

Most recently, in his role as a liaison officer to the U.S. Senate, Colonel Root once again distinguished himself, developing outstanding relationships with Senators and staff members alike. During his 3 years of service in the Office of Legislative Affairs, Colonel Root escorted 40 congressional and staff delegations, accompanying Members to more than 50 countries, including active combat theaters.

I myself travelled with Colonel Root on a number of occasions during his time in the Senate, and was always extremely impressed by his close attention to detail, flexibility, and unflinching dedication to his work. I know many of my colleagues felt the same way, and it is therefore no surprise that Colonel Root was often requested by name to help assist in the planning and coordination of congressional fact-finding and oversight delegations.

And so, once again, it is a great honor to be able to congratulate Colonel Root today on this seminal achievement. His unwavering commitment to serving his country as a professional soldier in the Army is truly laudable, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to him for his years of service. Colonel Root, and all of the men and women of our Armed Forces, are an indispensable asset to this country, and I hope my colleagues will join me today in honoring this top-notch soldier and dear friend, and wonderful human being. ●

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JONES CENTER

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I commemorate the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Jones Center For Families in my home State of Arkansas. The Jones Center, located in Springdale, is a 220,000 square foot facility that provides educational, recreational, health, and community programs and various services to individuals and families across northwest Arkansas.

The center will celebrate its 15th birthday with a public festival on Sunday, October 24, featuring a proclamation by Springdale mayor Doug Sprouse and family activities including children's crafts and games, pumpkin painting, live music, birthday cake, and ice cream. The event will be open to the community free of charge, including access to all swimming pools and the ice skating rink.

The Jones Center opened in 1995 as a gift to the community from the late Mrs. Bernice Young Jones, wife of Harvey Jones, founder of the Jones Truck Lines. According to its mission statement, the center is proud to provide a place where "all are welcome" in the heart of northwest Arkansas. In keeping with Mrs. Jones' wish that no one be turned away, the center offers facilities and services at minimal or no cost to everyone regardless of age, race, gender, religion, or economic status.

Under the leadership of Rick McCullough, executive director, the

Jones Center welcomes more than 1 million visitors per year, with an operating budget of \$2.4 million. Programs and amenities at the center include an ice rink, junior Olympic competition swimming pool, fun pool with slide, fitness room, a chapel/auditorium, a computer center, and numerous other meeting rooms, playgrounds, and athletic courts.

I have visited the Jones Center often, and I commend the staff and volunteers for their efforts to better their community and provide recreational and social opportunities in a safe, modern facility. I salute the entire Springdale community as they celebrate the 15th anniversary of this unique gathering place in the heart of northwest Arkansas. ●

RECOGNIZING THE WEST FAMILY

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize the West Family of Prairie Grove as they celebrate 150 years in Arkansas farming. I commend them for achieving this significant milestone. As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our farm families. I am proud to share the story of the West Family Farm with you today.

One hundred and fifty years ago, Robert J. West homesteaded land two miles north of Prairie Grove, AR, in a community called Viney Grove after moving to Arkansas from Tennessee in 1860.

On December 7, 1862, the family watched from the hilltop of their farm as the Battle of Prairie Grove played out in the valley less than a mile away. Union soldiers used their home as a make-shift hospital following the bloody battle. Historical records indicate that the West Farm was even considered as a location for the University of Arkansas before it was founded in Fayetteville in 1871.

Generation after generation, the West family has dedicated itself to becoming a successful Arkansas farming operation. Current owner and operator Randy West has lived and worked on the farm his whole life, just as his father, grandfather and great grandfather did before him. He has committed his life to improving the farm's profitability, sustainability and efficiency while raising a family with the lessons and values of rural living.

Randy and his wife Cheryl work together on the farm as they operate a Bermuda grass hay business that produces between 50,000 and 70,000 square bales annually on the farm's 455 total acres. They also run a poultry operation consisting of three broiler houses.

In 1991, the farm was recognized as the Washington County Farm Family of the Year and the Northwest District Farm Family of the Year. In 2003, the farm was recognized by Tyson Foods as

one of five national Environmental Stewardship Award winners for its commitment to best management practices. Tyson Foods continually uses the farm as a model for environmental stewardship.

