

TRIBUTE TO DAVE RAU

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Lewis and Clark County undersheriff Dave Rau who announced his retirement after 20 years of service to the people of Montana. Dave is the prime example of law enforcement's tireless efforts to protect and serve Montanans at any cost.

Undersheriff Rau launched his law enforcement career in Texas as a prison guard, and after 7 years he came to the last best place. He began serving Montanans with the East Helena Police, then his path led to the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office. Throughout the last two decades, Dave has garnered countless advocates in the Helena community. Sheriff Leo Dutton has said, "There will never be another Dave Rau."

Dave is a husband to Tammy and father to their children, Aaron and Whitney. He is unsure what his next adventure will entail, but he is sure he will remain active in the community that he loves.

Undersheriff Rau, the U.S. Senate commends you for your service to the people of Helena and Lewis and Clark County. Thank you for your diligent work in keeping the people of Montana safe. I hope that your path continues to be blessed with success.●

TRIBUTE TO TIM SANDERS

• Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to the public service of Tim Sanders, a longtime clerk of the Courts for Madison County, FL. Tim has served admirably as county clerk and comptroller for six consecutive terms and will retire after 24 years, which is an incredible achievement.

His contributions to Madison County and Florida long predate the start of his tenure as county clerk. He began his career at Madison County Memorial Hospital, where he worked on the floor, in the emergency room, and in the x-ray department. After earning a second degree from the University of Florida, Tim spent time surveying in Madison and nearby counties for a business that he later acquired himself. Tim accomplished all of this before starting his career in public service as county clerk.

A true man of the community, Tim currently serves on the board of trustees at the Madison First United Methodist Church, as well as on the boards of directors at Big Bend Hospice, the Madison County Foundation for Excellence in Education, and the Treasures of Madison County Museum.

Tim was born, raised, and attended public schools in Madison. In fact, he has devoted a great deal of time supporting public education and children in Madison County. To give a sense of this man's character, Tim has performed as the American folk hero Johnny Appleseed for elementary school children in Madison and surrounding counties each fall for 20 years.

Dedicated and selfless in his approach to public service, this son of Madison County has surely left a lasting mark on the people of his community and his State. I am honored to acknowledge his retirement from public service and recognize this great Floridian.●

REMEMBERING TONY REYNA

• Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Taos Pueblo Governor Tony Reyna, who passed away December 5, 2016, at the age of 100, in Taos, NM.

Governor Reyna's life was defined by service to others: he served his country, his State, his community, his Pueblo.

Governor Reyna was born February 1, 1916, to Helario and Crucita Reyna of Taos Pueblo. He was given the name "Chuta," which means "Hunter's Call." According to Governor Reyna, "It was so important, the care my father and mother gave us, their commitment to us they said, 'Don't take. Give something back.' That's the philosophy we live by."

Governor Reyna was raised in the traditional pueblo of Taos—occupied for 1,000 years and considered the oldest continuously inhabited community in the United States. The five-storied adobe pueblo—dramatic and picturesque—lies at the base of the Mo-ha-loh or Ma-ha-lu, which we call the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Governor Reyna maintained a home there, where the family gathered for pueblo ceremonies.

Governor Reyna attended the Taos Pueblo Day School as a young boy. "By the time we could carry a bucket, we were carrying water and wood for mother to cook. We would run home from school to water and feed the horses. We would ride into town bareback to get kerosene. Those were very enjoyable days. We thought it was very hard, but looking back, it was very worthwhile. We learned to work and to take responsibility."

He attended Santa Fe Indian School and graduated from Santa Fe High School in 1936. After high school, he taught woodworking at Albuquerque Indian School.

Governor Reyna was a member of the New Mexico National Guard in 1941 when he was shipped to the Philippines. At that time, Native Americans were not considered full citizens. They served in the military with bravery and distinction, yet did not have the right to vote. Governor Reyna was captured by the Japanese, along with 10 other servicemen from Taos Pueblo. He endured and survived the 65-mile Bataan Death March and 3 and one-half years of brutal captivity. He was tortured and forced to bury hundreds of his fellow servicemen, including his best friend. "I was raised a farm boy from sunrise to sundown, so I was tough enough to survive starvation," he said. "Determination kept me going. I had a family, a home to come

back to." Five from Taos Pueblo survived till the end of the war, and Governor Reyna was the last surviving of them. His American Legion garrison hat—honoring his service—bears an eagle feather in the band. According to Governor Reyna, "This feather represents all the Indian veterans, men and women."

