

Coke has strong roots in San Joaquin Valley and is the founding member of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, and she has served as President of Board of Directors for twenty years. Most recently Coke was elected Chairman of the new San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust Board.

In addition to all her career accomplishments she also has numerous awards including the YWCA Business and Professional Women of the Year, the Fresno Arts Council Horizon Award, and the NSFRE Outstanding Philanthropist and Volunteer Fund Raiser. In 2002, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from California State University Fresno, and in 2005 she was selected by the Jefferson Awards Board to receive the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for "Outstanding Community Service Benefiting Local Communities."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me as we honor and celebrate Coke Hallowell for her dedication to the arts, her community, and education. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Coke and witness firsthand her giving spirit and commitment to causes near to her heart. She is a true steward of the San Joaquin Valley and we are grateful for her service and the lasting impact of her efforts in the Valley.

TRIBUTE TO EILEEN WIXTED

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Eileen Wixted, Owner and Principal for Wixted & Company for being named a 2016 Women of Influence honoree as CAPTRUST Woman Business Owner of the Year by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

For 17 years, the *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area. Ms. Wixted has devoted her life to doing so many challenges which many others might avoid. She has spent countless hours on various boards while blazing a trail for others to follow. She was selected for the chosen field of expertise, the lasting impact on the community, involvement with civic or nonprofit organization and being seen as a role model because of her lofty achievements and high ethical standards.

Eileen Wixted has the determination and drive to be successful in anything she does. She is nationally recognized as an expert in strategic communication and crisis management. For over 20 years, Ms. Wixted has actively assisted clients manage potentially brand-damaging issues and prepared them for the media, shareholder meeting and government investigations. In all aspects of her life Eileen Wixted is an example of hard work and service who makes Iowans proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Eileen Wixted in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that

I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Eileen Wixted on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing Ms. Wixted a long and successful career.

IN RECOGNITION OF KELLER HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL WINNING THE 6A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Keller High School softball team, winners of the Texas UIL state championship in the 6A conference. The Indians defeated Pearland High School on June 4th with a final score of 5–0. This is the third state championship in the school's history. Keller ISD Athletics Hall of Fame teams also took home the state championship title in both 2003 and 2005.

Bryan Poehler, head coach of the Indians, was named 2016 All-Area Softball "Coach of the Year" by the *Dallas Morning News*. All spring, Coach Poehler pushed his team to prepare for the anticipated difficult season ahead. The advancements made in practice and during the course of competition resulted in players being recognized for their achievements at both the district and state levels.

Kaylee Rodgers, senior pitcher for the Keller Indians, was awarded numerous accolades throughout the season. She was recognized as a 1st team All-American pitcher, UIL State All-Tournament pitcher, *Dallas Morning News* All-Area pitcher of the year, Texas Girls Coaches Association All-State pitcher, and was named MVP of the state game after pitching a shut-out. In addition, Kaylee's teammate, senior catcher Shelby Henderson, was chosen as a 2nd team All-American for the 2015–2016 season, 1st team for the *Dallas Morning News* All-Area Team, and was awarded UIL State All-Tournament catcher. Other accolades granted to individual players included 2nd basewoman Camryn Woodall receiving the title as a 1st team All-American for the 2015–2016 season, UIL State All-Tournament 2nd basewoman, and 1st team *Dallas Morning News* All-Area Team. Additionally, Amanda Desario was awarded UIL State All-Tournament outfielder and 1st team *Dallas Morning News* All-Area Team.

Congratulations to the Keller Indian Softball team! The Indians were able ambassadors for Keller High School and effectively advanced the athletic achievements of Keller ISD. It is my privilege to represent such an outstanding group of student athletes in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on

Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Weather across the Midwest delayed my flight to Washington, DC until after votes had been called. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 5578 and H.R. 3881.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE PAST 13 YEARS OF THE CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, as Dr. Ann M. Muscat retired on June 25, 2016 as president and CEO of the Catalina Island Conservancy, it is important to step back and look over her successful tenure. She has served as president and CEO for more than 13 years—the second longest tenure of any previous Conservancy president.

"Ann and the Conservancy have achieved a lot," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. "I've had the great pleasure of working with Ann and her team, all of them consummate professionals who are dedicated to getting things done."

