

Irwin, who, at the age of 88, passed away peacefully at his home in North Syracuse, New York on Wednesday, October 5th, 2011.

Brigadier General Irwin was born in Syracuse on November 4th, 1922, to the late Joseph A. and Violet M. Irwin. He was preceded in death by his wife, Natalie J. Irwin "Noble Nanny" and his sister, Marilyn J. Irwin Boison.

A combat veteran of WWII, he served as commander of the 174th Fighter Wing, (formally the 174th Fighter Group) New York Air National Guard at Hancock Field from January 1st, 1958 until March 13th, 1977. He retired from the New York Air National Guard on August 31st, 1978.

General Irwin's flying career spanned more than 35 years, beginning when he was still attending North Syracuse High School. Working weekends at the old Amboy Airport, he received compensation for his labor in flight instruction.

He began his military service in August of 1942 and entered pilot training the following March. After winning his wings and commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps in May of 1944, he served in the Pacific Theatre of Operations as a fighter pilot flying the P-47 Thunderbolt.

Campaigns in which he participated include the China Offensive, Western Pacific, and the Air Offensive of Japan and the Ryukyus Islands. He was decorated with the Air Medal, the Oak Leaf Cluster, and four battle stars for his wartime service.

Following World War II, General Irwin was an original member and assisted in the organization of the Air National Guard in Syracuse. While commander of the 174th Fighter Wing, General Irwin saw the unit undergo many aircraft conversions and unit changes. It was the first unit to operate jet aircraft in New York State and in 1951, was selected as one of the two units in the country to test a secret program of runway alert to augment the Air Force. The results were so successful that this program is to this day a vital part of the United States' air defense.

In 1960, the 174th was recognized by the National Guard Bureau as the most combat-ready F-86 unit in the country. During the Berlin Crisis in 1961, the 174th was activated and within 30 days, all personnel, planes, and equipment were deployed to Phalsbourg Air Base in France. This was the largest movement of jet fighter aircraft in Europe since World War II. General Irwin led his unit's planes and crews across the northern Atlantic route via Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, and on to the mainland of Europe. Despite many dramatic moments, all arrived safely on the continent. The unit was again called up during the Pueblo Crisis and was deployed to Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico.

In addition to his military service, General Irwin was instrumental in linking the 174th Fighter Wing with the local community. He organized a program of community education for planning and zoning actions compatible with aviation growth.

Honors bestowed upon General Irwin are many. General Irwin was awarded the Governor's Trophy in 1960, 1973, and 1976. In addition, he received the first Department of Defense Award for Domestic Action in 1971. Thompson Road through Hancock Air Base now bears his name and is called the "General Curtis Irwin Parkway". In our local com-

munity, General Irwin was named to the North Syracuse School District Wall of Distinction in 1990.

Surviving General Irwin are his children, Laurinda "Laurie" A. Irwin of Cottage Grove, Minnesota; Sheila M. (Lester) Austin of Lafayette, New York; Lisette "Lisa" Damon of North Syracuse; several nieces and nephews; his longtime companion Betty Tryon of Liverpool; and his 174th Fighter Wing Family.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York and a grateful Nation, I thank General Irwin for his service.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ANNA MARIA CHÁVEZ

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anna Maria Chávez and to congratulate her on her appointment as the 19th Chief Executive of Girl Scouts of the USA. Ms. Chávez officially assumes her new role at the Girl Scouts National Council Session/52nd Convention being held this week in Houston, Texas.

I am particularly proud that Ms. Chávez joins GSUSA following an incredibly successful term as Chief Executive of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas in my home district in San Antonio, Texas. During her tenure, Ms. Chávez oversaw a 20 percent increase in membership in just two years. Quickly recognized for her leadership, Ms. Chávez received the inaugural ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award in 2010 and was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in March 2011.

As the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I also take great pride in the fact that Ms. Chávez is the first Latina woman to be named the head of Girl Scouts. Her story began in the small town of Eloy, Arizona, where she was raised in a Mexican-American family.

