

in honoring Ms. Duke for her enriching, lifelong community service.

# TRIBUTE TO LANETTE WRIGHT

## HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my long-time executive assistant and friend, LaNette Wright, who is retiring after more than three decades of distinguished service. LaNette started her career in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1984 when she was hired as a Staff Aide in Somerset, Kentucky. She later became a trusted Caseworker, guiding local constituents through complications with federal agencies. In 1999, LaNette took on the role as my Executive Assistant, faithfully and dutifully organizing every meeting, speaking engagement, and flight itinerary in coordination with my personal schedule. In 2012, she also earned the title of Casework Director, ensuring constituent needs are effectively and efficiently met at the Somerset, Hazard and Prestonsburg District Offices. Time and again, she has gone above the call of duty to help me, and by extension, the people of Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District in delivering a better, more responsive and open constituent experience.

Like most of us, I have been fortunate in my tenure in Congress to have extraordinary professional and personal staff accompany me on this journey. However, LaNette has always given me and my family an extra measure of loyalty, advice and friendship that I will always treasure. Without a doubt, her organization and foresight made many of my days much simpler, despite a schedule that often becomes complicated and demanding. Her sheer presence in the Somerset office will be greatly missed, from her ability to extend compassion to distraught Veterans, to calming discouraged citizens frustrated by federal bureaucracy, to celebrating victories in the lives of folks we have been able to assist through casework. Her thoughtful execution in every situation has made LaNette a truly irreplaceable part of the Rogers team.

As we all know, Congressional staff work long hours, and often sacrifice weekends and holidays in order to keep this esteemed institution running—inevitably taking a toll on personal commitments. She has earned more than her share of quality time with her family and friends—especially her energetic grandchildren.

The people of Southern and Eastern Kentucky, our staff and I owe LaNette a great debt of gratitude for her steadfast service and dedication to our region. We wish LaNette and her husband Louie many wonderful years of retirement in Kentucky and on the sunny beaches and golf courses of Florida.

# LAKE ARROWHEAD RESIDENT SPEARHEADS EFFORT TO BUILD VETERANS MEMORIAL

## HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Liam Gavigan for his tireless efforts to construct a veterans monument in Lake Arrowhead, California. Liam is a member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 89 and has undertaken this task as his Eagle Scout Project.

From the time he became involved with the Cub Scouts, Liam had a vision for creating a monument to honor the sacrifices of veterans who live in the San Bernardino County mountain communities. It took several years, but Liam's determination resulted in him fundraising over \$20,000 needed to construct the memorial. With assistance provided by the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust, Liam was also able to secure the necessary land upon which the monument will stand.

As a Vietnam veteran and retired Marine Corps infantry officer, I applaud Liam and the members of Troop 89 for their diligence in bringing this project to fruition. I look forward to visiting the monument during my next trip to Lake Arrowhead.

# CONGRATULATING DR. TSAI ING- WEN ON HER ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN

## HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Tsai Ing-wen on her victory in the Taiwanese presidential election held on January 16, 2016. President-elect Tsai is scheduled to take office on May 20 of this year, and will be the first woman president of Taiwan. I further congratulate the vice president-elect, Dr. Chen Chien-jen, as well as the people of Taiwan for this historic vote that signifies so much for the continuing strength of democracy in Taiwan.

On this occasion, I would encourage my colleagues to join me in assuring President-elect Tsai and the people of Taiwan of our commitment to the friendship between our two countries. We are bound by the values and principles we share; and the peaceful and free election on January 16 once again demonstrates that Taiwan's robust democracy is an example to the rest of the region. The free and democratic system that has been established over the decades is a testament to the commendable dedication and determination of a free Taiwanese people. Their support for human rights is a beacon, and their leaders should be encouraged as they work to keep it shining.

Dr. Tsai's election is additionally an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act as the cornerstone of the relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan. I urge my colleagues to remain committed to the security of Taiwan, as well as our economic and social relationship, and look forward to our two countries' continuing to work together on issues of common interest.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating President-elect Tsai and the people of Taiwan, and in wishing them the best in the new administration.

# HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO COLLEGE OF NURS- ING

## HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of New Mexico College of Nursing which celebrated its 60th Anniversary this past year. The College of Nursing is a world class institution of learning whose graduates have been a blessing to the individuals they have cared for and helped save countless lives.

The University of New Mexico College of Nursing was founded in 1955 after Dr. Marion Fleck and Mary Jane Carter acquired a \$60,000 grant from the New Mexico State Legislature. Since its founding, the school has aimed to educate and train future leaders in nursing, research innovative methods to improve and deliver patient care, and design a world class health system. Over the past 60 years, the College of Nursing has seen more than 6,000 alumni graduate from its ranks. These nurses have gone on to serve our community and provide invaluable care to hundreds of thousands of patients.

Throughout its history, the University of New Mexico College of Nursing has demonstrated exemplary leadership in its field. For example, it was the first program in New Mexico to establish a Master of Science in Nursing degree, as well as a Doctorate of Nursing Practice. The school has also created nurse managed clinics and partnered with the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center to address the healthcare needs of veterans in our community. Furthermore, through their membership in the New Mexico Nurses Education Consortium, the College of Nursing has partnered with local community colleges to provide access to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing throughout the state. Lastly, the PhD program is one of only a few in the nation to offer a health policy track to train future leaders in nursing. We are very fortunate to have such an outstanding institution training our future healthcare providers.

It gives me great pleasure to report that the University of New Mexico College of Nursing has been recognized for these impressive accomplishments. In 2015, the College of Nursing was ranked tenth overall on Value Schools' list of the top-valued undergraduate nursing programs. Dr. Nancy Ridenour, dean of the College of Nursing explained that "Credit goes largely to our renowned faculty who provides an education that emphasizes working with rural and underserved populations and prepares our students to transform nursing and health care."

Indeed, the University of New Mexico College of Nursing has proven itself a model in philanthropy and community involvement. From July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 alone, the faculty and students from the College of Nursing spent more than 83,000 hours working in the community in order to provide healthcare

services to more than 19,500 children, individuals and families through clinical practice and training exercises at more than 375 healthcare facilities throughout the state. The College of Nursing also emphasizes teaching its students how to serve rural and underserved populations, and the school is committed to diversity in its classes so that its campus will better reflect the communities its graduates go on to serve.

With a shortage of nurses in the country, especially in largely rural areas like New Mexico, it is fundamental that world class institutions like the University of New Mexico College of Nursing continue to train exceptional nurses who will serve our community for years to come. The New Mexico Health Care Workforce Committee estimates that New Mexico currently faces a shortage of at least 270 nurses. However, the care that nurses provide is the crux of our medical model. I am grateful for the tremendous work that the University of New Mexico College of Nursing has done to supply our state with such invaluable caregivers. Indeed, we must continue to support this world class institution and others like it.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize this special and important institution for recently celebrating its 60th Anniversary. Congratulations to the University of New Mexico College of Nursing; keep up the great work.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
JOHNNIE SOWELL NEESE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, South Carolinians mourned the passing of Johnnie Sowell Neese of Springdale who was recognized as one of the state's leading businesswomen. She was the state's first female Republican candidate for office with the 1964 Goldwater Republican effort. At that time only one Republican had been elected as a legislator in the Twentieth Century being Charlie Boineau in 1961. Mrs. Neese courageously spearheaded the promotion of the two-party system in South Carolina where Republicans are now super majorities in the legislature holding all statewide offices. They are led by Governor Nikki Haley, from her home county of Lexington, who is the state's first female Governor in 340 years.

She and her late husband Harry carefully organized their professions as they successfully raised five talented daughters who have now inspired the success of six grandsons.

I especially appreciate her "gift of administration" in that for seventeen years she was treasurer of my campaign as I served in the State Senate. She upheld flawlessly the standard set by my predecessor and her friend Congressman Floyd Spence that "It must not only be right, it must look right," as we successfully replaced an incumbent in the Republican primary.

The following obituary was in The State newspaper of Columbia, S.C., on Saturday, January 30th:

Funeral service for Johnnie Sowell Neese, 89, of West Columbia, will be held at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, January 31, 2016, at Holland Avenue

Baptist Church, 801 12th Street, Cayce, SC. Pastor Dow Welsh and Pastor Charles Wilson will officiate. Interment will follow in Southland Memorial Gardens. The family will greet friends from 6:00 8:00 p.m. Saturday, January 30, 2016, at Thompson Funeral Home of Lexington, 4720 Augusta Road, Lexington, SC. Mrs. Neese passed away Thursday, January 28, 2016.

