

work with a bipartisan, Federal, State and local group that includes Senator JIM WEBB, Congressmen SCOTT RIGELL, BOBBY SCOTT, ROB WITTMAN and RANDY FORBES, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell and his administration, the Fort Monroe Authority, the city of Hampton and Mayor Molly Ward, State and local elected officials, conservation partners such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Conservation Association, individual advocates and citizen groups including the Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, and many others who have been committed to this effort. I thank Secretary Salazar and the National Park Service for their work and their visits to Hampton this summer to hear firsthand the overwhelming public support that exists for this new National Park Service site. Now that we have solidified a National Park Service role, it is critically important that the city, the region, and the Commonwealth continue to work together to make the most of this tremendous opportunity to showcase Fort Monroe's incredible place in our nation's history. I look forward to continued progress at Fort Monroe.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COLORADO CELEBRATION

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the sesquicentennial of the 17 original counties created by the Colorado Territorial Legislature in 1861. These counties celebrate this significant milestone today, November 1, 2011.

Congress established Colorado Territory on February 28, 1861, and the territory's first legislative assembly convened on September 9, 1861.

The 17 original counties—Arapahoe, Boulder, Clear Creek, Costilla, Douglas, El Paso, Fremont, Gilpin, Guadalupe, shortly thereafter renamed Conejos, Huerfano, Jefferson, Lake, Larimer, Park, Pueblo, Summit, and Weld counties were established by the territorial legislature within the present boundaries of the State of Colorado.

From the snow-covered mountains of Summit County to the farm lands of the San Luis Valley, these original counties established the foundation from which the most beautiful State in our country grew and developed.

Colorado became the 38th State of the Union on August 1, 1876, under President Ulysses S. Grant, and became known as the Centennial State.

Over the past 150 years, counties had their boundaries revised, new counties were created, and some were abolished, and today, the State of Colorado has 64 counties, each one with its own unique history, geography, and cultural heritage.

I take this time today to congratulate Colorado on the 150th anniversary of our State's first 17 counties and to

recognize all of Colorado's 64 counties for their vital contributions to our great State.

As we welcome this milestone in the history of Colorado, we can no doubt look forward to another promising and prosperous 150 years.●

REMEMBERING DR. WANGARI MAATHAI

• Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, 2 months ago, on September 25, 2011, Dr. Wangari Maathai of Kenya, the first African woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize, passed away after her fight with ovarian cancer. She was a woman of firsts, of force, and of foresight. She was a woman who empowered millions of African women with hope and opportunity.

Born on April 1, 1940, in Nyeri, Kenya, to peasant Kikuyu farmers, Wangari Muta Maathai, at the urging of her older brother, attended primary school at a time when it was rare for women to receive an education. Her father worked for a White landowner who forced him to sell all his crops to him at whatever price was offered. From an early age, Dr. Maathai possessed a deep and abiding love and respect for nature. As a child, she spent time at Kanungu—an underground stream that flowed close to a sacred fig tree, and she would till fields with her mother, once saying, "I grew up close to my mother, in the field, where I could observe nature."

She went on to secondary school where she graduated at the top of her class. In 1964, she was awarded a scholarship to attend Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, KS, where she graduated with a biology degree. She pursued her master's of science at the University of Pittsburgh. From there, she continued her studies in both Germany and Kenya where she earned her doctorate in veterinary anatomy from the University of Nairobi. She was the first woman from East or Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree, and also the first woman to hold a professorship at the University of Nairobi's Department of Veterinary Anatomy which she later chaired another first for a woman.

Through the force of personality, she reinforced the links between poverty and health, economic security, and environmental sustainability. Returning to Kenya from her studies abroad, she saw how deforestation and planting of cash crops had stripped the land of resources, causing animals and plants to disappear. The result was a lack of food, water, and rampant erosion. The effect was particularly devastating for women who were not only the family caretakers, but as subsistence farmers, depended [S3]upon the land for their livelihood.

In 1977, Dr. Maathai had the foresight to establish the Green Belt Movement which sought to combat the aggressive deforestation occurring in Kenya. Asked about her efforts, she once said,

"It occurred to me that some of the problems women talked about were connected to the land. If you plant trees you give them firewood. If you plant trees you give them food." While many derided her efforts, this Movement, made up mostly of women, has planted more than 30 million trees across Africa and helped approximately 900,000 Kenyans develop and sustain their ability to care for themselves and their families.

