

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

Missouri. Dr. Givens spent 5 years in that position before becoming president of Harris-Stowe University in 1979. When he first assumed leadership, Harris-Stowe State College offered one degree—elementary education—and had only one building. During Dr. Givens' 32 years as president of Harris-Stowe, the university expanded and upgraded facilities, tripled student population, and added 13 new degree programs. Dr. Givens' determined leadership shaped Harris-Stowe into the outstanding university it is today.

In addition to his accomplishments in the field of education, Dr. Givens is affiliated with numerous national and local professional and social organizations and has received over 125 awards and recognitions for his service to his community. President Obama recently appointed Dr. Givens to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Finance Advisory Board, and Dr. Givens has served as the chairman of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statewide Celebration Commission for Missouri since its inception in 1986.

It is my pleasure to honor Dr. Givens today. His dedicated leadership has improved the quality of the educational experience for Missourians. He has undoubtedly touched the lives of many and improved the quality of the community at large.

Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating and honoring Dr. Henry Givens, Jr. ●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWARD MCCOY, JR.

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to MG William Howard McCoy Jr. who is retiring on January 1, 2012, after 37 years of exemplary active Federal service in the U.S. Army. He has served our Nation with dignity, honor, and integrity, including serving multiple tours at Fort Leonard Wood in the great State that I call home, Missouri.

MG William Howard McCoy, Jr. is a native Texan and a 1974 graduate of Texas A&M where he earned a bachelor's degree in construction engineering. He was then commissioned through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and entered the U.S. Army as second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. He later went on to earn a master's of business administration from the University of Phoenix.

Following the Engineer Officer Basic Course, his first assignment was to Germany. From 1974 to 1975, Major General McCoy served as a platoon leader, and later as an executive officer, in the 237th Engineer Battalion, 7th Engineer Brigade, VII Corps, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany. His next assignment was as project officer, director of training developments, U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, VA.

From 1980 to 1981 he commanded Company B, 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, TX.

From there he deployed to be an engineer advisor, as part of the Technical Assistance Field Team at the U.S. Military Training Mission in Saudi Arabia.

From 1981 to 1983, he was assigned as a project officer with the Southern Colorado Project Office, U.S. Army Engineer District Albuquerque in Pueblo, CO. It was during this time when he would meet and marry his lovely lifelong partner, Jill McCoy.

With renewed vigor, from 1983 to 1986, he was assigned as the engineer staff officer for the Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Installation Support Activity in Europe and later became the Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, 56th Field Artillery Brigade, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany. He was then assigned as engineer staff officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer for U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

From 1986 to 1989 he served in numerous positions at Fort Hood, TX. Initially, he served as plans officer, Corps Staff Engineer Section, III Corps and later he served as the operations officer and executive officer of the 17th Engineer Battalion, 2d Armored Division. Following his assignment to Fort Hood, he returned to Virginia to attend the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk.

From 1989 to 1991 he served in the Pentagon as a staff officer for the Force Development Directorate for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, Headquarters, Department of the Army in Washington, DC. Following this tour at the Pentagon he was nominated and selected to be a research fellow for the RAND Army Fellowship Program in Santa Monica, CA.

From 1992 to 1995 Major General McCoy served as the executive officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, U.S. Army South, at Fort Clayton, Panama. He then transitioned to become the commander, 536th Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Heavy), U.S. Army South, Fort Clayton, Panama and Joint Task Force Builder, El Salvador/Uruguay, later OPERATION SAFE HAVEN, Panama, and later, Joint Task Force Builder, El Salvador.

Due to his outstanding performance and unlimited potential, he was selected to study at the Army's prestigious professional academic institution, the Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, PA. After graduating from the Army War College, from 1997 to 1998, Major General McCoy became the deputy director for the Maneuver Support Battle Lab, U.S. Army Engineer Center, Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

In 1997, he was once again assigned to Europe as the Director of the Engineer Operations Directorate, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, U.S. Army Europe, and Seventh Army, Germany. From 1998 to 2000, Major General McCoy transitioned to be the Commander, 130th Engineer Brigade, V Corps, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany and OPER-

ATION TASK FORCE HAWK in the country of Albania.

From 2000 to 2003, Major General McCoy served as the Chief of Staff, 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany. He later became the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany. In 2003, Major General McCoy became the commander, 18th Theater Army Engineer Brigade and simultaneously as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, U.S. Army Europe, and Seventh Army, Germany. During this period he led his unit during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM/Joint Task Force-North in the country of Turkey.

Upon returning from overseas, from 2003 to 2005, Major General McCoy was assigned as the assistant commander, U.S. Army Engineer School/Deputy Commanding General, Initial Military Training, Fort Leonard Wood, MO. However, his tenure in the States was short-lived and Major General McCoy once again answered the call to duty by becoming the Commander, Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM in Iraq.

He returned from his deployment to Iraq and from 2006 to 2008, Major General McCoy served as the commanding general, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

From 2008 to present, Major General McCoy has been assigned as the deputy, the inspector general, Office of the Secretary of the Army and Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC. In August 2010 he became acting, the inspector general.

During his career, Major General McCoy steadily rose through the ranks and excelled at each assignment. He served in commands at the tactical, operational and strategic levels, as well as installation commands, during times of peace and war. At every command he effectively led our men and women in the accomplishment of the mission. From domestic to overseas assignments, and as a platoon leader to acting, the inspector general, Major General McCoy was ever mindful that the Army's most precious assets were those who wear the uniform and the civilians who work in the service of our nation's military. He ennobled this diligently through his thoughts, decisions, and actions.

Major General McCoy's personal awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with four Oak leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with three Oak leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with two Oak leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (with Oak leaf Cluster), the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Army Superior Unit Award, the Ehrenkreuz in Silber, and the Silver Order of the DeFleury Medal.

Throughout his lifetime of military service, MG William Howard McCoy, Jr. showed extraordinary professionalism, valor and integrity, and