

the newest addition to the roster of the Indiana Historical Bureau's state historical marker series.

The Cerealine Manufacturing Company, founded in 1880, was an early producer of corn flakes and grew to prominence as the railroads opened national markets to Midwest producers. Founded in Columbus, Indiana, the Cerealine Manufacturing Co. produced up to 12,000 bushels of product daily, creating a corn flake that was the precursor to the famous cold breakfast cereal. The state historical marker honoring the company will be placed at the site of the original mill building, currently restored and serving as offices for Cummins, Inc.

I want to thank the Indiana Historical Bureau for its continued leadership in recognizing and commemorating significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These roadside markers are familiar to all Hoosiers and visitors who pass through the State. With over 500 state historical markers in place, the Indiana Historical Bureau impresses on Hoosiers across the State the importance of our history and the promise of our future.

I ask the 6th Congressional District to join me in thanking the Indiana Historical Bureau for recognizing and publicly marking our shared history and the heritage of the Cerealine Manufacturing Company in Columbus, Indiana.

HONORING WILLIE B. NELSON, DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULER FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, IMPROVED BENEVOLENT PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF THE WORLD

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Willie B. Nelson, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Southern District of Illinois and Exalted Ruler of Hercules Lodge #90 in East St. Louis, of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order (I.B.P.O.) of Elks of the World.

Willie B. Nelson has been a pioneer who helped break down racial barriers in the local banking community. He worked as a custodian at the former Illini Federal Savings and Loan Association in East St. Louis at a time when management positions were not available to African-Americans. While working for the financial institution, which would later become Associated Bank, Nelson went to school at nights and took a number of financial training and internship programs. His determination and stellar performance succeeded in his appointment as Branch Manager for the bank. He would retire as Branch Manager after serving Associated Bank for 43 years.

In addition to his professional career, Willie B. Nelson has dedicated his life to service and leadership within his community. Since being initiated into the I.B.P.O. Elks of World in 1955, he has served in virtually every leadership position for that organization, including two times as Exalted Ruler, first from 1975 through 1990 and again from 2007 to the

present. In addition to serving as District Deputy Director for the Southern District of Illinois, he also served for 15 consecutive years as State Director of the Illinois/Wisconsin States Association.

Willie B. Nelson has served in a leadership capacity on many other community organizations. He has served as President of the East St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois, Target 2000, the Katherine Dunham Museum and the Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation. He has also served as a Commissioner on the Board of the Illinois Housing Department. His leadership service extends to his church as well where he serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Interim Finance Director for the Greater Faith Christian Church in Centerville, Illinois.

Willie B. Nelson has been a devoted family man as well. His wife and two of his children have gone on to their heavenly reward but he is still blessed with the presence of his loving daughter, Lavonda Nelson, along with numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of community service of Willie B. Nelson and wishing him the very best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF RALPH PETTY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ralph Petty as he retires from 38 years with the U.S. Postal Service. As his family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate his illustrious career, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Mr. Petty's many years of service.

After honorably serving his nation in the Vietnam War, Ralph began a long career with the Postal Service as a letter carrier. He would later rise to become the spokesman and customer relations coordinator for the Postal Service in Sacramento, where he has constantly engaged the public, furthering access and understanding of the postal services available to area residents and businesses. Ralph has a widespread reputation for incredible customer service, and is a well-beloved member of the Postal Service staff, even earning the nickname "Mr. Stamp". His good nature and excellent work ethic have made him an invaluable asset to Sacramento area residents, including my staff and me, and his service will be sorely missed.

Ralph has left his mark of the Postal Service in California and our Nation. He was instrumental in the creation of the Breast Cancer Stamp that has raised over \$75 million for breast cancer awareness, and has been recognized by the Postal Service's leadership with the "Benjamin Award" for spreading postal services and products. Ralph was also a key proponent of the Santa Letter Program, which brings joy to countless needy children, and created a time capsule in 1993 that marked 150 years of mail delivery to Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mr. Ralph Petty, who has served our Nation and community for so long. His diligent work

has greatly contributed to the Sacramento region and he has helped to ensure that the Postal Service products are at the forefront of the public's mind. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this man whose community mindedness and service have been such an asset to Sacramento and our Nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,084,158,233.57. We've added \$6,111,207,109,320.49 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 424. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING KYLE WILLIAM MILLSAP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle William Millsap. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 32 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kyle has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, become an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow, and led his troop as the Patrol Leader. Kyle has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Kyle leveled the ground, installed a border ring and placed rubber mulch within the ring for the Joella Conrad Memorial Playground at Heartland Church in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle William Millsap for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

LETTER TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, THE HONORABLE ROBERT F. HALE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I insert this letter from myself to Under Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Robert F. Hale.

Hon. ROBERT F. HALE,
Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Pentagon, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY HALE: Thank you for providing me and members of the Readiness Subcommittee a briefing on the implementation of civilian furloughs at the Department of Defense. I appreciate your first-hand view of the policy and its impacts on our defense civilian workforce and our military readiness, and I benefitted from your candid remarks about the challenges that sequestration continues to present to the department.

While I continue to believe that the best way to address furloughs and other impacts to our military readiness is for Congress to pass a comprehensive and balanced plan to end sequestration, I also believe that the department must continue to evaluate all options available to it in reducing or eliminating furloughs this year. During our briefing you indicated that the department was evaluating whether additional reductions in furlough days can be made. It is my hope that the department will finish that analysis and make a positive public announcement on that matter as quickly as possible in order to provide furloughed employees the greatest possible certainty as to their financial outlook for the rest of the year.

