

and distinguished service to our country. He is survived by his wife Joyce and 4 children.●

WILLIAM "JOE" HUDNALL: IN
MEMORIAM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of a dedicated law enforcement officer, Deputy William "Joe" Hudnall of the Kern County Sheriff's Department. For the past 9 years, Deputy Hudnall worked tirelessly to provide the citizens of Kern County with safety and service. On the evening of November 14, 2006, Deputy Hudnall's life was tragically cut short in the line of duty when a vehicle driven by a suspected drunk driver struck his patrol vehicle on Highway 178 near Kernville.

Deputy Hudnall graduated from the Kern County Sheriff's Department Academy and began his career at the pretrial section of Lerdo Jail. In nearly a decade of service to the department, he also worked at the Frazier Park substation and Metro Patrol before moving to the Kern Valley substation. Throughout his career, Deputy Hudnall demonstrated a passion for law enforcement and commitment to helping others, qualities that enabled him to become a respected and model member of the Kern County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Hudnall's colleagues shall always remember him for his professionalism and devotion to serving the public.

Deputy Hudnall is survived by his wife Carrie and four children. When he was not on duty or spending time with his beloved family, Deputy Hudnall was an avid fisherman who also enjoyed working in his yard. Deputy Hudnall served Kern County with honor and dignity, and fulfilled his oath as deputy sheriff officer. His contributions to law enforcement and the many lives that he touched will serve as a shining example of his legacy.

We shall always be grateful for Deputy Hudnall's service and the valor that he displayed while serving and protecting the people of Kern County.●

JEFFREY MITCHELL: IN
MEMORIAM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me as I honor the memory of a dedicated public servant, Sacramento County sheriff's deputy Jeffrey Mitchell. For 9 years, Deputy Mitchell devoted his life to protecting the citizens of Sacramento County. On October 27, 2006, Deputy Mitchell was tragically killed in the line of duty.

Upon graduation from Westmont High School in 1986, Jeffrey Mitchell joined the U.S. Air Force and served as a security officer for 5 years. After leaving the Air Force, he earned a teaching credential at California State University, Sacramento, and taught as a substitute teacher at local schools. His talent, passion, and humor dealing

with students, coupled with his dedication to education, made him a natural teacher in the classroom.

In 1997, Jeffrey Mitchell chose to continue his public service and joined the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. He brought with him the same good-natured spirit that he exhibited in his previous professions to his new career in law enforcement. Jeffrey Mitchell served as the recreational technician at Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center in Elk Grove and was promoted to deputy in 2002.

Deputy Mitchell's family, friends, and colleagues all remember his infectious smile and kind heart. He is survived by his wife Crystal, son Jake, and sister Kim Gervasoni. Deputy Mitchell was a devoted family man who chose to work the overnight shift so he could pick his son up from school and prepare dinner for his wife when she arrived home from work. He shared his love of sports with Jake and coached his T-ball team.

Deputy Jeffrey Mitchell served the County of Sacramento with honor and distinction and fulfilled his oath as a deputy sheriff. His contributions and dedication to public safety are greatly appreciated and will serve as a shining legacy to his service.

We will always be grateful for Deputy Mitchell's exemplary service and the sacrifices he made.●

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH
TERWILLIGER

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the memory of an extraordinary Californian, Elizabeth Terwilliger.

To the Marin County community, Elizabeth Terwilliger was a renowned naturalist and educator, beloved by school children and adults, who leaves an amazing environmental legacy. She died on November 27, 2006, at the age of 97. She is survived by her daughter Lynn, her son John, and several grandchildren.

Elizabeth Cooper was born in Hawaii in 1909. She moved to the mainland to pursue a master's degree in nutrition from Columbia University in New York and then attended Stanford nursing school. While at Stanford, she met her husband, Dr. Calvin Terwilliger. After World War II, the couple settled in Mill Valley, CA, where they raised two children.

