

TRIBUTE TO LOWELL THOMPSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a selfless community servant and dedicated veteran from my district, Lowell Thompson of Trinidad, Colorado. As Commander of the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lowell tirelessly dedicates his time to his fellow veterans and the youth of his community.

Lowell was drafted to fight in World War II prior to completing high school and served in Germany for two years. Thanks to a law recently passed by the State of Colorado, veterans who left high school early to serve their nation can now receive their diploma. Last year, alongside four of his fellow veterans, Lowell received his diploma in a ceremony at Rio Grande High School. Selflessly, Lowell chooses not to focus on his military service, but rather on his community.

Lowell's VFW chapter works with local schools, promoting various competitions among all grade levels. Lowell loves spending his time with other veterans and often visits them in hospitals and nursing homes throughout Las Animas County. In addition to his service to the VFW, Lowell worked as a Sears Catalog Merchant for twenty-three years. Prior to his time with Sears, Lowell tried his hand at farming in the San Luis Valley. Today, when not attending to his duties with the VFW, Lowell spends his time with his family.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here today in applauding the hard work of Lowell Thompson. I commend Lowell on receiving his diploma and on his many successful endeavors as Commander of his local VFW chapter. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZETA TAU ALPHA'S EPSILON CHAPTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-FAYETTEVILLE

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Zeta Tau Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, who will celebrate their 100-year anniversary this year.

Founded back in 1903, Epsilon is the longest existing chapter of the Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) national sorority. Seven women in particular—Elizabeth Kell Rose, Hattie Williams, Margaret Hutcherson, Grace Jordan, Bess Byrnes, Della McMillan and Mabel Sutton—were instrumental in establishing the first ZTA chapter west of the Mississippi River.

The mission of Zeta Tau Alpha is to make a difference in the lives of their membership by developing the potential of each individual through visionary programming. They emphasize leadership development, community service, academic success and continued personal growth for women.

Later this month, Epsilon will celebrate this historical milestone with a series of events in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I look forward to joining them for an Arkansas-Alabama football game watch party they are holding on September 26, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that Epsilon has enjoyed 100 successful years because of the wonderful women they attract to their sorority. Epsilon sisters are committed to their traditions, heritage and friendships that last a lifetime. These are among the core values that tie us together as a society and as Epsilon has proven are important ingredients to the success of any organization. Please join me in honoring the Zeta Tau Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville on reaching the 100-year milestone and wishing them another 100 more to come.

WILLIAM DEARY, SBA 2003 MICHIGAN SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of William Deary the United States Small Business Administration 2003 Michigan Small Business Person of the Year.

In 1994 William Deary and his wife Cheri Lyn returned to her hometown of Jackson, MI and founded Great Lakes Home Health Services. Since that time the business has not only survived adverse conditions that saw almost a third of home health care companies close their doors, they have thrived. His commitment to his employees and the community was reflected by his decision to cut costs, but not lay off a single employee.

Today they have expanded the business now known as Great Lakes Home Health and Hospice, and are recognized nationally for their excellence in the field. In a national study conducted by Fazzi Associates Great Lakes Home Health ranked #1 in the country among agencies of similar size.

Mr. Deary is a leader in the Jackson community actively involved in assisting various organizations from the grass roots level to serving on the board of directors. He and his wife Cheri Lyn are the primary benefactors to the St. John Parish Educational Scholarship Program where they are parishioners. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of this program that allows children from families who cannot afford the expense, but feel their children would benefit from a parochial school education to do so.

William is also Chairman of the Board and a member of the Executive Committee of the Jackson Downtown Development Authority. In addition he is active and has served in various capacities on the boards of the United Way of Jackson, Disability Connection, Child Benefit Program, Junior Achievement and helped to raise funds for the Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson. He was honored in 1998 to serve as one of the Congressional appointees for the state of Michigan at the inaugural Small Business Summit and has a been on the National Board of Directors of the Home Care Association of America.

William Deary is truly deserving of his recognition as 2003 Michigan Small Business

Person of the Year. He has met and exceeded all the criteria of: Staying power; Growth in employees; Increase in sales; Improved financial position; Innovativeness; Response to adversity; and Contributions to aid community-oriented projects. He has made the Jackson community a better place to live by his commitment to excellence in the services he provides and in his willingness to give something back to the community.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD PALTHE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this body of Congress to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Donald Palthe of Grand Junction, Colorado is both a devoted teacher and a talented entertainer. From writing lesson books to performing for the elderly in retirement centers, Donald's dedication and civic mindedness make him a credit to our community. I am privileged to share his story here today.

