

This extraordinary woman educated herself on VA policy in order to provide the best assistance to these men and women and went so far as to accompany many of them to the VA to ensure that they were served as thoroughly as possible. However, she knew that this wasn't enough for her and that she could serve these veterans even more.

Ricki arranged for speakers from the VA, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, State of Nevada, and others to address the members of the Siena Veterans Club. Ricki knew that she would not rest until she had served the needs of these veterans, and serve them she did.

Ricki left this Earth for a place much better, but her time on Earth was heaven-sent for all those whose lives she touched. She began her advocacy by her husband's side, and she has finished this tireless crusade to be by his side once again.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL HERBERT J. CARLISLE

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to LTG Herbert J. Carlisle, former Director of Legislative Liaison for Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and the current Commander of 13th Air Force, Hickam Air Force Base, HI. A command pilot with more than 3,400 flying hours in the T-38, AT-38, YF-110, YF-113, and F-15 Eagle, LTG "Hawk" Carlisle has commanded at the squadron, group, wing, and now Numbered Air Force levels. He has participated in Operations Restore Hope, Provide Comfort, and Noble Eagle, and his selection to lieutenant general and commander of the Jungle Air Force is a testament to his exceptional airmanship, leadership, and judgment.

General Carlisle graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1978 and was selected to attend pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, AZ. He excelled in pilot training and was selected to fly the Air Force's premier air superiority fighter, the F-15 Eagle. Stationed at Bittsburg Air Base, Germany, with the 525th Fighter Squadron, the Bulldogs, during the heart of the Cold War, then-Captain Carlisle again excelled in the air and on the ground as a pilot, flight lead, instructor pilot, and examiner pilot. His prowess in the air earned him a selection to attend the Air Force's Fighter Weapons School, and upon completion of the course he joined an elite team of fighter weapons school instructors. He became the chief of weapons and tactics at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, only to be brought back to Nellis Air Force Base to become part of a recently declassified Air Force training program in which he flew Soviet fighters as adversaries against U.S. pilots to increase their capability and survivability in combat. Selected for promotion, Major Carlisle departed Nellis Air Force base for Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, to attend Air Command and Staff College and then de-

ployed to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as the chief of air operations, U.S. Central Command Forward from 1991 to 1993.

In 1993, now-Lieutenant Colonel Carlisle returned to the F-15 Eagle, as operations officer of the 19th Fighter Squadron and then commander of the 54th Fighter Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK. Following command, Lieutenant Colonel Carlisle attended Army War College in 1996, was selected for promotion to colonel, and returned to the Pacific in the F-15 Eagle as the Deputy Commander, 18th Operations Group at Kadena Air Base, Japan. Following Kadena, Colonel Carlisle was selected to command the 1st Operations Group at Langley Air Force Base, VA, then the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, FL, and finally, after a short staff tour, the 3rd Wing at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

General Carlisle has served several tours on the Air Staff to include chief of the plans and programs directorate, director of the operational planning, policy and strategy, deputy chief of staff for air, space and information operations, plans and requirements, and two tours in the Legislative Liaison Division, as deputy director and director. It was in these positions that I witnessed firsthand General Carlisle's adept ability to handle a myriad of complex issues that directly impacted our national security. General Carlisle's engagement with Congress during his tenure as both deputy director and director of the Legislative Liaison Division was faultless.

Under General Carlisle's leadership, the Air Force developed a comprehensive congressional notification plan, ensuring timely and accurate passage of information on the Air Force's most difficult issues including the \$40 billion KC-X acquisition program, creation of Air Force Cyber Command, force structure changes, and creation of Air Force Global Strike Command. General Carlisle prepared over 200 announcements to the Hill, cleared of over 500 witness statements, transcripts, inserts, and questions for the record through the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Office of Management and Budget, and managed over 1,000 Congressional travel events to all 7 continents including 100 congressional Member visits to the Central Command Area of Responsibility. Finally, General Carlisle led the drive for what I consider the Air Force's most pressing issue: recapitalization. Through General Carlisle's leadership, the Air Force secured a budget of \$1.7 billion for bomber and air-to-ground weapons, yielded \$8.2 billion for fighter and munitions programs, and laid the foundation for \$200 million in supplemental munitions funding. The leadership, insight, and dedication of General Carlisle have been instrumental in building lasting and trusting relationships with the U.S. Congress, resulting in an overall increase in U.S. national security.

The breadth and depth of General Carlisle's assignments and the profes-

sionalism with which he has carried them out reflect a keen intellect and an unrivaled grasp of national security policies developed through both personal experience and academic instruction. General Carlisle earned a master's degree in business administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, attended the National Security Management Course at Syracuse University, the Seminar XXI—International Relations programs at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Executive Course on National and International Security at George Washington University. While he has received many distinguished awards and decorations, it is General Carlisle's commitment and sacrifice to this Nation that make him stand out among his peers.

Today, General Carlisle is once again at the tip of the spear, leading our service men and women as commander of 13th Air Force, commander of Joint Task Force—Support Forces Antarctica, Operation Deep Freeze, and the Pacific Command's Joint Forces Air Component commander. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Lieutenant General Carlisle, his wife Gillian, and their daughter Summer for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contribution to this great Nation. I congratulate Lieutenant General Carlisle on his recent promotion to lieutenant general and wish him Godspeed as he leads our military in protecting this great nation and its way of life.●

REMEMBERING DAVE DEDRICK

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize the life and career of Dave Dedrick, most well known for his role as Captain 11, a children's television program in the upper Midwest. He passed away on January 22 after a lifetime of bringing together South Dakotans of all ages. Dave's welcoming spirit and warm heart touched children and adults alike.