Additionally, as I and several of my colleagues mentioned in our session, there are a number of specific aspects of the current furlough policy that continue to frustrate those individuals facing loss of pay through no fault of their own. For example, I believe that the individual military services and agencies can be provided with greater flexibility to pay down or eliminate furloughs under their purview. Additionally, further consideration must be given to the status of dual status technicians and those whose work is funded through the defense working capital funds—both workforces are critical to the day-to-day needs of our military, and I continue to believe that exceptions must be made for these personnel.

Just this past Saturday, I attended a welcome home event for the 1109th TASMG of the Connecticut National Guard, who spent the last year in Afghanistan providing critical maintenance for our helicopter fleet. Their joy at being home with family was undermined with the reality that nearly a third of the 100 returning members are dual status technicians and therefore hit by furlough. After serving in a war zone away from family, it was a bitter pill for these patriots to lose 20 percent of their pay almost immediately upon return.

As I also mentioned in our briefing, the department must better quantify and communicate the cuts that have already been made in attempting to avoid furloughs. When I recently met with furloughed personnel at Naval Submarine Base New London, I received many questions about whether the department made any attempts to cut back on contracting for services, returning outsourced work to federal employees and other potential ways to find the savings necessary to reduce or eliminate furloughs. It is my hope that you will provide members of this committee, as well as the workforce at

large, with additional information on the extent to which the department has, or plans, to cut in other areas to limit the reach of furloughs.

Finally, let me thank you for your positive words about the work that our DOD civilians do each and every day in support of the defense of our nation. As you shared in our meeting, one of the most disappointing impacts of the furloughs has been giving our defense civilians the impression that they are not important to or valued by the department, by Congress and by our fellow Americans. That these furloughs, and the greater budget uncertainty at large, is causing long-serving and hard working civilian professionals to question whether they want to stay at the defense department is one of the most insidious impacts of this budget impasse. That is why I hope you and Secretary Hagel will continue to do all you can to reduce or eliminate furloughs, revisit specific unique exemptions, and provide more detailed information about the steps you have, and will continue to take, to limit furloughs through reductions in areas like service contracting and reversing outsourcing decisions.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to meet with me and my colleagues on the Readiness Subcommittee, and I sincerely thank you for your service to our country in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY,
Member of Congress.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF HEDY RATNER AND CAROL DOUGAL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hedy Ratner and Carol Dougal, the founders of Women's Business Development Center (WBDC), for their exemplary leadership in supporting women's entrepreneurship. As Hedy and Carol step down from their role as co-presidents of the WBDC, let us recognize the work that these two remarkable women have done for more than 25 years to empower other women to start, improve and expand their small businesses.

In 1986, Hedy Ratner and Carol Dougal created the Women's Business Development Center to address the lack of support for women in the business world. Since then, Hedy and Carol have worked tirelessly to accelerate the growth of women-owned businesses and microenterprise ownership, increase the economic impact of women business owners on families and communities, build awareness of business ownership as a path to economic self-sufficiency, and help stimulate policy and system changes to empower women in the economy. Today, the positive impact of the WBDC is clear, and the Center continues to be a leader in expanding opportunities for women.

Over the years, the WBDC has helped more than 66,000 women in the greater Chicago area in their entrepreneurial efforts. Its success has spurred the creation of 14 other centers in 6 states. The oldest and largest women's business assistance center in the country, the WBDC is constantly developing and implementing new approaches to help potential and

current women business owners. The Center and its outstanding staff give women the tools, the needed support and the confidence to know that they can become successful entrepreneurs.

Hedy and Carol are recognized leaders who have advised business groups and public officials at all levels about ways to help women improve their families' well-being and our nation by creating new business opportunities. I am one of many who have been fortunate enough to receive their advice on ways to improve federal contracting and lending policies and to learn about the barriers that must be torn down so that more women can enter the realm of business ownership.

I congratulate Hedy and Carol on the extraordinary contributions they have made through the Women's Business Development Center. Although they are leaving their posts as co-presidents of WBDC, I know that they will remain leaders in advocating for women-owned businesses in Chicago and nationwide. I look forward to watching their next steps toward helping women business owners successfully achieve economic independence through entrepreneurship.

RELEASE OF THE DREAM 9

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I submit this letter, from Rep. JARED POLIS of Colorado and myself to the President of the United States asking for the release of the DREAM 9 held in detention in Arizona.

JULY 25, 2013.

President BARACK OBAMA,

The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: We write you to express concern for the nine undocumented young people who earlier this week attempted to re-enter the United States from Mexico to return to their homes. They presented themselves at a check point, were detained by U.S. border patrol and are currently being held in the Eloy detention center in Arizona.

As we understand it, these "DREAMers" are asking that discretion be exercised by federal authorities to allow them back into the United States and to return to their families and communities. An additional goal that they express is to work to change a system that has resulted in the deportations of DREAMers. Regardless of whether we feel their actions are the best way to affect the change they desire, we share their goal to allow DREAMers and others with strong ties to the United States and who were deported to return to the United States. You stood firmly with the DREAMers when you put in place beneficial case by case relief for DREAMers through Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA). We believe that the DREAMers currently detained on the border should have your concern and consideration, as well.

We understand that a long term legislative solution is required in order to provide the most justice for the most people. We are deeply committed to ensure that the ability to return to the U.S. for previously deported individuals is enacted into law, and have worked hard to incorporate such relief into the bipartisan proposal currently being drafted in the House of Representatives. We continue to build the bipartisan support