As a boy growing up in Holland during World War II, Donald taught himself to play the ukulele and later the banjo. Donald turned his love of music into a career and has entertained thousands of people over the years, playing under the name Don Van Palta. He played at several restaurants and bars before taking a position at Caesar's Palace on the Las Vegas strip. From there, Donald was then offered a position on a cruise ship, where he had the opportunity to travel all around the world sharing his music with others.

Today, Donald brings joy to the lives of many when he visits retirement centers and reminds the residents the music of their youth. Donald does not stop at playing the banjo, though. He also teaches the instrument to others. He has hundreds of students across the country who have benefited from his instruction books, finger charts, and videotapes. Donald is dedicated to these students and still takes phone calls from them whenever he can.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize a citizen who has given so much to his community. Donald Palthe's life-long efforts to spread joy through music have made Grand Junction a better place to live. His example of service and creativity model the spirit that make this country great. I join my colleagues in recognizing Donald's achievements here today.

TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE MEDDERS (1927-2003), FORMER MAYOR OF BAKERSFIELD, CA

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a public servant, a devoted family man, and a close friend. Clarence Medders was born in Mississippi on December 7, 1927. Clarence served in the Army Signal Corps and graduated from teaching school, beginning a life-long pursuit to promote the education of young people.

After moving to Bakersfield, California with his wife, Billie Jo, and their two children, Clarence worked for the Bakersfield City School District in various capacities for three decades. As a teacher, Clarence made sure his students received a quality education and understood the fundamentals. As a principal, Clarence was passionate about ensuring that his students were well-educated, and relentlessly worked with teachers, parents, and students to create an environment where his students could excel, both in the classroom and as young people. While Clarence received great recognition for his work, he did not measure his body of work by the accolades and awards he received; he measured it by the success of the students he taught, embraced, and advocated for.

Clarence devoted himself to the lives of Bakersfield's youth, but he also found time to serve the community he so loved. He served as Bakersfield City Councilman, held a leadership role in the League of California Cities, and was elected Mayor of Bakersfield in 1989. As Chairman of the Kern County Republican Central Committee, Clarence also worked to raise awareness of local and national issues with the community and involved his peers and neighbors in politics. In these different capacities, Clarence served with integrity, a plain-spoken straight-shooter that counseled and led with the convictions and strength of his heart. The enthusiasm to serve others is a quality shared by Clarence's family. His wife Billie Jo has been on my staff for the length of my career in the House, and I have always been grateful to Clarence for sharing her with me and with the thousands she has helped.

Bakersfield will miss this wonderful man who shared a rich legacy of accomplishment with his neighbors and students. More personally, I will miss Clarence. Clarence Medders was first and foremost a family man. He leaves behind his wife, his two loving daughters, Emily and Pam, and a large family that grieves an extraordinary loss.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I join many of my neighbors in mourning the loss of a close friend, Clarence Medders. A patriotic American, he embodied our country's best ideals: love for family and a dedication to public service.

INTRODUCING THE RENEWABLE
FUELS AND TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCE-
MENT ACT OF 2003

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I join the gentleman from Missouri, [Mr. HULSHOF], and my distinguished colleagues, in introducing the Renewable Fuels and Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Act of 2003. A companion bill entitled, the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit Act of 2003, has already been introduced in the Other Body.

I have long been a supporter of ethanol, which blended with gasoline, results in a cleaner automotive fuel that reduces harmful vehicle emissions. In addition, ethanol is generally made from corn; it is produced domestically; and it provides our farmers with an addi-

tional market for their goods. Further, and perhaps most importantly, the production and use of ethanol and other alcohol-blended fuels help reduce our country's debilitating dependency on foreign oil.

Ethanol production has increased steadily over the past several years. Today, there are 68 ethanol production facilities in 20 states. In 2002, these facilities produced 2.13 billion gallons of ethanol—a 45 percent production increase within the last three years. And there are proposals currently pending in the Conference Committee on the Energy bill to increase that production amount to 5 billion gallons of ethanol over the next decade. These ethanol successes are due in large part to the various tax incentives that encourage ethanol production and use.