Today marks the 75th anniversary of the Bataan invasion, which began on December 8, 1941—just hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor—when soldiers from the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment became the "first to fire" to defend the Philippines from Japanese bombers. It is fitting that we Honor Governor Reyna today.

After the war, Governor Reyna returned to Taos Pueblo and, as he said, "... got busy." He married, and he and his wife, Annie Cata Reyna, had four children, Diane, John Anthony, Phillip, and Marie.

Governor Reyna wanted to open an art shop in Taos, but banks would not loan to a Native American, even a veteran. "I went to the bank, but they weren't interested in loans to Indians because they had nothing in the way of security," he said. He found two businessmen in town who would lend to him, and over the next 2 years, he hand-built an adobe shop and home and paid the men back in full.

"I opened the doors to the shop May 1, 1950," he said. "There was no shop like this at the Pueblo at the time. I felt I had a responsibility to promote Indian craft." At the time, Governor Reyna's shop—Tony Reyna Indian Shop—was the only Native-owned store dealing strictly in Native-made crafts. The shop is open to this day—run by Governor Reyna's son Phillip—and is the oldest shop in Taos selling Native-made art.

Governor Reyna served Taos Pueblo as secretary for the Governor's office in 1975 and Lieutenant Governor in 1977. He served two terms as pueblo Governor, in 1982 and 1992, and was a lifetime member of the tribal council. "I served in the Army, I served the state of New Mexico, and I served the city of Taos, but the most important of all was serving my people as governor."

Governor Reyna was instrumental in the successful effort to return Blue Lake to Taos Pueblo. Nestled in the mountains northeast of the pueblo, the lake is sacred to the pueblo. It and 48,000 acres were taken from the pueblo and appropriated as Federal lands in 1906. After much work, the area was returned to the pueblo in 1970.

As Governor, Governor Reyna was instrumental in securing Taos Pueblo's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992. He secured that status without compromising the pueblos' conditions for privacy. After the designation, he convinced the U.S. Air Force to change flight patterns of supersonic jets over Taos Pueblo. The flights were damaging the structure of the buildings. As a veteran, Governor

Reyna had credibility and assured the Air Force he understood the need for national security, but firmly demanded the damaging flights stop. The Air Force rerouted the flights.

Governor Reyna served as police commissioner for the town of Taos, as a member of the Taos Municipal School Board, as a trustee for the Millicent Rogers Museum in El Prado, and as a tribal judge at the Santa Fe Indian Market.

In 1992, he was honored as a Santa Fe Living Treasure. The Heard Museum gave him the Spirit of the Heard Award in 2010. The chair of the advisory committee stated that Governor Reyna was selected “. . . because he dedicated his life to the betterment of Indian people and, in particular, to helping preserve the culture, resources and traditions of his tribe.” And, “[h]e is a man who has given much, but has asked for little in return.” The New Mexico Legislature proclaimed his 100th birthday, February 1, 2016, as “Tony Reyna Day.”

Governor Reyna was buried December 5, 2016, dressed in a deerskin robe and with full military honors, at the Taos Pueblo cemetery, following a mass at the pueblo's San Geronimo Church.

War hero, husband, father, businessman, pueblo leader, community leader—Governor Reyna's contributions to arts, culture, politics, community, and the Nation are astounding. His life demonstrates the value of service to others. He will be missed.●

TRIBUTE TO TOM M. PHELPS

● Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Tom M. Phelps on his retirement as chief executive officer, CEO, of Plateau Telecommunications, New Mexico's oldest telecommunications company. Tom leaves Plateau after a distinguished career of more than 20 years in my home State of New Mexico and more than 50 years in the telecommunications industry.

Plateau began as Eastern New Mexico Rural Telephone Cooperative in 1949 when a group of civic leaders, farmers, and ranchers responded to the need of rural New Mexico for affordable, reliable telephone service. The next year, the cooperative received its first Federal loan of \$581.00 to construct and operate telephone lines and facilities in Curry, De Baca, Quay, Roosevelt, and contiguous counties.

Tom joined Plateau in 1995 as assistant general manager. However, it was not long before he took the helm in 1997 as general manager. The title changed to CEO in 2001.

During his 21 years of leadership at Plateau, he has improved the quality of life for those in our rural communities through deployment of modern telecommunication services, community economic development partnerships, and participation in many local philanthropic projects, community events, and educational enterprises.