A lot has changed in Prairie Grove and in northwest Arkansas over the past 150 years, but the West Family Farm remains a constant. From the time Robert J. West founded the farm on the dawn of the Civil War, through the great depression in the 1930s, to the modern age of agriculture in the 2000s, the West Farm has withstood the test of time and has remained committed to preserving the farming way of life.

Arkansas's farm families are critical to our nation's economic stability. We must work to continue the farm family tradition, so families such as the West Family are able to maintain their livelihoods and continue to help provide the safe, abundant, and affordable food supply that feeds our own country and the world and that is essential to our own economic stability. I salute the West Family and all Arkansas farm families for their hard work and dedication. ●

EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize the city of Eureka Springs in my home State of Arkansas as local residents celebrate two major awards for their community.

The American Planning Association recently designated Spring Street in Eureka Springs as one of the 10 Great Streets for 2010 under the organization's Great Places in America program. According to the association, Spring Street exemplifies "exceptional character in a community of lasting value." The street was singled out for its originality and unique characteristics.

Eureka Springs was also recognized nationally as a 2010 Top 25 Arts Destination by American Style Magazine. This is the sixth year the community has received this honor, which recognizes public support for artists, arts institutions, galleries and festivals, and the contribution of the arts to the local community.

I salute the residents of Eureka Springs for their efforts to maintain the heritage, culture, and history of their community. I have been proud to visit Eureka Springs and Spring Street, and I join all my fellow Arkansans to express our pride in this jewel of our State. ●

RECOGNIZING MCGEEHEE CHAMBER HONOREES

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize McGehee residents and their families who were recently honored by the McGehee Chamber of Commerce for their outstanding efforts for their community. Honorees are:

Man of the Year: Mr. Jim Daniels.

Woman of the Year: Ms. Cindy Smith.

Volunteer of the Year: JW Lehman Community Service Award, Ms. Helen Linn Conway.

Business of the Year: Delta Pest Control, Bill and Doris Lawrence.

Educator of the Year: Ms. Yogi Denton, McGehee High School.

Desha County Farm Family: Norris and Jamie Sims.

Mr. President, we should all embrace the spirit of service and volunteerism on display by these deserving individuals. I send my heartfelt congratulations to the entire McGehee community.●

ST. JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a historic church in Omaha, NE, which celebrated its 145th anniversary on November 13, 2010. St. John African Methodist Episcopal—A.M.E.—Church was founded in 1865 and continues to host a thriving congregation in north Omaha's minority community.

The current church structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, having been designed by Clarence W. Wigington, who grew up in Omaha, becoming Nebraska's first African-American architect. He later went on to become the first municipal African-American architect in the United States.

St. John A.M.E. Church was organized at the end of the Civil War, 2 years before Nebraska became a State. This institution endured challenging times of racial bigotry and hatred, which were unfortunately widespread across America at the time. Maintaining the church's presence required the strength, courage, and faith of early African-American leaders.

Today, St. John A.M.E. Church remains a focal point in Omaha, NE; as the congregation continues a 145-year tradition of ministering to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and environmental needs of the north Omaha community.●

TRIBUTE TO BETTY RIVES ALLEN CALLAWAY

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my good friend, Betty Rives Allen Callaway, whom I have known for many years.

Betty was born January 17, 1928, in Selma, AL, to Carolyn Young and Vickers Rives Allen. Raised in Old Town, Betty attended Byrd Elementary School, Selma Junior High School, and later, Albert G. Parrish High School. As a young woman in Selma, Betty quickly became a fixture in the community by donating her time and energy to various civic causes.

In 1943, while Betty was a student at Selma Junior High School, the United States was in the midst of World War II. In towns across America, civilians were mobilizing scrap drives to collect

metal for war material. Betty, taking an active role in Selma's drive, secured the gift of the old Cahaba Bridge from Dallas County, a locomotive and track from the local railroad, and old buses from Clarence Agee Bus Company.

Her success in the scrap metal drive earned her the privilege of being selected to travel to Mobile to christen the *William C. Gorgas*, a Liberty Ship named by the students at Selma Junior High School. The trip was memorable for Betty, as she once recalled christening the ship, "[E]xcept it took me more than once to smash the bottle of champagne."

