

was built. The project was ridiculed by many in Arlington and dismissed by others in the region as “Vandergriff’s Folly,” but the folly became “the miracle lake” upon its completion. Large equipment was being removed from the site in 1957 when one of the worst and longest droughts in Texas history broke, and it began to rain. The lake, which experts believed would take years to fill, was full in 18 days. The lake ensured the explosive growth that came in the decades of the ’60s, ’70s, and ’80s that made Arlington, Texas one of the fastest growing cities in America.

As a college student at the University of Southern California, Vandergriff was very familiar with Anaheim and by the late 1950s was aware of the tremendous economic impact tourism had on the city after the opening of Disneyland theme park in 1955. He knew, because of Arlington’s central location, that the same benefits could accrue to his city with a product of similar appeal. It came as no surprise to those familiar with the Vandergriff vision for Arlington when he became instrumental in establishing the Six Flags Over Texas theme park in 1961. The park was an instant hit, and people all over the southwestern United States began traveling to Arlington for family style entertainment. The first of the Six Flags parks, it still operates at its original location in Arlington.

But Vandergriff didn’t stop there. A devoted baseball fan, he was determined to bring professional baseball to north Texas. The effort took years and saw hopes dashed time and again before he finally convinced owner Bob Short to move his Washington Senators to Arlington in 1972. The effort did not endear him to the people of the nation’s capital. On one of his many visits to meet with Short, he was unceremoniously kicked out of a taxicab when he made the mistake of telling the cabbie why he was in town. The Washington Senators became the Texas Rangers Ball Club, and Tom Vandergriff became the team’s biggest fan and supporter. When his beloved Rangers won their first American League Pennant by beating the New York Yankees in Arlington last October, Vandergriff was there in the ballpark he helped build to cheer them on.

Today, Arlington is host to more than seven million visitors each year and is the second most popular tourist destination in the state, bringing millions of dollars in revenue to the city annually. The city’s entertainment district boasts Six Flags theme park, the Texas Rangers Ballpark, a new Dallas Cowboys football stadium, the National Bowling Congress and Museum, Hurricane Harbor water park, and clusters of shops and restaurants that make Arlington the City of Wow for millions of Texans.

In his 26 years as mayor, two years as a member of Congress, and 16 years as County Judge of Tarrant County, Vandergriff championed two more causes relentlessly: regional communication and cooperation and helping the University of Texas at Arlington become a major institution of higher learning. Believing that everyone in north Texas would succeed if they worked together for the good of the region, Vandergriff spent decades finessing, cajoling, and winning over the leaders of other cities in the region. He led the effort to establish and became the president of the north Central Texas Council of Governments which today is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for all of north Texas. He was a strong

advocate for regionalism well into his eighties, and the economic might of the region is a testament to that effort.

Vandergriff’s efforts on behalf of his hometown university are equally impressive. When he became mayor, Arlington College was a tiny two-year institution affiliated with Texas A&M that was formerly a military school and then an agricultural college. Vandergriff knew it could be more, and if Arlington were to succeed as a city, so must its college. He led the effort to make the college a four-year university. Working with then-governor John Connally, he succeeded when the college became a full university within the University of Texas system in 1964. Today, the University of Texas at Arlington is the largest UT campus outside of Austin and the fastest growing university in the state. It is quickly becoming a major research facility and contributes more to the local economy than any industry in the city.

There is more, of course, much more. In a life lived as fully and as well as his, there is always more to tell: his unwavering support and leadership of Arlington Memorial Hospital, his support and leadership of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, his support of local public schools, his support of a long list of non-profit agencies, his decades as an active member of the United Methodist church, and his roles as husband, father, grandfather, and mentor to a very long list of aspiring leaders. All of this almost didn’t happen, at least not in Texas.

Vandergriff was born on January 29, 1926, to W. T. and Charles Vandergriff in Carrollton, Texas. The family relocated to Arlington when Tom was 12. After graduating from Arlington High School, Vandergriff attended USC where he earned a bachelor’s degree in 1947. He married his high school sweetheart, Anna Waynette Smith in 1949. Blessed with a deep, sonorous voice that he used with perfect diction, he prepared for a career in radio and broadcast journalism. After graduation he applied for and was a finalist in the competition for what he thought would be the job of his dreams, but he lost out to another young applicant. Vandergriff returned to Texas to join his father’s automobile dealership, disappointed and convinced that he was a better candidate for the broadcast job. The young man who got the job was Chet Huntley.