Ms. Chávez holds a law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and a bachelor's degree in American history from Yale University. Bar admissions include the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, Arizona Supreme Court, and U.S. Supreme Court. Her professional accomplishments are many. Prior to coming to Girl Scouts, she served as deputy chief of staff for urban relations and community development for former Arizona Governor and current U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano. Prior to being appointed as deputy chief of staff, Ms. Chávez served as then Governor Napolitano's director of intergovernmental affairs from 2003 to 2007. She also served as in-house counsel and assistant director for the Division of Aging & Community Services (DACs) at the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Ms. Chávez entered state government after serving as senior policy advisor to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater. Previously, she had been chief of staff to the deputy administrator at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in Washington, D.C. Ms. Chávez also served as chief of staff for SBA's Office of Government Contracting and Minority Enterprise Development.

As she takes the helm at Girl Scouts of the USA, Ms. Chávez will shepherd a dramatic period of change for the organization. This week, Girl Scouts will kick off its 100th Anniversary celebration, designating 2012 as the Year of the Girl. In the coming years, Girl Scouts has plans to promote its award winning Girl Scout Leadership Program, including the exciting new badge book, The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts is also preparing to launch an ambitious new fundraising effort tied to these activities, and to elevate public awareness about girls' unique needs.

As relevant today as it was when it was founded 100 years ago, this organization delivers the best leadership experience for a new generation of girls whose lives—and the opportunities they face—are ever changing. I am confident that Anna Maria Chávez will continue this strong legacy of leadership and service, and look forward to working with her for many years to come.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT—STEPHEN MICHAEL TIMMES

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Stephen Michael Timmes for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Stephen has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

CONGRATULATING THORSEN'S PLUMBING & AIR CONDITIONING ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Thorsen's Plumbing & Air Conditioning Inc. on their 100th Anniversary. This dedicated business continues to bring economic vitality to the region.

On November 11, 1911, Andy Thorsen Sr. started his plumbing business as a one man shop in a shed attached to his first home on 567 High Street in Turlock, California. November 17, 1911, he obtained a city license in the name of "Thorsen's Plumbing" and began working out of his house at 567 High Street. Andy would ride his bicycle to jobs, carrying 200 pound bundles of 20 foot pipe on his shoulder. In 1916, Andy relocated to 214 Lander Avenue with the sign "Andy Thorsen, The Plumber". Andy was the first business person in Turlock to use a horseless carriage for his business, a Model T Ford with special tires for the rough and muddy roads.

In the early days, his work mainly consisted of simple plumbing with water storage tanks and wind driven pumps. Between 1918–1927, business continued to grow as the demand for modern indoor plumbing increased. In 1933, Andy Thorsen the Plumber moved to 134 Lander Avenue to a larger facility.

As post war construction boomed across the nation, Thorsen's grew with the continued increase in new homes and business construction. Eventually, Andy expanded his business to include plumbing, heating, sheet metal, storage tanks, pumps, motors, windmills, hardware and paint.

During the 1950's, air conditioning became popular in the central valley providing comfort and quality to homes. Thorsen's responded by expanding their services to include central air conditioning and heating.

Thorsen's saw its greatest expansion during the 1960's and 1970's. Andy Thorsen's two sons, Rodney and Andy Jr., were both involved as partners in the business until 1965 when Rodney took over as president became sole owner of "Thorsen's Plumbing & Air Conditioning Inc." The name change reflected the growing importance of air conditioning.

In 1977, Rodney Thorsen completed the purchase of 20 acres of land and built a 19,500 sq. ft. building on North Walnut, employing 80–100 people and expanded to include commercial, residential and service for plumbing and HVAC throughout the Merced and Stanislaus counties. Rodney managed the company for the next 20 years and in 1984, his youngest son Norman graduated from college and returned to Turlock to take over the reins of the company. In 1988, Norman was involved in a serious automobile accident which forced Rodney to take over managing the company again.

