

Washington today, I can think of no greater honor than to be able to greet them and to personally thank Iowa's—and our nation's—heroes for their service to our country.

The Freedom Flight brings together three generations of veterans who will travel together and support one another throughout their trip. It also brings together veterans who were never given the homecoming they deserved. This trip, made possible by generous donations from Iowans, many of whom the veterans will never meet in person, demonstrates that we as a state and as a country will never forget the debt we owe those who have worn our nation's uniform. The veterans will be able to visit their monuments today because their fellow Iowans refused to let their service go unrecognized. That generosity is truly humbling and should inspire us all to continue to work each and every day on behalf of those who serve our nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Newton Freedom Flight and Iowa's veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 802 I was not present to vote because I was participating in a public meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the historic flooding that we have experienced along the Missouri River this year. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRAPPE FIRE COMPANY

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trappe Fire Company on its 100th anniversary of selfless dedication and commitment to its community.

This is a great milestone and a considerable accomplishment and I take great pleasure in being able to help honor the men and women of the Trappe Fire Company for their dedication and outstanding service.

For 100 years, the officers, firefighters, fire police and ambulance corps of Trappe Fire Company have proudly and capably served and protected the thousands of citizens of Montgomery County, including Trappe and Collegeville Boroughs and the Townships of Upper Providence, Perkiomen, Skippack, and Limerick. They have always answered the call to help their neighbors in distress, whether it is putting out a fire, aiding those whose homes have flooded, or rescuing animals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Trappe Fire Company on its 100th anniversary and to honor this exemplary organization for its commitment, dedication, and outstanding history of service to its community.

#### CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE WOMEN'S CARE CENTER OF LA GRANGE

### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the Women's Care Center of La Grange in my home district. The Women's Care Center is a life-affirming crisis pregnancy center, providing non-judgmental guidance and support to women who unexpectedly find themselves with a child.

The Women's Care Center of La Grange is affiliated with International Life Services, a non-profit organization that safeguards the dignity of human life while supporting women in their moment of need. Chicagoland women now have the option to seek refuge at the Women's Care Center and receive accurate information and confidential counseling in a comforting environment. Besides offering emotional support, the Women's Care Center provides free and affordable health care for new and expecting mothers. Pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and pre-natal care are offered, as well as medical referrals. After the child is born, the center continues to aid the family. Support is available in the form of baby clothes, diapers, baby furniture, and food assistance. Every mother deserves access to quality medical care, and I am pleased that this facility prioritizes the health of the mother and the child.

I am proud to have this charitable organization in my district and I look forward to its positive impact. I am certain that this new facility will be a gift to the community. Please join me in celebrating the Women's Care Center of La Grange as they pursue their life-affirming mission of improving the health and wellbeing of local women and children.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DON L. RIDING

### HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Riding in the event of his retirement after 39 dedicated years of service with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Mr. Riding was appointed to the Officer in Charge position at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Fresno in September 2003. Prior to this, he had served as Officer in Charge of the Fresno INS Suboffice since May 1984. In his previous capacity, he supervised the enforcement and benefits function of the INS in Central California. These operations included the processing of applications for benefits such as permanent residents and naturalization, investigation of criminal and administrative violations, as well as the detention and removal of violators of immigration laws.

Mr. Riding began his career with INS in 1972 as an Immigration Inspector in El Paso, Texas. He transferred to Baltimore, Maryland in 1975 as a Criminal Investigator. In 1980, he was promoted to the position of Course Developer and Instructor at the Immigration Officer

Academy in Glyncro, Georgia with a focus on Examinations. In 1982, Mr. Riding was promoted to the position of Port Director of Laredo, Texas. This job supervised the inspection of persons entering the United States at one of the largest land border ports of entry. He held this position until he was transferred to Fresno as Officer in Charge in 1984.

Prior to beginning his career with INS, Mr. Riding spent two years in the United States Army and two years on a church mission trip to Brazil. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Brigham Young University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in law enforcement in 1972. He is married to Donna Bright of Baltimore and has five children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Don Riding for his years of dedication to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

#### REMEMBERING GORDON ST. ANGELO

### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the passing of Gordon St. Angelo, a prominent Hoosier and community activist.