Chet Huntley would gain fame as an NBC news anchor and reach millions of listeners nationwide, but the loser in that early competition, Tom Vandergriff, would touch millions in north Texas in ways that were deeper and arguably more significant. Many have their own stories to tell about Vandergriff, many humorous because he possessed a wonderful sense of humor, many thankful because he touched so many with acts of kindness large and small, and many inspirational because he inspired us, goaded us, and led us to be greater than we thought we were and achieved things we never thought possible. All in north Texas are better off today because Tom Vandergriff was here, and our children and grandchildren will have better lives even though they will never know him. Those of us who did will never forget him.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

HONORING THE CITY OF GLADSTONE, OREGON, ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

## HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2011*

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Gladstone, Oregon, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. From its perch at the confluence of the mighty Willamette and Clackamas rivers, Gladstone has for 100 years kept a watchful eye on Oregon as our fine state has grown from humble pioneer beginnings.

The land that Gladstone residents call home today was originally a meeting place for local Native American tribes—namely the Clackamas and Multnomah Tribes. The famous Pow Wow Tree, where tribes from all over the region would gather to trade and conduct important community proceedings, still stands today near Clackamas Boulevard. This ancient tree serves as a significant reminder that Gladstone’s history as an important place to come together long predates the founding of our Union.

Pioneers arrived in Oregon via the Oregon Trail and began settling the Willamette Valley in the 1840s. The Cason and Rinearson families were granted the original donation land claims in what is now known as Gladstone. In fact, the boundary between the Cason and Rinearson settlements, now known as Portland Avenue, serves as a prominent municipal boundary today. Although the area would continue to serve as an important regional gathering place, hosting the first Oregon State Fair in 1861, the official founding of the City of Gladstone would not happen for more than 60 years.

After purchasing portions of the original Cason family land claim in the 1880s, Clackamas County Judge Harvey Edward Cross set about platting a town and offering parcels of his land for sale. On January 10, 1911, the city was officially founded. Judge Cross chose as the new city’s namesake, the famed four-time British Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, William Ewart Gladstone.

In 1894, local author and Chautauqua movement proponent, Eva Emory Dye, enlisted Judge Cross’s help to bring Chautauqua to the Gladstone area. Judge Cross concurred that Chautauqua would bring great cultural enrichment; therefore, he agreed to lease his Gladstone Park to the Willamette Valley Chautauqua Association for a term of 50 years. After the first festival was rained out in 1894, an assembly hall with seating for 3,000 was constructed on site. The Gladstone Chautauqua ran for many years and hosted appearances by such famous Americans as John Philip Sousa, Theodore Roosevelt and William Jennings Bryan. Although crowds could swell to as large as 50,000 in certain years, dwindling attendance eventually forced the Willamette Valley Chautauqua Association into bankruptcy and closure in 1927.

Today, Gladstone continues its tradition as an important community gathering place. The spirit of the Pow Wow Tree and early Chautauqua events can be felt every summer at the City’s Chautauqua Festival and parade. Despite urban encroachment, Gladstone has

retained a small town character and strong sense of community that make it an ideal place for families young and old to live, work and play. With a strong sense of its history and an eye toward the future, I am confident that Gladstone will continue to thrive for another 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be the representative of the fine community of Gladstone, Oregon. I congratulate the citizens of Gladstone on their centennial, and I look forward to sharing in the celebration.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND  
CAREER OF VAN R. RICHMOND

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and memory of Van R. Richmond, a giant in the Greater Cleveland Community. Although his name rarely appeared in print, his work as Page 1 editor for the Cleveland Plain Dealer meant that he had a hand in shaping almost every major story affecting residents of Northeast Ohio during his tenure until his retirement in 1994.

Van Richmond grew up in Chicago, Wisconsin and New York before joining the service in 1943. After serving in the Army, Mr. Richmond attended Villanova University and majored in engineering. Ultimately, Mr. Richmond found his true calling and transferred to the University of Iowa to study journalism.

Mr. Richmond put his first marks on the field of journalism at Rockford Register Republic in Rockford, Illinois, where he worked for ten years before taking a job at the Cleveland Plain Dealer in 1960. He worked in several jobs as an editor before rising to become the Page 1 editor. Known to his friends and colleagues as an opinionated, hard working man, Mr. Richmond became a legend in the newsroom. He left a reputation for his quick wit and his dedication to the job.