The Green Belt Movement would spread across the continent. Dr. Maathai inspired the development of the Pan African Green Belt Network. Her efforts have resulted in Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Lesotho, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe starting their own reforestation efforts. The Movement not only emphasizes the relationship between the people and their land, but also empowers women in the areas of family planning, reproductive health, nutrition, food security, and leadership development.

Dr. Maathai's environmental work eventually permeated the realm of politics. As a proponent of civic responsibility, she entered politics with the understanding that "the message for Africans is that the solutions to our problems lie within us." As an advocate for the poor and under-represented, Dr. Maathai suffered not only political taunts but also physical violence at one point being brutally beaten by police and at another time, a victim of a tear gas attack. Throughout the 1990s, Dr. Maathai was repeatedly arrested, imprisoned, and threatened for exercising her rights.

Despite physical threats and political setbacks, in December of 2002, she was elected to Kenya's National Assembly and was appointed the Deputy Minister for Environment, Natural Resources, and Wildlife. She was also instrumental in the creation of Kenya's Bill of Rights. She went on to serve as the Presiding Officer of the Economic, Social, and Cultural Council ECOSOCC, of the African Union, as well as Goodwill Ambassador to the Congo Basin Forest Ecosystem.

As the author of multiple publications, Dr. Maathai garnered many awards including the 1989 WomenAid International Women of the World Award, the 1991 Goldman Environmental Prize, the 1991 United Nation's Africa Prize for Leadership, the 1993 Edinburgh Medal, the 2001 Juliet Hollister Award, the 2003 WANGO Environment Award, and the 2004 Sophie Prize. She has received numerous honorary degrees from a wide array of institutions including: Yale University; Williams College; University of California at Irvine; and Morehouse University. In 2005, she was honored by both Time Magazine and Forbes Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world and as one of the 100 most powerful women in the world, respectively. She was also a United Nations Environment Programme Global 500 Hall of Fame recipient. In 2006, Dr. Maathai

was awarded France's highest honor, the Legion d'Honneur, by French President Jacques Chirac.

During her acceptance speech of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Wangari Maathai said:

In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now.

Whether she was advocating for the right of women or for the importance of protecting and developing the environments in which they live, Dr. Maathai's legacy of service advocating a message that one has the power to change the lives of many—remains.●

REMEMBERING EDWARD L. LOPER, SR.

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I would like to set aside a moment to reflect on the life of artist and educator Edward L. Loper, Sr. From the time he started painting at age three until his death at age 95, the Wilmington, DE native known as Ed inspired many to see the world differently through his art. He was a truly gifted man who dedicated his life to his craft and educating the next generation of painters.

Ed Loper was born on April 7, 1916, in Wilmington, DE. As a child, his creativity came out when he picked up a brush and painted the objects and pictures around him. As a young adult, he honed his craft by going to the Philadelphia Art Museum every Saturday to study the paintings housed there, examining the brush strokes and techniques of the great painters that came before him.

He graduated in 1934 from Howard High School where he had been an All-State football and basketball player. Later, it was a chance encounter with Albert Barnes, an entrepreneur and art collector from Philadelphia, that helped him develop his painting style. Barnes invited him to join classes at his museum, but Loper could not afford to do so at the time. Years later, Loper took advantage of this opportunity, attending classes there for 10 years.

He made his love for painting into his profession and worked at the Works Progress Administration as a painter. In the beginning of his career, Ed faced discrimination because he was a black artist in a segregated society, but his work ultimately prevailed beyond society's prejudices. In 1937, he was the first black artist to have a painting accepted to a juried show at the Wilmington Society of the Fine Arts, now the Delaware Art Museum.

His paintings focused on landscapes, still life, and portraits, and he is known for his use of vibrant and rich colors to create complex scenes. He gave visual meaning to the world he knew: city streets, tenements, railroad trestles, marshes, coal yards and pool rooms.

