

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

of Idea Village. I would like to recognize the entire team at Idea Village and look forward to their continued leadership and success in supporting New Orleans entrepreneurs and our economy.●

#### RECOGNIZING KREWE DU OPTIC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, whether it is our food, architecture, or drawl, New Orleans is undoubtedly home to one of the more unique cultures across America. However, while we are not necessarily known for our contributions to the fashion industry, one young entrepreneur is changing that with his popular Crescent City-inspired eyewear line Krewe du Optic. I would like to recognize Stirling Barrett's Krewe du Optic as Small Business of the Week. Barrett's artistic designs have earned him not only tremendous success in the last 3 years, but they have also caught the attention of the national fashion industry, helping to develop New Orleans' role and reputation in national and international fashion.

New Orleans native Stirling Barrett is an artist, designer, and entrepreneur who launched Krewe du Optic in 2013. The unique eyewear line combined Barrett's love of art, fashion, and the Crescent City and has been embraced by the fashion industry across the United States and around the world. Two years after his initial investment into the New Orleans-inspired eyewear concept, Barrett cemented his commitment to the industry and his hometown by opening a flagship brick and mortar store on the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's historic landfall. Despite the geographical challenges of running a designer line from New Orleans, Barrett has been quoted as saying, "Krewe is about doing something from somewhere no one expected." This philosophy rings true since New Orleans, which certainly serves as a hub for entrepreneurship, has not been historically associated with the fashion industry. Earlier this year, Krewe expanded its operation by opening a second store in Savannah, GA.

Most recently, the growth of the Krewe brand has reached historic proportions, becoming the first New Orleans-based top-10 finalist for the prestigious Council of Fashion Designers of America/Vogue Fashion Fund. Krewe received the runner-up award for technological creation of sunglasses that double as a camera and are able to capture memories in a natural way.

For their unique creativity and commitment to community, Stirling Barrett and the entire team at Krewe du Optic have made New Orleans proud. Congratulations for being named Small Business of the Week, and I wish you continued growth and success.●

#### RECOGNIZING RUSTON ANIMAL CLINIC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, during the month of November, our Nation

comes together to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifices of our veterans. The week of October 31 through November 4, 2016, is officially National Veterans Small Business Week. When our brave men and women in uniform return to civilian life, some turn to entrepreneurship. In fact, there are more than 2,500,000 veteran-owned small businesses, employing nearly 6,000,000 individuals, in the United States. This week, I would like to recognize the veteran-owned Ruston Animal Clinic as Small Business of the Week.

The Ruston Animal Clinic first opened its doors in 1970 to provide preventative medicine, dental care, orthopedic surgery, bathing, and boarding for animals in north Louisiana and over the decades has become an integral part of the local community.

Following a 4-year stint in the U.S. Marine Corps, Marion Sewell moved to Louisiana to earn an undergraduate degree from Louisiana Tech University and a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Louisiana State University's School of Veterinary Medicine. In 2007, Dr. Sewell moved to Ruston, began working at the Ruston Animal Clinic, and 2 years later took ownership of the small business. In the dual role of small business owner and veterinarian, Dr. Sewell has taken a leadership role in the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association and currently serves as president-elect.

Worthy of recognition is Dr. Sewell's work during the deadly, historic August flooding disaster in south Louisiana. In the wake of one of the Nation's worst natural disasters over the last decade, Dr. Sewell traveled across the State to lend her time and talents to assist in animal evacuation and rescue efforts.

Today Ruston Animal Clinic has established a strong social media presence in order to update north Louisiana pet owners and animal lovers with pet adoption notices, missing animal alerts, and helpful information on proper pet care.

Congratulations to Dr. Sewell and the entire team at Ruston Animal Clinic for being selected as Small Business of the Week. I look forward to your continued success.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

SOCIAL SECURITY TOTALIZATION AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL, TITLED "AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL," AND A RELATED AGREEMENT TITLED "ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY"—PM 58

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith a social security totalization agreement with Brazil, titled "Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil," and a related agreement titled "Administrative Arrangement between the Competent Authorities of the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security" (collectively the "Agreements"). The Agreements were signed in Washington, D.C., on June 30, 2015.

The Agreements are similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Agreements contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Agreements and the Agreements' estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreements to me.