

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel Echo, Nov. 28, 2011]
HARVEY TO RETIRE
LONGEST-SERVING TOURISM DIRECTOR IN
STATE
(By Nita Johnson)

LAUREL COUNTY, KY.—What began as a year's assignment in 1982 evolved into the longest-running term of a tourism commissioner in the state.

Ken Harvey, executive director of the London-Laurel Tourist Commission, announced his plans to retire on Feb. 1, after serving in that capacity for 26 years.

He has seen much growth during his tenure with the tourist commission, with his latest focus on developing the Heritage Hills property off Falls Street.

But the evolution of the World Chicken Festival, the Redbud Ride, various athletic events and a motel tax are just a few of the accomplishments that have brought revenue to the tourism commission during Harvey's term—accomplishments he credits to the board members with whom he has served.

Board members returned the compliment, with Tourism Commission Board President Caner Cornett describing Harvey as "one of a kind."

"He's a self-propelled man. Ken only knows one speed—full force," Cornett said. "He's the kind who can talk to someone on jail work release or the governor and show no partiality. He has that kind of personality."

Cornett said Harvey's exit as tourism director leaves "some big shoes to fill."

"He'll be hard to replace. His knowledge and experience is invaluable," he added.

Though coming to London from Ohio, Harvey said just a few months after settling here, he and wife Cheryl knew they wanted to stay in the area.

"It just felt like home," he said. "When we came here, there were 650 motel rooms. Now there are 1,300," he said. "Interstate 75 is an attraction in itself for travelers going north or south. We have a good cross-section of dining here and our board is made up of citizens whose home is here."

Other attractions that have increased the tourism business are the annual Battle of Camp Wildcat, which Harvey considers "the best in the state," along with the location of the Harley-Davidson dealership.

Harvey has been honored several times for his diligence in promoting tourism in the London area and is proud that the London commission is highly respected across the state. While he readily admits he does not wish to retire, he realizes that his ongoing health problems and three recent back surgeries are limiting his ability to serve in the capacity that he wishes to continue.

"It's time. I hope they bring in someone with fresh ideas that can continue to develop the Heritage Hills property and give some new ideas for other developments," Harvey said. "Besides, I have a grandson who is six years old and I'm looking forward to spending lots and lots of years with him."

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM ENHANCED SECURITY AND REFORM ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, Senator KIRK and I have introduced the Visa Waiver Program Enhanced Security and Reform Act.

This is a piece of legislation near to my heart. For those who have known me, they have known I have fought

long and hard for Poland to become free and independent. I think about the dark days of martial law in Poland, when we worked to support the solidarity movement in Poland and remove the yoke of communism. And after Poland emerged from the Iron Curtain, I worked with many of my colleagues to secure Polish democracy and bring them into NATO, securing their future in Western Institutions.

This legislation would help provide Poland a path to entry into the visa waiver program. It would eliminate the need for Polish citizens to obtain a visa to travel to America. As the granddaughter of a woman who came to America from Poland over 100 years ago, it would warm my heart to know a grandmother from Gdansk would no longer need a visa to visit her grandchildren in Baltimore.

This legislation does much more than just strengthen our relationship with Poland. It is a jobs bill. The visa waiver program makes America open for business for more tourists from allied countries. This can have a profound impact. South Korea entered the VWP in early 2009. In 2010, there was an increase of 49 percent in arrivals to the United States from South Korea, which created \$789 million in new spending and supported 4,800 new jobs.

If Poland becomes eligible for the visa waiver program and has a similar increase in visitors, it would create \$181 million in new spending and 1,500 new jobs. It's good for business and good for the economy.

Finally, it would strengthen America's national security by improving how we protect our borders. To participate in the visa waiver program, countries must agree to stronger passport controls, border security, and cooperation with American law enforcement—making it harder for terrorists to use these countries as entry points to the United States.

This legislation reinforces the program as an important component of national security by placing member countries on probation if any of the VWP requirements are not met and requiring a country's removal if it does not fulfill its requirements within two years.

The legislation also reinstates the Secretary of Homeland Security's Waiver Authority and a new cap on visa refusal rates will be set at no more than 10 percent, allowing the Secretary to recognize those nations that have met U.S. concerns on passport security, law enforcement cooperation, and border security. By admitting countries that have greater security standards for their travelers, the State Department can focus its limited consular resources on higher risk nations.

Poland has long been a friend to the United States, sending two of its finest heroes, Kosciusko and Pulaski, to fight in the Revolutionary War for America's freedom. In recent years, Poland has stood besides the United States in the aftermath of September 11, sending

troops to fight alongside Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Poland has overcome a melancholy history to become a vibrant and growing democracy. This legislation helps cement that relationship while improving America's security and creating new jobs. I look forward to working with my colleagues to secure its passage.

REMEMBERING RAY REID

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Ray Reid, a devoted champion of Arkansas and its citizens, affectionately known as Arkansas's 'fifth congressman.'

Ray dedicated his life to public service, serving more than 30 years in the Army including three wars—WWII, Korea and Vietnam—before retiring as a colonel and continuing his commitment to this country serving for more than 23 years as chief of staff for three of Arkansas's Third Congressional District Congressmen—John Paul Hammerschmidt, Tim Hutchinson and Asa Hutchinson.

As a loyal staffer, Ray was an ambassador of and to Arkansas, going above and beyond to help resolve issues constituents had with the Federal Government. Under his guidance, Congressman Hammerschmidt laid the groundwork for successful constituent service. Ray recognized that the key to good governing and good public service is that you treat everyone fairly and set political differences aside.

Congressman Hammerschmidt recently said of his former right-hand man that he was the best administrative assistant in the House during his service. Upon his retirement Congressman Asa Hutchinson said Ray was known to be one of the most knowledgeable men in Washington.

When I was elected to Congress in 2001, Ray went out of his way to help us get on the right track. His skills and experiences were vital to helping us build a strong foundation to serve the people of the Third District.

Despite working in the minority for much of his career, Ray managed to accomplish great things for Arkansas because of the long-lasting relationships he built. Certainly Ray saw many changes in the Third Congressional District during his years of service to Arkansas and many can be credited to his efforts. Ray had a hand on many infrastructure projects including Interstate 540 and the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport.

In a recent interview, Congressman Hammerschmidt fondly recalled Ray's passion for the Natural State: "Ray really loved Arkansas," he said. Ray helped change the landscape of Arkansas. His impact is far reaching and his legacy is evident in the Third Congressional District.

The State of Arkansas has lost a true friend who went to great lengths to make it a better place.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MONTH OF THE
HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

• Mr. AKAKA. Today I wish to speak to the celebration of the Hawaiian language. February is designated as the "Month of the Hawaiian Language" by the State of Hawai'i. Speakers and students of the language use this time to foster and promote Hawaiian through festivals, spelling bees, and speech and debate competitions where the Hawaiian language is the primary medium.

Since the first official designation in 1994, February has been a celebration of the Hawaiian language in Hawai'i. However, this modern renaissance happened only after the Hawaiian language came close to extinction, and the people of Hawai'i fought to preserve it.

In 1896, following the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, English was named as the primary language of instruction in Hawai'i's schools. As a result, students who spoke Hawaiian were subject to physical punishment or public humiliation. As Native Hawaiian families struggled to assimilate with the increasing Western presence in Hawai'i, parents gave children non-Hawaiian first names. Families who carried Hawaiian family names adopted Western surnames to avoid a Hawaiian identity. Parents stopped teaching their children Hawaiian, and maintained English-only households. This was a sad chapter in Hawai'i's history, but fortunately, today, thanks to the effort of many Hawai'i residents, political and community leaders, and educators, the Hawaiian language is thriving.

In 1978, the Hawaiian language, also called 'Ōlelo Hawai'i by its speakers, was declared one of the two legal languages of the State of Hawai'i. In 1984, the first Hawaiian language preschool was established, 'Aha Pūnana Leo. Three years later, Hawaiian language immersion expanded to include kindergarten through grade 12, and today, students can study the Hawaiian language from preschool through their doctorate studies.

Use of the Hawaiian language is not limited to its fluent speakers. Those who live in and visit Hawai'i use Hawaiian words and phrases in their everyday vocabulary, whether they are Native Hawaiian or not. Towns, roadways, schools, and parks bear Hawaiian names. Island residents commonly give each other directions using the words mauka—meaning towards the mountains, or makai—meaning towards the ocean. A waitress might ask you if you are pau, or done, with your meal before she clears the table. You might tell her it was 'ono, or delicious.