Ed turned to a career in art education and first shared his passion for

painting with his students at Delaware's Ferris School. Then, in 1942, he began to teach at the Allied Kid Company. He also taught at the Jewish Community Center, the Delaware Art Museum, Lincoln University, the Delaware College of Art and Design, and at his own studio in his later years. Some of his students studied with him for decades.

He was married to Janet Neville-Loper who resides in Wilmington. His son, Edward Loper Jr., is also a painter. He was also the father to Kenneth Loper, Tina Sturgis and the late Jean Washington and Mary Brower. One of the last things Ed painted was the door to their kitchen, where he illustrated some of their travels to China and Europe.

Ed's talent for color broke the mold of his time, and his passion for teaching others to see through color was unsurpassed. He changed the landscape for black artists and paved the way for others who came after him. He leaves us with the lasting legacy of his work, which currently can be seen in the major permanent collections of the Philadelphia Art Museum; the Delaware Art Museum; the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC; Howard University; the Museum of African American Art in Tampa, FL; among others. Today I commemorate Edward L. Loper, Sr., his life and his outstanding artistic legacy. It was truly a privilege to know him, to have been one of his neighbors for a time, and to be the proud owner of one of his extraordinary paintings.●

● Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I wish to honor the work of a distinguished Delawarean who, though known for his paintings, will long be remembered for a contribution to our State that extends much farther than the reach of his brush.

Edward J. Loper, Sr., saw the world a little differently than the rest of us, and he spent his lifetime trying to let us in on the secret. He had such a rich appreciation of color that he was once described as the "Prophet of Color." He was a great talent and a great teacher. He captured the beauty and vibrancy of Delaware with memorable style, bold brushwork and an engaging palette.

One of his paintings—a scene from the Wawaset Park neighborhood of Wilmington—hangs in my office. It perfectly captures the vivid contrast in color and creative use of light for which he has become so well known. It tells the story of a bright fall day, subtly emphasizing the reds and yellows of the fall foliage to innocently capture the heightened visuals of the season.

That he was an African American defined his struggle but not his art. He painted landscapes, street scenes and still lifes, and always with oil paints. He didn't like being confined to a studio, and would insist on painting his subjects in person.

Once, in his youth, he won a painting competition and proudly showed up to the ceremony to collect his award. It

turned out, he was the first African American to have won the award and those in the room were aghast. Most wouldn't shake his hand. It wasn't the first time Ed Loper had been stung by discrimination, nor would it be the last.

Though Ed first picked up a brush at age 3, it was when he went to work at a division of the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression that he really learned to paint. He was later hired by Jeannette Eckman, who was in charge of the Federal Arts Project, and much of his artwork would go on to be housed in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. He couldn't be tied down to any one particular style and a wide range of artists, including Van Gogh, Van Ruisdael, Corot, El Greco, Cezanne, Picasso, Pollock, Tintoretto, Titian, and Veronese, are said to have inspired him.

Loper once said, "Once you learn to see as an artist, the world will never look the same again." For 60 years, he taught hundreds of students to see the world differently. He had a reputation for being tough on his students, but each one earned a greater appreciation for that which Loper pursued his entire life: "real art."

He leaves behind a great legacy, not only in the works that adorn the walls of homes and galleries around the world, but in the constellation of artists he nurtured. He will be greatly missed by his family and the community he called "home."●

TRIBUTE TO DR. HENRY GIVENS JR.

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, today I congratulate Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. on his retirement and to thank him for his many years of leadership and service to the field of education. For over 50 years, Dr. Givens has been a champion of higher education and has fought to improve the lives of Missouri's students. It is my pleasure to honor him today.

A native of St. Louis, MO, Dr. Givens attended public schools and received his bachelor's degree from Lincoln University, a master's degree from the University of Illinois, and his doctorate degree from Saint Louis University. Dr. Givens began his career in education as a fifth and sixth grade teacher in the Webster Groves School District in suburban St. Louis. After his work with the Webster Groves School District, Dr. Givens became the principal of the first prototype magnet school, Douglas Elementary School in St. Louis, MO. Under Dr. Givens' guidance, Douglas Elementary faculty debuted revolutionary teaching techniques that are now standard classroom practices, helping to modernize Missouri's school systems.

In 1973, Dr. Givens continued to break new ground when he became the first African-American assistant commissioner of education for the State of