jefferson Clinton, who chaired the commission at that time.

On October 16, 2006, the Riverside Unified School District adopted a resolution to designate one of its elementary schools as Maxine Frost Elementary School, in honor of her longtime service and dedication to the community.

On her retirement from four decades of service and dedication to the students, families, and educators of California and our Nation, I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in posthumously thanking her for her fine work. Her tremendous leadership and

lifetime of achievement will be long remembered.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to observe the 100th anniversary of Muir Woods National Monument, located in Marin County, CA.

It was U.S. Representative William Kent whose visionary actions would lead to the creation of Muir Woods National Monument. During the mid-nineteenth century, the Gold Rush brought treasure seekers to northern California in large numbers. To accommodate this rapid population growth in San Francisco and other coastal cities, timber, meat, and crops were needed in much larger quantities. As a result, much of the easily accessible timber in Marin County was logged between 1840 and 1870.

Representative Kent witnessed this massive resource depletion and decided to take action to preserve coastal redwood forest areas. In 1905, he purchased 612 acres of the Redwood Canyon from the Tamalpais Land & Water Co. On December 26, 1907, in order to best protect the land, Representative Kent and his wife, Elizabeth Thatcher Kent, donated 298 acres of Redwood Canyon to the Federal Government. On January 9, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt declared Muir Woods a National Monument. This year, we celebrate its centennial anniversary.

Coast redwoods, *Sequoia sempervirens*, are the dominant feature of Muir Woods' forest. These ancient wonders are also the world's tallest living tree species and the official tree of the State of California. This species of redwood is believed to have existed when the dinosaurs roamed the Earth. Visitors to Muir Woods are left fascinated as they get to experience living history by exploring the Bohemian and Cathedral groves of Muir Woods, where many trees are more than 1,200 years old. Muir Woods is also home to Douglas fir, tanbark oak, bigleaf maple, and bay laurel trees, leading conservationist and namesake John Muir to remark that Muir Woods "is the best tree-lovers' monument that could possibly be found in all the forests of the world."

Only 15 miles north of San Francisco, Muir Woods National Monument offers a stunning glimpse of the redwood forests that once covered northern California's coastal valleys. For 100 years, Muir Woods National Monument has served as a recreational escape for nature enthusiasts, hikers, and those seeking a glimpse of northern California's rich history. It is a powerful reminder of the beauty of nature and the importance of conservation efforts.

I commend the National Park Service staff and volunteers for maintaining the natural beauty and historical significance of Muir Woods National Monument. I look forward to future

generations having the opportunity to study and enjoy this unique piece of our State and national history for another 100 years.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 100th anniversary of Pinnacles National Monument, located in San Benito County, CA.

On January 16, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed 2,080 acres of the Pinnacles National Forest Reserve as Pinnacles National Monument. This year, we celebrate its centennial anniversary. Part of an extinct volcano, the spectacular geology of Pinnacles National Monument has fascinated visitors for decades. A variety of flora and fauna flourishes in this unusual landscape, including an exquisite chaparral ecosystem and nearly 400 species of bees, the highest known biodiversity of any place on Earth.

Situated near the San Andreas Rift Zone with the Central Coast to the west and Gabilan Mountain Range to the east, Pinnacles National Monument now occupies over 26,000 acres 14,000 acres of which are congressionally designated wilderness. With surrounding lands tended by farmers whose ancestors homesteaded the region and cowboys who watch over the cattle that graze on the expansive plains, Pinnacles National Monument offers a sublime glimpse into California's past.

Pinnacles is home to 20 endemic species holding special Federal or state status and is also the ancestral home range of the California condor. Pinnacles is the only National Park site that releases and maintains this extremely endangered bird species, and is critical to the overall condor recovery effort. Pinnacles is also located within the Pacific Flyway migratory route and contains the highest concentration of nesting prairie falcons of any national park in the country.

Only 100 miles from the urban centers of San Francisco and San Jose, Pinnacles National Monument remains a haven of solitude for nature enthusiasts and offers a stunning reflection of California's rural history and heritage. For 100 years, Pinnacles National Monument has served as a recreational escape for hikers, outdoor enthusiasts, and those seeking a glimpse of California's rich history. It is a powerful reminder of the beauty of nature and the importance of conservation efforts.

I commend the National Park Service staff and volunteers for maintaining the natural beauty and historical significance of Pinnacles National Monument. I look forward to future generations having the opportunity to study and enjoy this unique piece of our State and national history for another 100 years.●

RIALTO AIDS WALK

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an important event that has occurred in my State of California. To honor World AIDS Day, the city of Rialto partnered with Brothers and Sisters in Action, BASIA, and First Chance/Youth-Community Health Outreach Workers to host the inaugural AIDS Walk Rialto on December 8, 2007. I am pleased to say that it was a success.

Since reported in 1981, HIV/AIDS has become the most significant communicable disease in San Bernardino County for African Americans. The rate of HIV among this group has increased dramatically since the first cases were reported. In 2005, 18 percent of the new HIV cases in San Bernardino County were in African Americans, yet African Americans represent only 8.5 percent of the population of the county. AIDS Walk Rialto aimed to broaden awareness of this disparity.

