

TRIBUTE TO ANNA "ANN" ROSS KARY ANDERSON

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Anna "Ann" Ross Kary Anderson who served honorably during World War II as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASP.

More than 1,000 women answered the call and served as pilots during World War II. However, because WASP records were classified and archived for over 30 years, WASPs have been left out of much of the documented history of World War II.

On July 1, 2009, legislation was signed into law that honors the service of these women with the Congressional Gold Medal, which is given in honor of outstanding service to the United States and is one of the Nation's highest civilian awards. This Congressional Gold Medal finally gives Anna "Ann" Ross Kary Anderson and the rest of these brave women the honor and recognition they deserve.

Between 1942 and 1944, the 1,102 women of WASP were trained in Texas, and then went on to fly noncombat domestic military missions so all their male counterparts could be deployed to combat. WASPs were required to complete the same primary, basic, and advanced training courses as male Army Air Corps pilots, and many went on to specialized flight training. By the conclusion of the war, WASPs logged 60 million miles of flying in every kind of military aircraft.

Following the war, the WASPs were disbanded and the women pilots paid their own way home without pomp or circumstance. Even during the war, the families of the 38 women who died in the line of duty were responsible for the costs to transport their bodies and arrange burials. It was not until 1977 that the WASPs were granted veterans status.

Anna "Ann" Ross Kary Anderson was born in 1920 on her family's homestead in Mellette County in South Dakota. Following high school, she attended the University of South Dakota. After her military service "Kary," as she was known to her students, went on to instruct hundreds of future pilots and was one of the first female FAA inspectors. By the time she retired she had logged over 20,000 flight hours. She still has family living in South Dakota.

While many of the South Dakota WASPs are no longer with us, I would like to recognize all of the women who joined from South Dakota in addition to Anna "Ann" Ross Kary Anderson: Helen (Anderson) Severson of Summit, SD, who was killed in service during a flight training accident in 1943; Marjorie (Redding) Christiansen of Mystic, SD; Loes (Monk) MacKenzie of Salem, SD; Laurine Nielsen of Deadwood, SD; Maxine (Nolt) Wright DeHaven of Sioux Falls, SD. I would also like to honor Violet (Thurn) Cowden formerly of Bowdle, SD, who now lives in California, and Ola Mildred "Millie" Rexroat, who currently resides in Edgemont, SD.

The WASPs served our country with extraordinary bravery, even in the face of discrimination. Their service was essential to the war effort, and this recognition of their heroics is long overdue and rightfully deserved. Though the pages of history have thus far overlooked the accomplishments and even the existence of this group, which served its country so well, this bill ensures forever their rightful place in history.●

TRIBUTE TO BILL GROETHE

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Rapid City, SD, resident Bill Groethe on the occasion of his 86th birthday.

Bill has dedicated most of his life to preserving and capturing the history and heritage of Native Americans and South Dakota through his photographs. This means of documentation, which Bill has so aptly and skillfully employed, has allowed for the preservation and study of many of our region's most significant events.

Bill's photographic experiences and services extend beyond the scenery and history of the South Dakota. During World War II, he served his country as a photo reconnaissance technician for the Army Air Force.

Throughout his career, the photographs Bill has taken have not only been masterpieces of great artistic achievement but have also contributed, in a unique way, to memorializing great events of the past and, oftentimes, the people whom these events affected. Examples of this include photographs of Gutzon Borglum and his crew during the carving of Mount Rushmore, the dedication of the Crazy Horse monument, survivors of the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre, the Rapid City flood of 1972, and, most notably, 1948 photos of the last nine Native American survivors from the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Each of these photographs captures a pivotal and monumental event in our history.

Thanks to the efforts, talents, and generous donations of Bill Groethe, generations to come will have the opportunity to look upon and more fully appreciate the events of the past.●

TRIBUTE TO JUNE CULP ZEITNER

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the life and accomplishments of June Culp Zeitner, the "First Lady of Gems," who passed away on October 11, 2009.

June, a longtime South Dakota resident and world-renowned mineralogist, contributed greatly to the study and knowledge of minerals and fossils through her research and published writings. Her written works include 12 books and more than 1,000 scholarly and magazine articles on subjects such as natural history, cutting and polishing techniques, and collection methods.

In 1976, June acquired the nickname of the "First Lady of Gems" during a

ceremony honoring the 25th anniversary of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Those in attendance that day in the White House's Rose Garden to honor and thank June Culp Zeitner included First Lady Betty Ford and Mayor of Washington, DC, Walter Edward Washington.

As the founder of the State Stone Program, June encouraged each State to select an official stone, mineral, and fossil. It is thanks to June's initiative in founding the State Stone Program that South Dakota's official gem is the Fairburn Agate, our mineral is Rose Quartz, and our fossil is the Triceratops.

June's activities extended beyond the purely scientific to include education and journalism, serving as a teacher and, for 38 years, a member of the editorial staff of Lapidary Journal. She also founded the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame in my hometown of Murdo, SD. Her other accomplishments include creating a display collection for the Smithsonian Institution and receiving various State and national awards.

The passion and dedication June displayed for mineralogy has done much to influence professionals and hobbyists alike. The people of South Dakota and our Nation are grateful for the contributions and life of June Culp Zeitner.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2009, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 30, 2009, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1929. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2996. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3606. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to make a technical correction to an amendment made by the Credit CARD Act of 2009.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3854. An act to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve programs providing access to capital under such Acts, and for other purposes.