Tom oversaw the company as it grew and changed—when it first offered high

speed DSL internet service and a fiber-to-the-home program. He managed expenditure of \$116 million to install over 5,200 miles of fiber-optic cable across eastern and central New Mexico and to expand high-speed internet access to critical community institutions. This facilitated distance learning so children in rural schools can access resources that are not available in their hometowns. And it has enabled hospitals to use telehealth to improve care and provide services they can't offer in person. Plateau's service area now extends in 25 counties in New Mexico and western Texas, covering 25,000 square miles. Under his leadership, Plateau's technology has been and continues to be state-of-the-art. In 2015, Plateau was the fastest home internet service provider in New Mexico.

Bringing affordable and reliable telephone service to rural areas is key to economic development. Plateau brought service to rural New Mexico when larger, national companies would not. Its investments in telecommunication services created many business opportunities in rural Eastern New Mexico, supporting and enhancing economic stability in the region.

When Plateau decided to sell its mobile wireless operations, the company anticipated having to lay off 70 employees. At that time, Tom was eligible to retire, but he stayed until he made sure his employees were taken care of. As the company transitioned, he provided early retirement for employees and made sure there were no layoffs.

Under Tom's management, Plateau continually contributed to the communities it served. Plateau collected school supplies for local school children, provided economic development grants for new businesses, and annually gave over \$70,000 in scholarships to area high school students.

Tom has been active in many local, State, and national activities. He received the New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award in 2014, which recognizes those who have made “unusual contributions to the public service and to the improvement of government at all levels by both government employees and private citizens.” His service as a member of the Clovis Committee of 50, Cannon Air Force Base support groups, and the Plains Regional Medical Center Board, as well as his continued support for the Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Eastern New Mexico contributed to his selection.

Tom's dedication, leadership, and business acumen—and personal commitment to Plateau employees and his community—have made a difference in the lives of many people across our State.

We wish him continued success and that he and his wife Candyce enjoy retirement.●

RECOGNIZING IDEA VILLAGE

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, the city of New Orleans has served as an eco-

nomic engine since its founding in 1718. Its location at the mouth of the Mississippi River, influential and innovative population, and unique accessibility to natural resources have allowed the Big Easy to prosper, but it wasn't until recently that New Orleans has become a hub of new technology and entrepreneurship. A major part of that success is due to Idea Village, an independent nonprofit organization that is dedicated to driving economic growth in and around New Orleans.

In 2000, a group of New Orleans-based technology entrepreneurs came together to discuss how to spark economic growth for small businesses and entrepreneurs in the Crescent City, in order to make New Orleans the hub of entrepreneurship in the South. Allen Bell, Sally Forman, Sam Giberger, Darin McAuliffe, Michele Reynoir, Tim Williamson, and Robbie Vitranio all agreed that in order to see a lasting change, they should create a business accelerator program that partners with the local community in order to reinvest in New Orleans-based businesses. Idea Village was officially established in 2002 and immediately went to work in identifying, supporting, and retaining local entrepreneurs. That year, each founder contributed \$2,000 to the first business plan competition and successfully raised a total of \$125,000 to award to the winning business.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of southeast Louisiana and parts of Mississippi. Several New Orleans businesses were damaged and closed, putting an enormous strain on the local economy. In 2006, Idea Village launched IDEAcorns in partnership with local universities, including Tulane University, to help New Orleans businesses rebuild and reopen their doors. Following the success of IDEAcorns, Idea Village since has launched over 25 initiatives to provide strategic guidance and resources to access capital to local businessowners, including IDEApitch, IDEAINstitute, among others. One of its most successful ventures is the annual New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, NOEW, a festival celebrating innovation, entrepreneurship, and new thinking and which awards thousands of dollars to several entrepreneurs through various pitch competitions and challenges. Each year NOEW engages thousands of entrepreneurs, investors, professionals, students, and community members to showcase regional startup ventures in industries important to New Orleans, including technology, water, education, energy, healthcare, and food. Going into its 10th year, NOEW has become an important part of New Orleans' festival season.

Since its inception, Idea Village has provided direct support to more than 5,794 entrepreneurs and invested \$25 million in New Orleans businesses. Currently, entrepreneurial activity in New Orleans is 64 percent higher than the national average, and much of that success can be attributed to the efforts