Some of the more commonly used words, including aloha and mahalo, are known well beyond the shores of Hawai'i. I probably do not have to explain that mahalo means thank you, or that aloha is a greeting that conveys warmth, love, and affection and is used

to both welcome someone and wish them well.

The Hawaiian language is thriving in our modern society and it remains relevant as technology evolves around us. The iPhone and Google's homepage are just two instances where the Hawaiian language can be selected as an option in language settings. Developers of the popular website, Wikipedia, borrowed the Hawaiian word wikiwiki, meaning speedy, for its name. Travelers through Honolulu International Airport are greeted every half hour with a public announcement first in Hawaiian, followed by its English translation. Local television reporters and weather forecasters consult with language experts on Hawaiian pronunciation. One of the morning news shows features a segment produced entirely in the Hawaiian language. Cable subscribers receive a channel featuring Hawaiian language reporting.

The Hawaiian language is engrained in our daily lives in Hawai'i, and is important to all of Hawai'i's people. I am extremely grateful for the efforts made by kūpuna, our elders, as well as language and cultural educators, to preserve the Hawaiian language. According to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, there are approximately 7,500 people learning the Hawaiian language today, from preschools, institutions of higher education, and community programs. Parents are again raising their children to speak Hawaiian. While there is an increasing interest in the Hawaiian language, this is still just a small percentage of the population of the State of Hawai'i. I applaud the State for designating February as the "Month of the Hawaiian Language" and bringing awareness to the need to perpetuate our language so that future generations may learn the language of their ancestors.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i! Long live the Hawaiian language.●

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GIRLS
AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

• Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, today, February 1, I wish to celebrate the 26th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, on which we praise the importance of sports participation and athletics in the lives of girls and women everywhere. This year's celebration has special meaning as it falls on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the passage of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. For over 40 years, this historic law has furthered gender equality in sports participation in schools so that young women, including my three daughters, Caroline, Halina and Anne who all play soccer, may enjoy the benefits that come along with sports participation.

Studies show that participation in sports has a positive influence on the intellectual, physical and psychological health of young girls. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, by a 3-1

ratio, female athletes do better in school, do not drop out, and have a better chance to get through college. Additionally, a study from the Women's Sports Foundation showed that high school athletes are less likely to smoke cigarettes or use drugs than their non-athlete peers. Sports participation is also linked to lower rates of pregnancy in adolescent female athletes. With these statistics in mind, it is not surprising that a study from the Oppenheimer/MassMutual Financial Group shows that of 401 executive business women surveyed, 82 percent reported playing organized sports while growing up, including school teams, intramurals, and recreational leagues.

In my home State of Colorado, we are ahead of the curve with regard to the participation of girls and women in sports. The U.S. Olympic Training Center, located in Colorado Springs, was created by an act of Congress in 1978, just a few years after title IX was passed. It is encouraging to know that women like Gold Medal Winner Lindsey Vonn, now make up nearly half of all U.S. Olympians competing at the games, representing more than 48 percent of the 2008 team. Colorado also supports the success of Paralympians such as Sarah Will, who after a skiing accident that left her paralyzed from the waist down, went on to help found the Vail Monoski Camp and won 12 gold Paralympic medals from 1992 to 2002.

Colorado is also a vanguard in providing early education and sports opportunities for women. The flagship all girls school, GALS, Girls Athletic Leadership Schools, has opened its first public charter school in Denver, CO. The school practices active learning that engages students in health and wellness activities in the belief that these are key contributing factors in optimizing academic achievement and self-development. There are also groups such as the Colorado Women's Sports Fund Association that work towards increasing the number of girls and women who participate in athletics and reducing and eliminating barriers that prevent participation.

Despite the vast improvements with regard to sports participation for girls and women, inequalities and disparities still remain. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, schools are still providing 1.3 million fewer chances for girls to play sports in high school than boys. These numbers have an even greater impact on Latinas and African-American young women. The Women's Sports Foundation shows that less than two-thirds of these girls play sports while more than three-quarters of Caucasian girls do. And three-quarters of boys from immigrant families are involved in athletics, while less than half of girls from immigrant families are.

Mr. President, we have work to do. Part of our job is to promote the importance of this national effort to grow the rates of female athletes. Please