I commend the city of Rialto and the organizers of this event for the work that they are doing to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS infections on the local level. Better education and awareness programs can make a tremendous difference in stopping the spread of this disease, and I encourage an even larger parade next year.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF VU NGUYEN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me as I honor the life of Sacramento sheriff's deputy Vu Dinh Nguyen, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on December 19, 2007.

Deputy Nguyen dedicated his career to law enforcement and public safety. He was a member of the Sacramento Sheriff's Department for 7 years, serving as a member of the gang unit for 3 years. Prior to his career with the Sheriff's Department, he was a probation officer for Sacramento County.

Vu Nguyen was born in Vietnam in 1970 and immigrated to the United States in 1975. His family settled in Modesto, CA, where he attended Burbank Elementary School, Mark Twain Junior High School, and Modesto High School. While attending Modesto High School he participated in several activities including football, yearbook, and student government.

Vu continued his education at California State University, Sacramento, where he graduated cum laude with a degree in criminal justice. He continued to excel at the Sheriff's Academy where he graduated with high honors.

Deputy Nguyen was married in April and is survived by his wife Phan, parents, five sisters, and two brothers. His family, friends, and colleagues remember him as a humble man, a respected officer, and an ambassador for the Sheriff's Department in the Asian-American community where he often reached out to troubled youth.

Deputy Vu Nguyen's brave service and commitment to public safety will not be forgotten.●

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I am pleased to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, America's first Greek-letter organization established by Black college women. It is with great pride that I join my friends Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Congresswomen DIANE WATSON, and Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON in extending our congratulations to all of its members on this tremendous occasion.

On January 15, 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was founded at Howard University in Washington, DC, by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, who envisioned AKA as a source of social and intellectual enrichment for its members. Over the past century, AKA has evolved into a nationwide organization of college-trained women working to improve the socioeconomic conditions in their cities, States, and countries throughout the world. Today, the sorority serves through a membership of more than 200,000 women in 975 chapters in the United States and several other countries.

In September 2005, along with my colleagues in the House, I had the pleasure of cohosting a reception on Capitol Hill for the House AKA leadership and nearly 100 members. I was reminded yet again of the remarkable strength and unwavering dedication of AKA to improve the lives of others.

AKA's significant contributions to the Black community and to American society over the past century are widespread. From election reform and safety to and health care and education initiatives, AKA has raised money for and spread awareness about issues that directly impact countless lives across the country. In addition to advancing these services, AKA maintains a focus on strengthening the quality of life for its members. AKA cultivates and encourages high scholastic and ethical standards, promotes unity and friendship among college women, alleviates problems facing girls and women, maintains a progressive interest in college life and continues to demonstrate the power of Ethel Hedgeman Lyle's vision a century later.

Today marks not only a moment for celebration but also a time to give thanks to all members for the significant contributions AKA have made to our communities and America over the past century.

AKA's members have built an enduring legacy of leadership and service that has made a profound contribution to our history and to our future. As the women of AKA celebrate this significant milestone, I add to the chorus of thanks and praise for your 100 years of groundbreaking achievement and the many accomplishments yet to come.●

RETIREMENT OF MR. DAVID J. WILLIAMS

• Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I congratulate David J. Williams for his 30

years of service to the vaccine industry and Pennsylvania.

Mr. Williams was born in Scranton, PA, and received his accounting degree from the University of Scranton in 1973. He then joined Connaught Laboratories in 1978 as the manager of financial services. Mr. Williams was a member of the executive team and was named chief operating officer of Connaught Laboratories in 1989.

Mr. Williams steered the company through several mergers and acquisitions, growing the organization from 100 employees and sales of just over \$5 million in 1978, to the creation of today's Sanofi Pasteur, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer with 11,000 employees and more than \$4 billion in sales in 2007. Under Mr. Williams' guidance, more than a billion doses of Sanofi Pasteur's lifesaving vaccines are administered to more than 500 million people around the world each year, representing more than 25 percent of the global vaccine market.

Mr. Williams recognized his company's ability to address current and future public health needs by investing in a research and development program and a production plan for pandemic preparedness in the event that a public health emergency strikes the United States. Mr. Williams and Sanofi Pasteur have helped to build the domestic infrastructure necessary to protect millions of Americans from deadly diseases, while addressing public health around the world.

Mr. Williams has served as an advocate for the survival of the vaccine industry. I am told that in 1986, when the industry was being diminished by lawsuits, he served as the industry point person for negotiation of The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Act, which established the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund. In his dedication to the larger immunization community, he created the Vaccine Policy Committee of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and is a founding member of the Partnership for Prevention which includes public and private sector representatives who focus on preventative health care policies.

Mr. Williams served as the first liaison member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which sets immunization policy in the United States. He has also served on the board of directors of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Hospital Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and the Board of Regents of the University of Scranton. He is one of the founding board members of the Medical Education Development Consortium.