Elizabeth took her children on nature walks throughout Marin County. Soon, she was leading nature walks for local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops. Her unique hands-on style and storytelling ability became known throughout the community, and soon she began leading field trips for area schools and environmental organizations. Leading such trips 5 days a week became her life's work.

For the 50 years that followed, every child growing up in Marin County knew Mrs. Terwilliger. She was a fa-

mous and beloved educator who traveled across the county in her familiar van filled with life-like animal models to teach school children about nature. Upon sight of her characteristic floppy straw hat, children would come running and follow her through the woods with excitement and adoration. They would soak up her stories and bring them home to teach their parents.

Those who knew Mrs. Terwilliger well recount her mesmerizing personality, her passion for nature and wildlife, and her openhearted way with children and adults alike.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan honored Mrs. Terwilliger as an outstanding volunteer. While accepting the award at the White House, she shared one of her famous stories about "Mr. Vulture" and had President Reagan holding his arms over his head in the "V" position, representing a vulture in flight.

In addition to leading nature education programs, Mrs. Terwilliger was an advocate for environmental conservation and open space. She campaigned for a monarch butterfly preserve, bicycle paths, wetlands, and open space preservation. She received numerous awards and has two preserves named after her: Terwilliger Marsh in Mill Valley and Terwilliger Grove in Muir Woods.

She founded the Elizabeth Terwilliger Nature Education Center, which later became known as WildCare. Using educational programs developed by Mrs. Terwilliger, the center provides nature programs for over 40,000 Bay Area school children each year. The center also treats thousands of wildlife each year, rehabilitating them and returning them to their natural environment.

Mrs. Terwilliger often said, "While you're learning, you're living." Her life's passion was to teach people how to embrace and love nature. She was a local treasure and a wonderful, inspiring woman.

I knew Mrs. Terwilliger and respected and admired her greatly. She will be deeply missed.

For those of us who were fortunate to know her, we take comfort in knowing that school children will continue to learn from Mrs. Terwilliger's unique educational style at WildCare. Her vision, her passion, and her spirit will remain in the countless lives she touched.●

TRIBUTE TO THE RABBIT HASH
GENERAL STORE

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Rabbit Hash General Store on its 175th anniversary. The Rabbit Hash General Store has continuously operated relatively unchanged in the town of Rabbit Hash, KY, since 1831.

For 175 years, the Rabbit Hash General Store has been a meeting place for the local community where citizens of Rabbit Hash have come together. The

Rabbit Hash General Store has withstood ice jams and floods from the Ohio River. The establishment shows the true fortitude of the people who live in this great river town.

The Rabbit Hash General Store has been recognized as a landmark by the Commonwealth of Kentucky since the late 1970s. Nationally, the Rabbit Hash General Store was recognized by the Department of the Interior on the National Register of Historic Places, and the town of Rabbit Hash has been recently honored by First Lady Laura Bush as a Preserve America Community.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rabbit Hash General Store on its 175th anniversary. The Rabbit Hash General Store is a true American treasure.●

TRIBUTE TO BRAYTON WILLIS

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in early 2007, the Army Corps of Engineers will see one of its finest employees retire after 28 years of exemplary service to individuals, communities, and agencies that the Corps serves.

Brayton Willis has lived in Idaho since 1999, serving as the project manager in the Walla Walla District's Boise office. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and later graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in civil engineering. His career began in Massachusetts where he worked on one of the first environmental impact statements required under the Clean Air Act.