Mr. Richmond will be loved and remembered by many, especially his widow, Elizabeth; his son and daughter, Jerome and Anne; his stepchildren, Michelle Miller, James Anderson and Kathryn Harttrup; and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and memory of a man who, through his work, helped the residents of Northeast Ohio learn the events of the world and our place in them. He was a man who was driven not by fame or accolades, but the sense of hard work and a job well done. He will be missed by his friends, colleagues and all who knew him. I wish peace and happiness to his family.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JACK  
KYSER

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2011*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late John A. "Jack"

Kyser. Born in Huntington Park in the 34th Congressional District, he was a leader in the community and someone who was often called "the voice" or "the guru" of the Los Angeles economy. Mr. Kyser passed away unexpectedly on December 6 at the age of 76 at his home in Downey, CA.

As the "go to" economy expert in Los Angeles County, Mr. Kyser was respected and admired by a diverse group of people—from industry experts to television viewers—who appreciated his ability to make complicated facts and figures understandable as well as his in-depth knowledge about the local and national economy.

Mr. Speaker, as my fellow Angelenos prepare to attend his memorial service on January 12 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing Mr. Kyser's lifetime contributions to Los Angeles and the Southern California region.

To further pay respect to him, I would like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD excerpts from the following December 7 Los Angeles Times obituary which provides a thorough and touching overview of Mr. Kyser's life and many accomplishments.

JOHN A. 'JACK' KYSER DIES AT 76; EXPERT ON  
L.A. ECONOMY

(By Roger Vincent and Hugo Martin)

John A. "Jack" Kyser, the dean of Los Angeles economists who spoke as an expert on Southern California to observers around the world, has died. He was 76.

Kyser devoted his long career to focusing on the workings of the region's economy. As the former chief economist of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. he was in steady demand as a speaker at business events and a reliable source who was quick with an insightful quote for reporters on deadline.

"Jack was truly the authority on L.A.'s economy," said Mark Liberman, president of LA Inc., the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau. "If he said it, you knew it was true, because his voice influenced every projection about L.A.'s economy."

Kyser moved among the business elite but often spoke comfortably of his humble upbringing in working-class Downey.

He was born April 20, 1934, in Huntington Park and raised in Vernon and Downey, where he lived much of his life.

Kyser earned a bachelor of science degree in 1955 and an MBA in 1968 from USC, but was not formally trained as an economist. His street-level knowledge of the local economy was unsurpassed, though, and helped make him a confidant to the powerful.

"Generations of leaders in L.A.—including mayors, councilmen and governors—relied on him as an advisor and counselor, and benefited from his wisdom," said Bill Allen, chief executive of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

Kyser found work after his undergraduate years as a forecaster for Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, but was laid off four years later during an economic downturn. He found paid work anchoring a news show at a local public radio station where he had been volunteering.

Kyser returned to Southern California in about a year to work for United California Bank, then spent eight years as an economist with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Kyser began with the economic development corporation in 1991, when it had no economics research department.

Kyser retired from the economic development organization in June, but returned to the public eye almost immediately as an economic spokesman for the Southern California Assn. of Governments.

Kyser's opinions were sought because "he had credibility," said Carol Schatz, president of the Central City Assn., a Los Angeles business advocacy group. "He remained independent through the political pressure that plays a role with economic forecasting."

The president of the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission, Kathryn Schloessman, said Kyser "was the person our industry went to when asked about economic impact of anything happening in this city. He was a Los Angeles treasure."

HONORING DAVE HUINKER

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Dave Huinker of Decorah, Iowa, who was recently presented the Heritage Award during the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) 120th annual convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The IAFE is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the development and improvement of fairs and expositions around the world. Their influence covers said events from the county level to the national and international level. Although it was first organized in 1885 to represent a half dozen fairs, it has expanded to represent over 1,300 fairs, shows, and expositions today. To be selected for Heritage Award by the IAFE, a person has to have over ten years of fair management experience, cannot receive more than \$2,000 annually for their work in the position, must be nominated by their fair, and must be a current member of the IAFE.

Dave has a long history of involvement in Iowa's fairs. As a member of the 4-H from a young age, Dave spent much of his time exhibiting livestock and community service projects at his local fair. Dave served on the Iowa State Fair Board for 30 years, serving two terms of that time as board president and helping to establish the Blue Ribbon Foundation. He has served as a judge at numerous county and state fairs across the country and as an agricultural director to Decorah State Bank. Dave has also spent time as an auxiliary member of the Winneshiek County Fair Board and served on the Winneshiek County Extension Council.

The IAFE could not have chosen a better person to receive the Heritage Award. I commend Dave Huinker for his dedication to continuing and preserving our fairs and the rich culture that they represent. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating him in being selected to receive this award. I wish him the best of luck in the future.