Following her graduation from Albert G. Parrish High School, Betty embarked on her professional career. Her penchant for business and sense of style quickly earned her a position in Louise Martindale's dress shop. As a self-described "conscientious mother and housewife," Betty proved to be more than capable of balancing her home and her work. While raising her three sons, Johnny, Vick, and Jimmy, Betty also worked as a receptionist in several local offices and businesses, and later served as the social editor at the Selma Times-Journal.

In 1970, Betty began her career as an aide to some of Alabama's political figures, including U.S. Representatives Bill Nichols, Walter Flowers, and Earl Hilliard. Betty also served with distinction for 8 years in my office during my time in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a member of my staff, Betty helped countless Alabamians navigate Federal bureaucracy, many times going above and beyond her call of duty.

Betty's service to her community extended far beyond her duties as a legislative aide. As an expert on Selma history, Betty was instrumental in the effort to restore Cahawba, Alabama's first capital. She also worked to revitalize Selma's Water Avenue, one of the Nation's most historic riverfront streets. A true civic leader, Betty served on the Alabama Sheriffs' Boys Ranch Advisory Committee and as a member of the board of directors of the Selma-Dallas County United Way. She was also the first woman named to the Selma-Dallas County Chamber of Commerce's board of directors.

In 1997, Betty moved from Selma to Point Clear. However, in May, her lifelong friends from Selma were glad to see her return home to live. Today, Betty enjoys spending time with her son, Johnny, and daughter-in-law, Teresa, as well as with her six grandchildren, Caroline, Allen, Ben, Michael, Rachel Holt, and Clare.

I wish Betty much luck on the next phase of her life, and I ask this entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life and career of my good friend Betty Callaway.●

REMEMBERING ELISEO "CHEO" LOPEZ

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, for many of those who experienced it, the Bataan Death March

marked the end of lives that made up in courage what they lacked in length. For Eliseo "Cheo" Lopez a native of Springer, NM, this atrocity was only the beginning of a life lived to the fullest. That life ended on November 11 after 92 years. Fittingly, November 11 is Veterans Day, a day where our Nation pauses to honor and remember the veterans who sacrificed so much to keep our country safe.

The brave Americans who fought at Bataan were heroes in a story that was central to the broader story of Allied victory in World War II. It is a story too few Americans know. The soldiers who fought at Bataan helped slow the Japanese advance at the beginning of the war in Asia, which would eventually give Allied troops the time to reorganize and reverse Japan's progress. Thanks to the heroism of these troops, America was able to recover from Pearl Harbor and take the fight to the Axis powers in Asia and the Pacific Islands, leading to V-J day in 1945.

When the troops in Bataan were finally forced to surrender, they faced inhumane conditions and atrocities at the hands of their captors. By the time they were rescued, toward the end of the war, half of New Mexico's 1,800 soldiers had died. Another 300 would die within a year of returning to the U.S. as a result of complications related to their captivity. Mr. Lopez was forced to work in copper mines as a slave laborer and spent time in several Japanese prison camps until he was rescued in September 1945 nearly 3½ years after he was captured. He was part of a brotherhood of troops belonging to the 515th Coast Artillery Unit, of whom only 69 are known to still be living. The 515th, and all who fought in Bataan, played a crucial role in our country's history, showing valor that I believe is deserving of a Congressional Gold Medal.

When he returned to New Mexico, Mr. Lopez went to work for a bank in his hometown of Springer. He later left the bank for a job with a manufacturing company in California, where he worked for more than 30 years. In 2003, Mr. Lopez was recognized as Alabama Ex-POW Veteran of the Year by the National Veterans Day Organization of Birmingham, AL.

Mr. Lopez leaves behind his wife Katherine Young, who was raised in Las Vegas, NM, along with two daughters, two grandchildren, a brother, and two sisters. He will be buried with full military honors this week at Santa Fe National Cemetery.

Today, the town of Springer and all of New Mexico mourn a dear friend and America marks the passing of a true hero. I wish to honor Mr. Lopez's memory. It will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to