Mr. St. Angelo was born and raised in Huntingburg, Indiana, where he operated a clothing store. He is most known, however, for his involvement in the community. Mr. St. Angelo helped create a foundation with Milton and Rose Friedman to promote and establish educational choice in America. He also served for 25 years as the senior program officer of community development at the Lilly Endowment.

Gordon St. Angelo's other community involvements included serving as chairman of the board for The Indianapolis Star's Jefferson Awards and for the Indianapolis Civic Theatre, was a board member and vice president of the Indianapolis Airport Authority from 1983 to 1999, and served on the boards of numerous community organizations and colleges.

Many Hoosiers also remember Gordon St. Angelo for his political involvement in Indiana and on the national stage. He began his career with the Democratic Party, and was instrumental in the successful election campaigns of Governor Roger Branigan, U.S. Senators Birch Bayh and Vance Harke, as well as many other candidates. In 1964, he was elected chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party, a position he held for ten years. He also became the Democratic Party's deputy national chairman in 1968 and helped manage Hubert Humphrey's presidential bid.

Mr. St. Angelo was known for his ability to relate to many different kinds of people, and perhaps surprisingly, migrated to the Republican Party a little more than a decade after his involvement in Humphrey's democratic presidential bid. He served as chairman of the Indiana Republican Party from 1981 to 1989, and is remembered as an honorable man who could be friends with his opponents and worked to get the best candidate in office.

A committed family man, Gordon St. Angelo was married for 53 years to his beloved wife,

the late Beatrice. They loved to travel, and visited more than 100 countries during their life together. I offer my deepest condolences to his three sons, Paul, Kurt, and John. The Old Book tells us that “the Lord is close to the brokenhearted,” and that is my prayer for you. During this difficult time may you find solace in faith and family.

IN HONOR OF JAMES L. MEYER

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Mr. James L. Meyer for his unflinching service to Alexandria and Central Louisiana. Due to his prominent and tireless efforts for our great state, his legacy will live on as the Alexandria International Airport Commercial Terminal will now be named the James L. Meyer Commercial Terminal.

Mr. Meyer's ambitious career started at Louisiana Tech University where he earned two degrees: one in Chemical Engineering and the latter in Civil Engineering. After his marriage to Mrs. Joy in August of 1957, he served as an officer in United States Air Force from 1957 until 1960. He eventually returned to Alexandria where Mr. Meyer was employed as a design engineer.

In 1968, he decided to start his own engineering firm. While growing James L. Meyer & Associates—his consulting, engineering, and surveying firm—to a successful business with five locations across Louisiana, he also held numerous board positions and received many distinguishable awards for serving his region.

Mr. Meyer's presidency for the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce and becoming the first Chairman of the England Authority are the reasons he is being honored today. His services from both positions evolved a military base closure into a commercial international airport; therefore, air passengers were doubled and millions of dollars were brought into region through capital construction.

Mr. Meyer's efforts reflect how one dedicated person can affect an entire region and his life should be an inspiration to others. His career has brought honor and pride to his family, friends, community, and the state of Louisiana. I congratulate Mr. Meyer upon his legacy that will be known as James L. Meyer Commercial Terminal.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. LARRY  
DiCHIARA FOR BEING NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a special school superintendent today, Dr. Larry DiChiara.

Dr. DiChiara was named Superintendent of the Year by the School Superintendents of Alabama in October 2011.

Dr. DiChiara has always been committed to teaching and helping students. He was a former principal, teacher and coach from

Loachapoka Elementary and High Schools in Lee County, Alabama, before taking over at Phenix City Schools in Russell County.

I'm proud to congratulate Dr. DiChiara on this great achievement and hope he will continue his service for many years to come to our children, parents, teachers and our community. Congratulations!

