

presence of African-American westerners. The painting "One of the First" by noted African-American artist and Coloradan James Wider depicts a Buffalo soldier during a snowstorm, reminiscent of a time of great hardship in our State's early history. For me, this image portrays the struggles and determination of all the people who shaped the West we know today. I am appreciative to the artist, as well as Dr. Anthony Young, the vice chairman of the Black American West Museum & Heritage Center, for allowing me the privilege to temporarily hang the painting in my office.

While this painting highlights the early presence of African-Americans in the West, it also reminds me of the countless individuals in Colorado's Black community who have served and continue to serve their communities, our State and our Nation in more contemporary times. I would like to highlight two Coloradans who reflect this influence: Dr. Evie Dennis and Rev. Milton Proby.

Dr. Evie Dennis rose in her career as a teacher to become the superintendent of Denver public schools from 1990 to 1994, when she worked to improve the education of all of Denver's schoolchildren. In 2008, Dr. Dennis was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, and she continues to work in support of communities across the State.

Rev. Milton Proby was a prominent figure during his 47 years in southern Colorado, where he proudly faced adversity in championing against inequality and injustice. The reverend served under three Colorado Governors and helped to establish Colorado's Civil Rights Commission, among many other notable achievements and awards.

People like Dr. Dennis and Reverend Proby have overcome struggle to serve—and lead—our State. Their contributions remind us of how vital African-American communities have been to our State's history, and I have no doubt that the same communities will continue to be a driving force toward a better future.

Mr. President, Black History Month is a time for all Coloradans and Americans to reflect on the contributions of African Americans to our State and throughout our great Nation. I encourage my fellow Coloradans to celebrate these contributions not only during this month but throughout the entire year.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO JACK LALANNE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Jack LaLanne, a fitness pioneer who inspired generations of Americans to exercise regularly and eat healthily. Mr. LaLanne passed away on January 23rd at his home in Morro Bay, CA. He was 96 years old.

Francois Henri LaLanne was born in San Francisco on September 26, 1914, and was nicknamed "Jack" by his brother. He spent his early years in Bakersfield before his family moved to Oakland.

As a child, Jack was a self-described sugar addict who had an affinity for junk food. At the age of 15, he heard a lecture on healthy living by nutritionist Paul Bragg at the Oakland Women's City Club that would change his life. Inspired by the lecture to become healthier and more fit, Jack developed a zeal for physical fitness and good nutrition that he would later pass on to millions of people in America and around the world.

In 1936, he opened the Jack LaLanne Physical Cultural Studio in downtown Oakland. Mr. LaLanne's devotion to help others adopt healthier exercise and eating habits was apparent as he would often call his clients at home to check why they had missed scheduled workouts. His reputation as a fitness enthusiast grew quickly.

In 1952, he began hosting a morning workout show on a local television station. The Jack LaLanne Show was especially appealing to children who he encouraged to exercise with their parents. The television show was eventually syndicated and ran for 34 years in the United States and Europe.

Mr. LaLanne's rise to prominence came during a time when many people doubted the benefits of regular exercise and a healthy diet. To overcome this skepticism, he participated in a series of public demonstrations to prove the positive impacts of his teachings. At age 40, he swam from Alcatraz to San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf while towing a 2,000-pound cabin cruiser. At 60, he swam the Golden Gate Channel while handcuffed and shackled and towing a 1,000-pound boat. At 70, he towed a flotilla of 70 boats for a mile in Long Beach Harbor, once again, handcuffed and shackled.

A man with an unparalleled fervor for healthy living and an appreciation for life that was an inspiration to so many over the years, Mr. LaLanne accomplished his goal of getting people of all ages and from all walks of life to adopt a more active and healthy lifestyle. He will be missed.

I send my deepest sympathies to his family, especially to his wife of 51 years Elaine, daughter Yvonne, son Jon, and stepson Dan Doyle.●

##### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE W. R. "BOB" HOLCOMB

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in reflecting on the life, accomplishments and service of the late W. R. "Bob" Holcomb. Mr. Holcomb was well-known as a committed civil rights activist and visionary on behalf of the city. Mr. Holcomb held the distinction of being the longest serving mayor in the city of San Bernardino's history, serving for a total of 18 years, from 1971 to 1985 and

1989 to 1993. Mr. Holcomb passed away on November 29, 2010.

Mr. Holcomb grew up in San Bernardino and attended San Bernardino High School, graduating in 1940. After high school, Mr. Holcomb continued his education at UC Berkeley. Like many others of his generation, he grew into adulthood in a military uniform. Mr. Holcomb left UC Berkeley to join the U.S. Army in 1942, serving as a bomber pilot. After the war, Mr. Holcomb married Pearl Pennington in 1946 and returned to UC Berkeley, graduating in 1949. He continued his studies on the other side of San Francisco Bay and earned his law degree from UC Hastings College of Law in 1950.

Mr. Holcomb's experiences in the military and later as an attorney helped to mature him into being the extraordinarily effective leader for the people of San Bernardino that he was. Mayor Holcomb helped further the socioeconomic progress of San Bernardino, spearheading projects such as the establishment of the city's first affirmative action office; the relocation of Little League Baseball regional headquarters to San Bernardino; the founding of California State University, San Bernardino; and forging an alliance with neighboring cities to create Omnitrans—the region's first transportation agency—to represent the area's best interest. According to longtime San Bernardino journalist Cassie McDuff, "He did what he thought was best for the city . . . and didn't care if he got credit or not."

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Mr. Holcomb's family and friends. He will be missed.●

##### RETIREMENT OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ROBIN SHIPLEY

• Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to speak on the occasion of CSM Robin Shipley's retirement after 42 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army Reserve.

A native of Ogden, UT, he rose to the highest rank of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps, command sergeant major—a crowning achievement after a long distinguished career. I am most impressed in his recent role as operations sergeant major for the Joint and Special Troops Support Command.

The Joint and Special Troops Support Command only recently was activated at Fort Douglas, UT. The difficult task of activating a new command requires tremendous leadership and tireless commitment. True to the finest traditions of the United States Army and the Noncommissioned Officer Corps, Sergeant Major Shipley rose to the challenge and performed his duties in an outstanding manner. This capstone performance was a fitting end to his long remarkable career.

Accordingly, as recognition of his exemplary service, Command Sergeant Major Shipley was awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal