

has taken him away from his family and friends on several occasions and he has served as a role model offering leadership and guidance in his community. I am honored to recognize him today before this body and this nation for his devotion and commitment to aiding those in need. He serves as a valuable role model for all fire fighters. Congratulations on your award Rodney and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING FEDERAL JUDGE
WILLIAM STEGER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct privilege to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the Judiciary and longtime U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Judge William Steger, who recently received the Justinian Award during Law Day festivities in Tyler. Judge Steger has served as a U.S. District Judge in East Texas for more than thirty years, culminating a career dedicated to the highest principles of ethics and justice in the profession of law.

Nominated by President Richard Nixon, Judge Steger began his judgeship on December 29, 1970, in the Eastern District of Texas, presiding in Beaumont and also holding court in Paris, Texarkana, Sherman and Marshall. He moved to the Tyler Federal courthouse, where he currently presides, in September 1978. He assumed Senior Active Status duty as U.S. District Judge on December 31, 1987, and since that time has closed approximately 6,500 cases.

Among his noteworthy rulings, Judge Steger in 1975 ruled that a private hospital, although receiving State and Federal support, was not prohibited from establishing policies denying use of its facilities for elective abortions. In 1980 he presided over one of the first cases applying the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, resulting in conviction of numerous county officials for offenses ranging from solicitation of murder to facilitation of gambling activity. Other cases resulted in convictions for illegal narcotics transactions—one of which resulted in the government seizing properties that were later auctioned for over \$10,000,000 and deposited in the U.S. Treasury.

A 1950 graduate of Southern Methodist University Law School, Judge Steger engaged in the private practice of law in Longview from 1951 to 1953. In 1953 he was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as U.S. District Attorney in East Texas and remained in the post until 1959 when he resigned to enter private practice in Tyler. He was a partner in the firm of Wilson, Miller, Spivey and Steger from 1959 to 1970, until his appointment as U.S. District Judge.

From 1952 to 1970 Judge Steger was an active member of the Republican Party of Texas. In 1960 he was the Republican candidate for governor, and in 1962 he was the Republican nominee for U.S. Representative in the Third Congressional District, receiving 48 percent of the vote. He served as State

Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas from 1969 to 1970.

Judge Steger was born in 1920 and attended public schools in Dallas. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1938 and attended Baylor University from 1938 to 1941, when his pre-law studies were interrupted by World War II. Less than 24 hours after Pearl Harbor was attacked, Judge Steger withdrew from Baylor University and volunteered for service. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps on January 5, 1942, as cadet and received his Pilot Wings and Commission as 2nd Lieutenant on November 9, 1942. He flew 56 combat missions as a fighter pilot in Tunisia, Sicily and Italy and attained the rank of Captain. After being honorably discharged, he entered SMU Law School in 1948 and received his LLB Degree in 1950.

Judge Steger is married to his wonderful wife of 56 years, Ann Hollandsworth Steger. They had one child, Merritt Reed Steger, who passed away as a young man. Judge and Mrs. Steger have been active members of their community. "Through his efforts, he's made a significant contribution to all aspects of life in Smith County and the State of Texas," said U.S. District Judge T. John Ward in presenting the Justinian Award to Judge Steger.

I also want to commend the Smith County Bar Association, the Smith County Bar Foundation, the Smith County Lawyer's Auxiliary, the Smith County Young Lawyers Association, the Tyler Area Association of Legal Professionals and Tyler Teen Court, Inc., who in conjunction with the American Bar Association, sponsor Law Day each year to honor local attorneys and civic leaders as well as students who participate in Teen Court and an essay and poster contest.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to celebrate the life of this esteemed jurist and outstanding American who answered the call to service in World War II, serving with distinction in that endeavor, then dedicated his life to serving the cause of justice and defending the principles upon which this Nation was founded. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute today to U.S. District Judge William Steger and to express our sincere appreciation for his service to his community, the State of Texas, and our Nation.

TRIBAL PARITY ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Tribal Parity Act. This bill would fully compensate the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in South Dakota for the lands that they lost as a result of the federal government's construction of the massive dams on the main stem of the Missouri River.

The 1944 Flood Control Act cost these tribes much in terms of lost land. It also took an enormous toll on the people of both tribes and their economies. It is critically important

that we seek to fully reimburse these tribes for the lands they lost.

The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe are both constituent bands of the Great Sioux Nation. Both border on the Missouri River in central South Dakota and are connected by the Big Bend Dam.

Congress created a trust fund for the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in 1996, and a separate trust fund for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe in 1997. These trust funds sought to compensate the tribes for the value of their land that is now permanently inundated as a result of the construction of the Big Bend Dam. Unfortunately, the formula that the General Accounting Office used to calculate amount of compensation for both tribes was substantially different than the formulas that it has used to calculate damages for many other similarly situated tribes. The result was unfair and inadequate compensation funds for these tribes.

Parity for these tribes would mean an ability to actively work for the betterment of their communities. It would mean adequate roads and improved community facilities. It would mean better health care and newer schools. It would mean attracting commercial business and improving the local economy. Most importantly, it would mean a real chance for these tribes to provide future generations with the tools that so many of us take for granted.

I would ask all of my distinguished colleagues to support the Tribal Parity Act and work with me to enact legislation that would fairly and appropriately compensate members of the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes. I ask you to do it because of the tremendous positive difference it would make in the lives of those affected—and because it is clearly the right and fair thing to do.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED A
POUNDSTONE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated and inspiring career of Freda Poundstone. Ms. Poundstone served as the first woman mayor of Greenwood Village, Colorado, and when her time as mayor came to an end, she continued to serve the community as a determined lobbyist for 36 years.

During her career, Ms. Poundstone worked diligently to strengthen her community. Her actions as mayor proved that Ms. Poundstone truly acted to serve the public, and this contributed to her many accomplishments. She faced many challenges, but did not hesitate to speak her mind and fight for what she thought was right. Her successes did not stop after serving as mayor, rather Ms. Poundstone became the first woman contract lobbyist in Colorado and furthered her accomplishments to include advocating successfully for the passage of three Constitutional Amendments.

Public officials who fulfill their duties with passion and allegiance as the former mayor