"Under Ann's leadership, the Conservancy has become a living laboratory of innovation in conservation, education and financial sustainability for nonprofit organizations," said Catalina Island Conservancy Board of Directors Chair Stephen Chazen, PhD. "The Conservancy has significantly improved the Island's ecological health, greatly increased access to Catalina's wildlands and expanded and enhanced its educational programs to better serve students living in Avalon and visitors from the mainland."

Here is a look back at how the Conservancy and its stewardship of Catalina Island have flourished since Muscat joined the organization in 2003:

During Ann's 13-year tenure, and through its Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program (CHIRP), the Conservancy staff has completed vegetation mapping of the entire Island, including non-native and invasive plant species. It has controlled and eradicated numerous invasive plant species that were eliminating native and rare biodiversity. It also expanded the native plant nursery's scope to include landscaping initiatives on the Island, along with restoration, and significantly expanded the native seed collection.

The Conservancy has been a leader in removing non-native and highly destructive animal species from the Island, leading to the re-discovery of native plants previously believed to be extinct. It also brought the Catalina Island fox back from the brink of extinction and supported the successful recovery of the bald eagle.

Its wildlife biologists have implemented innovative social (repatiation) and scientific methodologies (contraception) for managing the bison herd. They also have conducted bird and small mammal surveys, discovering nesting sea birds on cliffs and nearby rocks, and implementing protective measures for bat populations.

In addition, the Conservancy has pursued research partnerships with universities and museums from across the country, including a multi-institution collaboration that resulted in a

comprehensive look at the Island's oak woodlands.

Working with the Long Beach Unified School District, the community and philanthropic organizations, the Conservancy has greatly increased access to natural and intellectual resources over the past 13 years. It implemented extensive educational enrichment and internship programs for the local school population through the establishment of the K–12 NatureWorks workforce development and STEM education initiative.

In its continuing service to the local community, the Conservancy provided free access to the wildlands of Catalina for Island families without vehicles. It implemented a free of charge Naturalist Training Program for tour operators and local businesses, as well as Conservancy front line staff.

To ensure visitors to the Island could access the wildlands and learn about Catalina's ecosystem, the Conservancy created the 37.5 mile Trans-Catalina Trail. It also has secured funding and developed plans for further trail improvements and expansions.

It significantly expanded and improved the Jeep Eco-Tour program and developed a signage and way finding system across the Island. It added new running and biking events, an Island Ecology Travel Program and Wild Side Art Program to increase access and awareness. In addition, it increased volunteer program initiatives to include AmeriCorps, American Conservation Experience and numerous university-level spring break programs.

So that visitors and others had more information about Catalina Island and the Conservancy, it added a Nature Center in Avalon and a Mobile Nature Station that has served Avalon and Two Harbors, along with interpretive panels in the Garden and at campgrounds and trailheads. The Conservancy also expanded and revamped its outreach and marketing materials, including maps, field guides, monthly e-newsletters, videos, an extensive photo library and expanded web site.

To serve a greater good beyond Catalina's shores, the Conservancy launched a successful radio show and web site, *Isla Earth*, on environmental issues that aired for 10 years on over 320 radio stations across the country.

To provide the needed programs and ensure the organization's long-term financial health, the Conservancy has focused on raising revenues and creating a sustainable business model that will ensure the Island will continue to be restored and protected for future generations.

In the past 13 years, the Conservancy has increased its operating budget nearly three times through an increase in philanthropic giving and mission-based earned income. It has significantly expanded its donor base and created a reserve fund to address deferred maintenance projects across its 42,000 acres. Projects have included improvements at Airport in the Sky, across its road and bridge system, a new pier, replacement and expansion of its vehicle fleet and upgrades to its numerous buildings.

The Conservancy also revamped its organizational structure, adding new departments and expanding existing functions while providing professional development and training for all staff. The Conservancy's staff has doubled in size and moved to a more customer service/community orientation. The Conservancy also expanded and updated employee

housing, adding 14 new units, to support recruitment and retention of staff.

The Board of Directors and the Conservancy's staff have worked together to develop a strategic vision for the organization's future, called IMAGINE CATALINA. They worked with nationally recognized sustainability architect William McDonough and landscape architect Thomas Woltz to develop a long-term strategic vision.

It imagines an Island that represents California as it can be, demonstrating how nature and humans can thrive together. It envisions Catalina and the Conservancy serving as models for science-based conservation, for training tomorrow's stewards of the natural world, for connecting people to nature and for creating sustainable finances and operations.

To implement IMAGINE CATALINA, the Board and staff launched the Conservancy's first-ever capital campaign, and they are more than three-fourths of the way to fully funding the first phase. They celebrated the groundbreaking for the campaign's flagship project, the Trailhead Visitor Center, on June 24, 2016. Another groundbreaking is scheduled on October 14, 2016 for the next major project, improvement and expansion of Catalina's trail system, and planning is well underway for a major ecological restoration effort on the Island's West End.

"Ann and her team's excellent stewardship work at the Catalina Island Conservancy is leading edge and has served as a model for many other land trusts," said California Council of Land Trusts Executive Director Darla Guenzler.

Ann has also been a leader beyond Catalina. She was a founding Board member of the California Council of Land Trusts and served as its Chair of the Board. She is also a member of the Steering Committee for the Southern California Open Space Council and an Advisory Board member of University of Southern California's Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies.

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to my colleagues' attention the seventy-fifth anniversary of Fort Hunter Liggett, California. On December 12, 1940, the War Department purchased 266,950 acres of land between the Salinas River and the Pacific Ocean from William Randolph Hearst, in anticipation of the need to prepare U.S. troops for combat in Europe in 1940. On January 10, 1941, the Hunter Liggett Military Reservation was established and combat troops immediately began training. It is ideally located to provide excellent training opportunities to all U.S. Armed Forces and allied nations.

From its inception, Fort Hunter Liggett has provided a realistic training environment for large-scale military exercises for U.S. Armed Forces. It is the largest installation in the Army Reserve, with more than 165,000 acres of unencroached mountains, valleys, rivers, plains, and forests, providing ideal maneuver areas to meet today's training requirements. Fort Hunter Liggett is one of only a few instal-

lations that have a 360-degree live-fire capability for small arms. Its state-of-the-art ranges, training areas, and facilities support year-round joint, multi-component, and interagency training.

In its early history, the installation had five airstrips that were used during WWII to transport troops, supplies and the wounded. William Randolph Hearst's Milpitas Ranch House, commonly referred to as "The Hacienda", was used as the post headquarters. The Army has maintained and preserved the building designed by renowned California architect Julia Morgan, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the historic building is a hotel and enjoyed by the public as a tourist attraction.

During the 1970s, Fort Hunter Liggett was the home of the Combat Development and Experimentation Center which provided critical testing and fielding of new weapons and warfare techniques, such as the Cobra Attack Helicopter and M16 Assault Rifle. The 4th and 7th Infantry Divisions used the installation as their primary training grounds, as well as Army Reserve and National Guard units.

Today, Fort Hunter Liggett primarily serves as a world class training platform for Army Reserve combat support and combat service support training and large-scale exercises. Fort Hunter Liggett is funded by the U.S. Army Reserve and falls under the command of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

Fort Hunter Liggett is also a leader in meeting the Department of Defense 2020 Net Zero Initiative. The Energy Conservation Investment Program established Fort Hunter Liggett as a prototype since it will be the first installation to achieve Net Zero goals. As one of nine pilot installations chosen by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, the Garrison has installed solar panels and energy storage systems, upgraded the waste water treatment plant, demolished Korean War-era buildings to conserve energy consumption, and ensured that all new construction meets the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards. In addition, Fort Hunter Liggett has partnered with the County of Monterey to field a waste-to-energy gasification plant.

Since 1941, countless numbers of troops have come through Fort Hunter Liggett to train for their deployments to support WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and today's war on global terrorism. The Fort Hunter Liggett military and civilian workforce proudly serves all branches of the Armed Forces, as well as allied forces. I commend the Installation for all its role in enabling unit, Soldier, and family readiness.

Mr. Speaker, for seventy five years, Fort Hunter Liggett has been an essential training platform for the U.S. Armed Forces, contributing to the security of our nation and strengthening international partnerships that build peace. In times of global unrest both past and present, Fort Hunter Liggett has demonstrated its capacity to ensure the readiness of its troops to defend the American ideals and freedom. I end with the refrain from the Army's Official Song, "First to fight for the right, And to build the Nation's might, And the Army goes rolling along."