The Captain 11 Show, broadcasted from 1955 through 1996, is the longest running children's program ever. Dave, dressed in a blue and yellow pilot's uniform, led a program filled with cartoons and games. Captain 11 had the ability to control time through his Time Converter and ended every show with Freezebug, a dance the audience, and everyone watching at home, knew by heart. Dave always made children of all ages feel comfortable, and with his show, unified generations of South Dakotans.

Dave was inducted into the South Dakota Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 1997 and the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 1999. His set is displayed in the State Historical Museum in Pierre, representing the important role Dave played in so many lives. On air and off, his friendly personality extended to all areas of his life, representing South Dakota values in all he did. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family on their loss.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM OUELLETTE

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Federal service of William "Will" Ouellette of Rapid City, SD. Mr. Ouellette is concluding a dozen years of service in South Dakota and is transferring to Pennsylvania to continue his Federal service career, which now spans 34 years with the Social Security Administration.

Mr. Ouellette began his career with the agency in 1976 as a claims representative in the Boston Region. Three years later, he moved to Billings, MT, where he served as a claims representative, field representative, operations analyst and operations supervisor for the agency. He was promoted to manager of the Rapid City office in 1998 and has continued in that position until the present time. He will soon transfer to a similar position in the Pottsville, PA, agency office to be closer to aging parents and a daughter.

I have appreciated the management work of Mr. Ouellette over his tenure in Rapid City. He has overseen a very dedicated and hard-working staff. Claims have increased substantially over the years and the coverage area in rural South Dakota is one of the largest in the country. I have always been impressed by the sense of professionalism, dedication and willingness to serve Social Security beneficiaries and claimants by Will and his staff. He was always timely and thorough in providing answers to constituent questions, addressing issues impacting beneficiaries and combining a strict, no-nonsense approach and adherence to agency regulations with a caring attitude.

I wish Mr. Ouellette well in the remaining years of his Federal service and wish to thank him for his term of service to South Dakotans over the past dozen years.●

TRIBUTE TO FRANK TUMA

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Office of Rural Development within the U.S. Department of Agriculture will say farewell to a dedicated colleague and friend later this week. Frank J. Tuma, Director of Community Programs for the Agency in Michigan, is retiring after 37 dedicated years of public service, and I am delighted to have an opportunity to recognize this significant milestone.

Frank began his Federal career with the Peace Corp and spent 2 years in the Philippines. He later accepted a position with the Farmers Home Administration, which would become the Office of Rural Development, where he has served the interests of rural Michigan for 31 years as part of the Community Programs Division. Throughout Frank's 31 years, he has consistently provided invaluable guidance and leadership on countless issues and projects. During the past 5 years, Frank has served as the Director of Community Programs, where he has led efforts to

bring critical funding to rural communities across Michigan. Countless communities now have safe drinking water and efficient waste water systems that protect the environment due to the efforts of Frank and his team.

Those who have worked with Frank describe him as devoted, loyal, and passionate about his work and the people with which he works, qualities that will surely be missed by his colleagues and friends. Beyond his personal qualities, he has distinguished himself through a number of impressive accomplishments and has served as a mentor to many on his staff. The Rural Development National Office has turned to Frank many times over the years for his input and recommendations on new processes and systems. He was instrumental in creating, testing, and implementing the CPAP System, a computer program that compiles data and underwrites loans and grants for water and sewer projects.

I am proud to join citizens and communities across rural Michigan in thanking Frank Tuma for his dedication, focus, and persistent efforts as a Federal employee. Frank has forged a wonderful legacy, and I know he and Connie are looking forward to many years together in retirement.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DELTA TRUST BANK

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, this year marks the 100th anniversary of a landmark institution in my home State of Arkansas. On February 1, Delta Trust & Bank will celebrate 100 years of service in our State. In honor of this milestone, the towns of Parkdale, Hamburg, Wilmot, Little Rock, and Bella Vista will proclaim Monday, February 1, as Delta Trust Day. At a time when many banks across our Nation are struggling, Delta Trust represents a long history of financial strength and security in Arkansas.

Founded as The Bank of Parkdale in 1910, Delta Trust's origins lie in the small town of Parkdale in Southern Arkansas. Parkdale is similar in many ways to my hometown of Helena, where faith, community, and family are an integral part of rural life. These values have stayed with Delta Trust throughout its 100-year history.

Delta Trust touches every corner of our State, with branches in northwest Arkansas in Bella Vista and Fayetteville; in central Arkansas in the Little Rock neighborhoods of Hillcrest, Chenal, and Walton Heights; and in the southeast part of the state in Parkdale, Hamburg, Eudora, and Wilmot.

Delta Trust's assets are impressive at \$298 million. But this institution is about much more than assets or the bottom line. Delta Trust is known for its commitment to community service, not to mention its top-notch customer service. Integrity, privacy, and intelligent advice are the trademarks of Delta Trust. Through its Women's Ad-

visory Council, Delta Trust has committed to serving the banking needs of women, their families, and their businesses.

Mr. President, I salute the partners, associates, and employees of Delta Trust for their dedication to serving the people of Arkansas. I send my best wishes for the next 100 years of service to Arkansans.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:36 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3726. An act to establish the Castle Nugent National Historic Site at St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4474. An act to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4508. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 114(b) of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1103), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a term of six years: Mr. TRAVIS CHILDERS of Booneville, Mississippi.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3726. An act to establish the Castle Nugent National Historic Site at St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4474. An act to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4560. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota