

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS WILLIAMS, STATE DIRECTOR OF USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT—PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Williams, State Director of U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development for Pennsylvania. Appointed to the USDA by President Obama in July 2009, Mr. Williams will retire from federal service on January 7, 2017.

As State Director for Pennsylvania, Mr. Williams was responsible for securing loans, grants, loan guarantees and technical assistance offered through 40 Rural Development housing, utility and business programs. Mr. Williams managed 106 employees and 9 regional offices across Pennsylvania, as well as the state office in Harrisburg. During his seven years with the USDA, Rural Development invested over \$5 billion in Pennsylvania infrastructure.

Prior to his tenure with the USDA, Mr. Williams served as a congressional aide to former U.S. Congressman Paul Kanjorski. Mr. Williams also worked with several communities in Pennsylvania and New York to assist local development and economic development efforts. Mr. Williams is a graduate of Wilkes University and received his Master's degree from Bloomsburg University. He currently resides in Mountain Top with his wife, Nancy.

It is an honor to recognize Thomas Williams for his service to our country, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

KATIE HYDE EARNS GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Katie Hyde of Sugar Land, TX, for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. To earn this distinguished award, Katie had to spend at least 80 hours developing and executing a project that would benefit the community and have a long-term impact on girls as well. Her Gold project included building sets of horse jumps for the therapeutic riding program at Southern Equestrian Center, which will make it easier for those with physical or mental disabilities to ride horses.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Katie Hyde for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award. We are confident she will have continued success in her future endeavors. We are very proud.

HONORING RAYMOND PROBST, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Raymond Probst, Jr. Raymond is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Raymond has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Raymond has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Raymond contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Raymond Probst, Jr., for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHERIFF GLYNN COOPER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an outstanding leader and exceptional public servant, Chattahoochee County Sheriff Glynn Cooper. Sheriff Cooper will be retiring from his position as Sheriff and a surprise celebration will be held for him on Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the Roscoe Robinson Recreation Center in Cusseta, Georgia.

Glynn Cooper was born in Schley County, Georgia on April 15, 1934 to Wesley and Mozelle Cooper. He, along with his brothers, Fred, Leonard, and Drane, worked on farms in Stewart and Webster counties in Georgia.

He met the love of his life, Estelle, at a dance and they married on December 11, 1954. As a newlywed couple, they lived with his parents until Sheriff Cooper could secure a home in Cusseta, Georgia, where he still lives today. They welcomed a daughter, Glynda, on October 12, 1957. Estelle was Sheriff Cooper's partner, supporter, and best friend until she passed away in 1998.

Growing up on a farm taught Sheriff Cooper to be a jack of all trades. He worked at Preston's Garage in Columbus, Georgia until he opened Cooper's Garage in Cusseta. He and Estelle, who was Senior Clerk at the Post Office, began purchasing and building Cooper Rental Properties, a business which remains in the family to this day.

He had set his sights on being elected Sheriff of Chattahoochee County but initially suffered a loss. Never a quitter, he was elected Sheriff in 1973 and maintained a one-man office with the radio call number 651. He soon dubbed Estelle as 651½ on the radio. With his family's support, Sheriff Cooper has been a faithful servant to the people of Chattahoo-

chee County for a remarkable 43 years. He has earned the distinction of being the second-longest-serving Sheriff in the state of Georgia.

Sheriff Cooper is also actively involved in the community. He previously served on the school board and City Council. He also volunteered his time and efforts to serving on numerous civic organizations. Raised in a Christian home, he joined Louvale Missionary Baptist Church at a young age. Today, he is a faithful member of Cusseta Baptist Church.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." Not only has Sheriff Cooper made his living by keeping watch over the citizens of Chattahoochee County, but he has also made his life by giving back to the County in so many ways. We are all very grateful for his tireless advocacy in keeping our community safe. A man of great integrity, his efforts, his dedication, and his work ethic are unparalleled, but his heart for helping others utilizing these qualities has made his life's work truly special.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring Sheriff Glynn Cooper for his dedicated service to the people of Chattahoochee County as he retires from his position as Sheriff.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ELIMINATE THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND PROVIDE FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a constitutional amendment I introduced today to eliminate the electoral college and provide for the direct election of our nation's President and Vice President.

As Founding Father Thomas Jefferson said, "I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might well as require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

For the second time in recent memory, and for the fifth time in our history, the national popular vote winner will not become President because of the electoral college. This has happened twice to candidates from Tennessee: Al Gore and Andrew Jackson.

The reason is because the electoral college, established to prevent an uninformed citizenry from directly electing our nation's President, no longer fits our nation's needs.

When the Founders established the electoral college it was in an era of limited nationwide communication. The electoral structure

was premised on a theory that citizens would have a better chance of knowing about electors from their home states than about presidential candidates from out-of-state. Electors were supposed to be people of good judgment who were trusted with picking a qualified President and Vice President on behalf of the people. They held the responsibility of choosing a President because it was believed that the general public could not be properly informed of the candidates and the values each held.