Brayton has worked for the Corps of Engineers in Arizona, Washington and South Carolina, in addition to his work in Idaho. Over the course of his career, he worked at two of the Nation's nuclear facilities providing environmental restoration support to the Department of Energy. He found time to use his expertise in a volunteer capacity as well, helping local communities in California and Puerto Rico assess damages after natural disasters. In Idaho, in particular, Brayton specialized in flood control and issues related to environmental improvement in urban and suburban flood-prone areas. He also worked with local communities to address the critical issues of water and wastewater management and actively sought to involve community stakeholders in flood control and environmental improvement. Brayton preferred to approach flooding and its implications in a preventive manner, before disaster happened. He worked under the firm belief that this method was the most effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Brayton's work reflects the complementary ideals of caring for communities and the environment. Increased population growth in the West means greater and more sensitive interface between the environment and people. If managed effectively and proactively, the result can be positive for the environment and hold far less risk of dis-

aster for the residential population. Brayton understands this and implemented it in his almost three decades of employment in the Corps. I congratulate Brayton Willis on his retirement and wish him and his wife Debbie well in future endeavors.●

A FRIEND TO IDAHO FISH AND GAME

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on January 1, Idaho sportsmen and women and wildlife will lose a great agency friend in the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Steve Huffaker, 22-year veteran of Fish and Game, and director since 2002, will be retiring after a full and successful career with this important agency.

Steve has been my great friend and supporter on many issues including wolves, elk, slick spot peppergrass, sage grouse, and cooperative conservation agreements with landowners. His enthusiasm for the Collaboration for the Recovery of the Endangered Species Act and the Owyhee Initiative has been instrumental as I seek the support of others on these important land management policy initiatives. Steve also provided expert advice and recommendations with regard to Federal implementation of these initiatives. He served as an invaluable resource for considerations of wildlife habitat in designations in several State and Federal conservation programs. Steve has been a staunch supporter of my Elk Collaborative; he has worked closely with my staff on these and many other issues over the years. He led the charge to delist grizzly bears, restored confidence and trust with agricultural interests, and remained determined to keep me informed of his activities, ideas, and beliefs. Steve's strengths include a positive demeanor and clear and tough but fair and reasonable stance when he was called upon to defend his position and decisions.

During his years at Fish and Game, Steve served as both Fisheries Bureau chief and Wildlife Bureau chief. He oversaw the agency during a time of constant and frequent change. State management of wolves, fee increases, access issues, conservation, and troubled agency relationships with sportspeople, farmers, and ranchers were some of the challenges that Steve met head-on, and today Idaho is better off with his years of leadership. Now, he will have the time to privately enjoy the fields, streams, and mountains of Idaho that he took such good care of over the years. The man who will be "taking his grandkids fishing" will be sorely missed, and his boots, hard to fill. I wish Steve health, success, and successful hunting and fishing, in his well-deserved retirement.●

MISSISSIPPI HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SAUK RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Mississippi Heights Elementary

School, in Sauk Rapids, MN, which will soon earn an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Mississippi Heights Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. The school begins each school day by welcoming all staff and pupils in the gym with a unique "Lift Off" program, which is led by the children and is designed to recognize birthdays, make announcements, and strengthen the school's strong sense of community. Another special characteristic of Lift Off is its buddy system, which matches each child in the primary classes with a buddy from the intermediate classes to act as a mentor. The buddies sit together at Lift Off and read to each other before the program begins.

Mississippi Heights is dedicated to a successful literacy initiative, whose goals are: implementation of a balanced literacy program that will include independent shared, guided reading, writing, and read-alouds throughout the day; students' demonstration of individual improvement in reading levels; reading and writing throughout the day which aims toward raising RIGBY and Guided Reading levels for each student; and daily reading aloud by teachers, with 5,000 read-aloud books as a building goal.

Teachers at Mississippi Heights have made reading and writing a top priority, and it shows in their enthusiasm and passion in the classroom. The students' reading and writing scores have improved: More than 30 percent of the students scored in the top level of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment in 2006, and the school earned four stars from the Minnesota Department of Education in reading this year.

Much of the credit for Mississippi Heights Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Jean Clark, and the dedicated teachers. The children and staff at Mississippi Heights Elementary School understand that in order to be successful a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where children can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Mississippi Heights Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Mississippi Heights Elementary School in Sauk Rapids for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

NEVIS PUBLIC SCHOOL, NEVIS, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Nevis Public School, in Nevis, MN, which will soon receive an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Nevis Public School is truly a model of educational success. It is a unique