

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