That notion—that citizens should be prevented from directly electing the President—is antithetical to our understanding of democracy today, and our electoral process has not evolved to match our abilities to communicate, collect information, and make informed decisions about candidates. The development of mass media and the internet has made information about presidential candidates easily accessible to U.S. citizens across the country and around the world. The people no longer need the buffer of the electoral college to be knowledgeable about and decide who will be president. Today, citizens have a far better chance of knowing about out-of-state presidential candidates than knowing about presidential electors from their home states. Most people do not even know who their electors are.

While our ability to communicate has evolved so has the electoral college, but not in a positive way. Electors are now little more than rubber stamps who are chosen based on their political parties and who represent the interests of those political parties, rather than representing the people. Most states legally bind their electors to vote for whomever wins that state's popular vote, so electors can no longer exercise individual judgment when selecting a candidate.

In our country, "We the People," are supposed to determine who represents us in elective office. Yet, we use an anachronistic process for choosing who will hold the highest offices in the land.

It is time for us to fix this, and that is why I have introduced this amendment today.

Since our nation first adopted our Constitution, "We the People," have amended it repeatedly to expand the opportunity for citizens to directly elect our leaders:

The 15th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens to vote, regardless of race.

The 19th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens to vote, regardless of gender.

The 26th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens 18 years of age and older to vote, regardless of age.

And the 17th Amendment empowers citizens to directly elect U.S. Senators.

We need to amend our Constitution to empower citizens to directly elect the President and the Vice President of the United States.

Working together, I know we can make our electoral college fit the world we live in today, and make our Constitution better reflect the "more perfect Union" to which it aspires.

HONORING AARON JACOB STOCKMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Jacob Stockman. Aaron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1394, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Aaron contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Jacob Stockman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN MEMORY OF MR. A. WARREN KULP, JR.

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of A. Warren Kulp, Jr., better known as Sonny, of Riviera Beach, Florida, who passed away on December 31st in West Palm Beach, Florida at the age of 81.

Sonny's life was the American Dream personified; after graduating from Hilltown High School in Pennsylvania in 1953, he worked as a self-employed dairy farmer for his entire life. He also earned his real estate license and worked as the head of the real estate department for eight years in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. After moving to Florida with his wife Judith, he worked at the Palm Beach Kennel Club until his retirement in 2007.

Outside of work, Sonny pursued many different interests. He was a loyal, lifelong Republican and served as an officer and committee chairman for the Pennridge Republican Club. Sonny was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in West Palm Beach and he was also an avid Steelers fan. We are deeply saddened by the loss of such a prominent and active member of our community.

Sonny is survived by his loving wife Judith, his two sons Steven and Richard, his daughter, Patricia, and six grandchildren: Kiamesha, Brianna, Mary, Frances, Patrick III and Anthony.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Kulp's family and loved ones as they mourn his passing. He will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO SAIPAN SHIPPING, INC.

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, August 11, 1956 marks a watershed moment in the history of the Northern Mariana Islands. That was the day that Saipan Shipping, Incorporated, was established, setting the Marianas on a course for economic resiliency and self-sufficiency that endures today.

Seven years before the founding of Saipan Shipping, in the aftermath of World War II, Jose C. "Joeten" Tenorio started a small grocery store in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. What started out as a way to help deliver goods to local customers eventually developed into one of the largest businesses in the Marianas.

However, as Joeten's business grew, he ran into a major obstacle: In 1956, regular Japanese liners from the war were gone, the Trust Territory government ships did not run regularly, and cargo bound for Saipan often sat in port on Guam for days or even weeks. The lack of reliable and affordable shipping service to Saipan increased the costs of goods shipped to a small and struggling island economy.

Not content to accept the status quo, Joeten decided to do something about it. He reached out to family and friends to buy 100 shares in a start-up shipping company, and, on August 11, 1956, they formed Saipan Shipping Company, Incorporated.

The company began with its first vessel, the M/V *Hope*, which was purchased for \$50,000 from Kenneth T. Jones Jr., President of Jones and Guerrero Company, Incorporated, on Guam. The converted minesweeper with twin screws and a wooden hull made weekly runs between Guam and Saipan, as well as occasional trips to the Northern Islands to pick up copra, which was sold to Japanese purchasers at the time. The boat also collected brass, copper, and other metals left from the war on the islands. Often these goods were delivered to Japan directly by the M/V *Hope* when it sailed there each year to dry-dock.

In May 1962, Saipan Shipping purchased the M/V *Four Winds*, also a former military and CIA vessel, from Bruan Shipping in Delaware. The *Four Winds* traveled a regular route between Saipan and Japan.

However, soon after the acquisition of the M/V *Four Winds*, Saipan Shipping would be challenged by two catastrophes. In November of 1962, just months after the acquisition of the *Four Winds*, the M/V *Hope* was struck by another vessel, the *Guam Bear*, which rendered the *Hope* unseaworthy. Days later, on November 11, Super Typhoon Karen hit Guam, sinking the *Hope* while it was in dry dock on Guam.

Despite these twin calamities, Saipan Shipping bounced back by taking the M/V *Four Winds* out of the Japan run to handle the local service run between Guam and Saipan, as well as quarterly trips to the Northern Islands.

Saipan Shipping continued to evolve in the years that followed. In 1965, the company began chartering the M/V *Ran Annim* from the Trust Territory government. In 1966, after the