Born in Kershaw, she was a daughter of the late John Wesley and Evelyn Blease Johnson Sowell, Sr. She was a graduate of Kershaw High School and attended Coker College. Johnnie was a charter member of Holland Avenue Baptist Church and served as trustee and Sunday School teacher for more than 50 years. She was the chairman of the Nominating, Finance, and Personnel Committees, and a member of the Benevolent, Building, Library, and Stewardship Committees. Johnnie was continuously employed by the House of Perfection, Inc., manufacturer and wholesaler of children's apparel from November 1956 until July 2005, when she retired as executive vice president and chief financial officer. She was the former president of the West Columbia Cayce Junior Woman's Club, former Division chairman of the S.C. Federation of Women's Clubs, the former president of the Riverlyn Women's Club, a former member of the Lexington County Higher Education Commission, Congaree Area Girl Scout Council and served as the West Columbia Cayce residential chairman for the United Way. Johnnie was a former member of the Body of Trustees, United Community Services and was nominated for the "Woman of Achievement" award for the State of South Carolina in 1992. She was awarded the "Woman of Distinction" honor in 1996, from the Congaree Area Girl Scout Council.

From 1964 through 1967, Johnnie was active in the Lexington County and the South Carolina Republican Parties, having served as secretary-treasurer, County Finance chairman, County Organization chairman, president of Lexington County Republican Women, precinct officer, and Convention Credentials chairman. A candidate for the House of Representatives in 1964, she was the first woman in South Carolina to run for public office on the Republican ticket. She served for 17 years as treasurer for Senator Addison G. (Joe) Wilson and assumed active roles in State and Congressional campaigns for Republican candidates Albert Watson, Floyd Spence, and Strom Thurmond.

Johnnie is survived by her daughters, Lynda Neese (Gary Miller), Carol Neese, Deborah Neese, Sandra Neese Cooke, Tracey Neese Edenfield; six grandsons, Ira Brent Driggers, Jonathan Michael Cooke, Jordan Patrick Cooke, Zachary Tanner Edenfield, Nicholas Yates Edenfield, Jacob Andrew Edenfield; three great-grandsons. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband of more than 50 years, Harry Yates Neese; twin sister, Connie Sowell, and brother, John W. Sowell, Jr.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTONIO B. WON PAT GUAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the staff and management of the Antonio B. Won Pat Guam International Airport Authority (GIAA) on their 40th anniversary of service to the people of

Guam. The Guam International Airport Authority has grown steadily over the past 40 years and has played a vital role in the development of Guam, especially success of the island's visitor industry over the past 40 years. When the Guam Airport first began, all airport business was handled as a division of the Guam Department of Commerce. In 1976, the GIAA became a government agency through the enactment of Guam Public Law 13-57. During this period of the airport's history, Pan American Airways, Continental Air Micronesia and Japan Airlines were the only airline carriers to service Guam and utilize the facilities.

The Guam International Airport Authority has made tremendous progress over the last 40 years and has become a critical transportation hub in the Asia-Pacific region. GIAA has facilitated the growth of Guam's economy and visitor industry. Guam's tourism economy relies heavily on GIAA facilities for a positive passenger experience when traveling to Guam. The airport has added two terminal buildings with the second and current terminal completed in September 1998 as part of a \$241M expansion and construction project. This is the single largest improvement project completed by the Government of Guam.

As the airport expanded its operations, additional airline carriers began service out of Guam. In 1981, Continental Micronesia added flights to Japan and Northwest Airlines began regularly scheduled services. In 1983, All Nippon Airways (ANA) began charter flights to Guam and then opened their international services three years later. Continental Air Micronesia introduced direct air service between Guam and Hong Kong in 1984. Soon after in 1986, the United States Congress passed the Omnibus Territories Act to include visa waivers for several countries and expanded the doors for more tourism arrivals. The GIAA passed its "one million passenger" mark in 1988 and was renamed the "Antonio B. Won Pat Guam International Air Terminal" after Guam's first Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. Soon after in 1990, Korea was granted a visa waiver and Continental Air Micronesia began air services in Seoul and expanded flights in Japan. In 1995, GIAA took on more responsibility when it became the only commercial airport on Guam with the closure of Naval Air Station. With increased services in the Asian region, Guam was ranked the 4th top U.S. gateway to and from Asia and Australia in 1999. Growth and expansion continued for the GIAA after the turn of the new millennium and in 2007, the airport's total economic contributions were totaled at \$1.7 billion with 20,440 jobs generated.

The Guam International Airport Authority has continued expanding with cargo and other facilities while practicing its duties as a responsible neighbor and community partner. Anticipating the needs of an increased tourism economy and the growth associated with the military realignment, the airport undertook these efforts to prepare for increased cargo traffic on Guam. Further, a multimillion dollar noise mitigation program was implemented for houses in the area beginning in 2009. Air services have expanded even more with increased flights in the region on new and existing expanding airlines. GIAA has continued to provide consistent service and good facility throughout the turbulent history of airline mergers. The airport has also adapted to welcome Russian tourists when President Obama