Over the next 14 years, Norman was able to help Rodney manage the company on a limited basis. Through the skill and devotion of key long-term employees in the office and the field, Thorsen's Inc. was able to remain competitive.

In 2002, Craig Pitau was asked to join Thorsen's as the General Manager and was given the opportunity to purchase ownership in the company. Craig worked with Norman managing Thorsen's until Norman's untimely passing in 2004. In 2005, Rodney also passed away. Today, the company is owned by Carl Thorsen, Don Thorsen, Judy Thorsen Enchelmayer and Craig Pitau.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Thorsen's Plumbing & Air Conditioning Inc. for their 100 years of operation.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 65 million Americans who spend on average 20 hours per week selflessly caring for family members or friends who, through age, disability, or illness, have lost the ability to care for themselves.

For most of us, the act of caring for those in need is a basic aspect of what it means to be human. Compassion, either through charitable giving or community service, is inseparable from American ideals of human rights for every member of our society. Whenever we treat those around us as we want to be treated, we contribute to a culture of responsibility and respect for life that leads us to do great things in the name of humanity.

Last week, President Barack Obama proclaimed November 2011 as National Family Caregivers Month. Anyone who spends time caring for a loved one in need is considered a family caregiver. Let us use this occasion to honor these everyday heroes and raise awareness of the profound contributions they make to society.

Family caregivers save taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars each year through their efforts.

According to studies compiled by the National Family Caregivers Association, the value of the unpaid services provided each year is estimated to be \$375 billion, which is almost twice as much as the \$158 billion spent in 2009 on homecare and nursing home services combined.

In my home state of California alone there were 3,419,481 family caregivers in 2004 providing over \$36 billion worth of care. Though they are mostly untrained, family caregivers now provide about 80% of all long-term care in the United States.

Imagine if taxpayers had to foot the full bill. Now, more than ever, family caregivers are essential to providing the best services and deserve the support of government and the medical community.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the US Census projects a massive growth in the number of Americans 65 and older as the baby-boomer generation ages. Populations in this age bracket will double in 23 states by 2030.

As medical progress means longer lives, families struggle to provide long-term family care than they did in past decades. Families are smaller and more spread out, and many family caregivers must juggle work and raising children in addition to their caregiving respon-

sibilities. Family caregivers may need to operate complex medical equipment or practice delicate procedures without any formal training.

The "graying of America" will have a tremendous impact on families providing care for their older members.

Many public health officials are concerned that we may not be ready to assume the roles of family caregivers. Studies suggest that many Americans have not spent much time thinking about or preparing for long-term care. People who have no experience as a family caregiver may have extreme difficulty in approaching such a responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that most of us will find ourselves in a similar situation, either giving or requiring long term care at various points in our lives.

Family caregivers often put themselves second as they balance competing commitments to their jobs, families, and communities. Tragically, more than 1 in 10 family caregivers report that their physical health has deteriorated as a result of extreme stress.

Family caregivers experiencing extreme stress have been shown to age prematurely. This level of stress can take as much as 10 years off a family caregiver's life.

Mr. Speaker, 40 to 70 percent of family caregivers have clinically significant symptoms of depression with approximately a quarter to half of these caregivers meet the diagnostic criteria for major depression.

We must also remember that many disabled veterans are supported by family caregivers. Having given so much for their country, I believe that they and their family members should not have to struggle to live out a full, dignified life.

Therefore, we should do everything possible to support family caregivers and lighten their burdens.

It begins with encouraging people to take adequate steps to prepare for their future care. This means setting aside funds to cover unforeseen medical expenses, signing a living will, and making preparations with family and friends. Health professionals must be sensitive to the needs of family caregivers and enlist them in formulating a patient's long-term care plan.

We also need to make sure that family caregivers have access to information and resources that can help them meet their responsibilities with minimal strain and unnecessary cost.

Finally, we must ensure that the concerns of family caregivers are reflected in all major healthcare legislation.

We are all family caregivers, Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to work together to support human dignity and the American family.