To promote the use of ethanol-blended and other alcohol-blended fuels, these fuels are taxed at a lower rate than gasoline. It appears, however, that we have become a victim of our own success. As the production and use of ethanol has increased, it has had a deleterious effect on the Highway Trust Fund. Without the change authorized by this legislation, the current system is projected to cost the Highway Trust Fund more than \$2 billion in fiscal year 2004 and more than \$25.7 billion over the next ten years.

This bill provides the needed "ethanol fix." By providing an alternative tax credit system to the current system of reduced excise taxes for gasohol, the bill continues to encourage the production and use of ethanol, while at the same time protecting the revenues of the Highway Trust Fund.

Currently, ethanol-blended fuel receives a partial exemption from excise taxes. The current excise tax on gasoline is 18.4 cents per gallon. In contrast, ethanol- and other alcohol-blended fuel (10-percent blend) receive a 5.2-cent exemption from this tax. As a result, the excise tax on these fuels is 13.2 cents per gallon. Tax receipts deposited into the Highway Trust Fund are further reduced because 2.5 cents of that 13.2 cents is transferred to the General Fund. This combination of a partial excise tax exemption and transfer of 2.5 cents into the General Fund severely reduce the amount of funds coming into the Highway Trust Fund, challenging our ability to provide necessary maintenance and improvement to our Nation's highways and bridges.

Not only does the current system of taxation have a detrimental effect on the Highway Trust Fund, but it also disproportionately hurts those states—mostly the Midwestern states—that are the largest producers and consumers of ethanol. The minimum guarantee formula is based in part on a state's contributions to the Highway Trust Fund. Because states that use large amounts of ethanol under the current system contribute less to the Highway Trust Fund than states that use comparable amounts of gasoline, the states' apportionments are comparably reduced.

This bill addresses these issues by eliminating the current reduced excise tax rate for alcohol-blended fuels and introducing a tax credit for ethanol- and other alcohol-blended fuels. Under this proposal, alcohol-blended fuels would be taxed at the same rate as gasoline (18.4 cents per gallon), however producers of these fuels would receive a tax credit of 52 cents per gallon. Amounts claimed for the tax credit would be deducted against General Fund revenues—not Highway Trust

Fund revenues. Therefore, the bill continues to provide alcohol-blended fuel producers with the same economic incentives they have under the current tax system, while protecting the receipts of the Highway Trust Fund. The bill also eliminates the 2.5-cent tax transfer to the General Fund and directs all tax revenue on these fuels to the Highway Trust Fund.

Further, the bill introduces a credit for biodiesel fuels. Like ethanol, biodiesel is derived from farm products, most often soybeans. Although biodiesel provides many of the same benefits as ethanol, there currently are no tax incentives for the production and use of biodiesel fuels. This bill would remedy that omission by instituting a 50-cent credit for producers of biodiesel fuel. Accordingly, under the bill, biodiesel fuel would be taxed at the same rate as diesel fuel (24.4 cents per gallon), but producers of the fuel would be eligible to receive a tax credit of 50 cents per gallon of biodiesel fuel.

By substituting these tax credits for the current scheme of varying rates of excise taxes, this bill establishes a simpler, more straightforward approach to providing important incentives for the production and use of ethanol and biodiesel fuels. At the same time, it protects the revenues of the Highway Trust Fund. Highway Trust Fund revenues are dedicated revenues that go directly to pay for the maintenance and improvement of our Nation's highway system. At a time when we should be investing more funds in the improvement of Nation's highways—funds that will improve safety and reduce congestion—we can not afford Highway Trust Fund revenues to be adversely effected by the current system of varying excise tax rates.

As we move forward in crafting the successor to the landmark Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century legislation, this bill is particularly important to ensure that those states at the forefront of producing and promoting the use of these cleaner, alternative fuels are not punished by receiving reduced highway funds from the Highway Trust Fund, and to ensure that the Highway Trust Fund continues to receive the funds necessary to maintaining and improving our Nation's highway system.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET LAMB

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Margaret Lamb is a lifelong resident of Creede, Colorado and a fixture of her community. She is extensively involved in the local community and gives freely and selflessly of her time to many different organizations. I am honored to recognize her selfless service here today.

Margaret has twice served as the Creede Postmaster, once in 1941, and then again in 1956. Margaret has given freely of her time for many years, serving as the secretary and treasurer for many organizations, including the Mineral County School Board, Creede's St. Augustine Episcopal Church, and the Order of the Eastern Star. She also helped found the Creede Community Church Board of Christian Education.