HONORING ELOUISE COBELL

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Indian country in mourning the death of Elouise Cobell, who passed away on Sunday, October 16. Her role as lead plaintiff in the historic Cobell v. Salazar litigation has forever changed the way the federal government views the trust responsibility with Native Americans. Elouise Cobell was a true Indian leader.

She was born Elouise Catherine Pepion, November 5, 1945, on the Blackfeet Nation reservation located on the eastern edge of Glacier National Park in Montana. After graduating from Great Falls Business College, she became an accountant and rancher. Later, Elouise served as Treasurer for the Blackfeet Nation for 13 years and helped found the first all Indian owned national bank.

It was during her time as tribal treasurer that she realized the royalty checks received by tribal members seemed substantially lower than the value of the resources owned. She learned as much as she could about the way the federal government handled the Indian trust fund accounts and found that over decades, others in Indian country had claimed the funds were badly mismanaged.

In the mid 1980s Elouise, already frustrated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, BIA, came to Congress looking for assistance and justice for all Individual Indian Money account holders. All she wanted was what all of us expect from our banker—to know how much is in each account and a showing that the balance was correct.

In 1992, the House Government Operations Committee issued a report titled, “Misplaced Trust: The BIA's Mismanagement of the Indian Trust Fund.” The report called the BIA's management of Indian trust funds “grossly inadequate in numerous important respects.” It further found that the BIA had “failed to fulfill its fiduciary duties to beneficiaries of the Indian Trust Fund.”

Congress passed the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 to give account holders more control over, and access to, their funds, and to provide a model to reform the system. Unfortunately, little was changed at the BIA. Fed up and frustrated with stonewalling and continued mismanagement, in 1996 Elouise filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of more than 500,000 Indians at a time when no one else would.

In 1999, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia confirmed what Indian country had always known—the Department of the Interior had breached its trust obligation to Indians in handling Indian funds. Fourteen years after the case was first filed, 220 days of trial, 80 court decisions, and two contempt citations against Cabinet secretaries later,

President Obama signed into law the landmark \$3.4 billion settlement for the Indian account holders.

Because of Elouise and the litigation that she initiated, the Department of Interior has made numerous changes to the way it does business with respect to Indian funds and trust resources. Seattle University Law School Indian Law Professor Eric Eberhard said there is “no doubt that Elouise Cobell changed the legal landscape when it comes to Indian law and the federal government's trust responsibilities.”

Against all odds, Elouise persevered with her commitment to the issue. Since the early 1990s, the Committee on Natural Resources held numerous hearings on the issue associated with the handling of Indian trust funds. It was during my tenure as Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee that I had the privilege and honor of getting to know and work with Elouise. Her dedication to this issue was far none.

Elouise won so many battles; the only one she lost was to the cancer that took her from us too soon. She will be remembered for her strength, courage, and positive outlook. We can honor her life by continuing the work she started.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Elouise Cobell and her many achievements, and in expressing our sincere condolences to her husband Alvin, her son Turk, and all her family and friends.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
NITA THOMAS

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Mrs. Nita Thomas, whose life and countless contributions to this world should be celebrated by all.

The definitive Southern woman, Nita possessed outstanding character, unwavering faith and matchless elegance. She carried herself with such charisma and poise guaranteed to light up every room she entered.

Her deep devotion to her family and friends is one of her most memorable qualities. With each encounter, Nita's love and joy she felt for her loved ones was evident. I extend my deepest condolences to those this wonderful mother and grandmother leaves behind.

In Acts 20:35, the Lord Jesus himself said “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” She was a champion for those with special needs and passionately worked to ensure each person was met with an accepting heart. With all that Nita gifted to everyone she came across, it is indeed apparent she lived her life by these words.

Nita grew in Jackson Parish, where she was taught to love thy neighbor as thyself. She never lost touch with her roots. Nita had the stature and charm to walk with those in the upper echelons of power, but she had the grace and dignity to remember those whom society had forgotten.

Today, our words may seem futile in comparison to the indelible mark Nita left in our hearts. Some say—and I honestly believe—that the heart has its own memory, one that is