

are other instances in which Justice Thomas's travels correspond to flights taken by Mr. Crow's planes.

On Jan. 4, 2010, when Justice Thomas was in Savannah for the dedication of a building in his honor, Mr. Crow's plane flew from Washington to Savannah and returned to Washington the next day. Justice Thomas reported in his financial disclosure that his travel had been paid for by the Savannah College of Art and Design, which owned the building.

In his 2009 financial disclosure, Justice Thomas reported that Southern Methodist University in Dallas—Trammell Crow's alma mater—had provided his travel for a speech there on Sept. 30. Flight records show that Mr. Crow's plane flew from Washington to Dallas that day.

Among the questions The Times submitted to Justice Thomas was whether he was on any of those flights, and if so, whether the colleges reimbursed him or Mr. Crow. The colleges declined to comment.

One item not required to be reported in Justice Thomas's financial disclosures is the millions of dollars Mr. Crow is spending on the museum. That is because the money is not being given to the justice as a gift.

For Algernon and Sharon Varn, who said they were thrilled to see a cherished piece of local history being restored, the museum is a gift to the community. While it is about more than Justice Thomas, they said, he deserves credit for putting them together with someone who had the money and the interest to make the project a reality.

"He was instrumental in getting the process started, because he wanted it preserved to show that no matter where you came from, you can go where you want," Mr. Varn said. "He had a meager existence, and yet look where he is today. It's a great American story."

HONORING RALPH LOMMA

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of my constituents, Mr. Ralph Lomma, in recognition of his successful vision for a prospering community in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania.

This year represents the 50th anniversary of the establishment of The Village of the Four Seasons. Mr. Lomma, who founded the Village near the base of Elk Mountain has worked tirelessly over the past five decades to create a place where an entire community could enjoy the beauty of every season, in an environment that is both beautiful and secure. What began as a loosely connected area of vacation rentals, has transformed into a cohesive community, committed to the same principles on which Mr. Lomma founded the Village.

Since its inception, the community has been an active and thriving addition to the surrounding area. Every season, the Village offers something wonderful to both its residents and its neighbors; from tennis tournaments in the summer, to New Year's Eve parties each winter. Ralph's vision of a "playground for families" has truly been realized.

In the coming days, the Village will gather yet again to honor its architect, Mr. Lomma. I am honored to represent such a determined and passionate individual, who works every

day to better our 10th District of Pennsylvania. Over the past fifty years, the Village has seen many Presidents as well as members of their Board of Directors, but through the guiding presence of Mr. Lomma, the Village has grown into a wonderful place for families and visitors.

It is an honor today to recognize Mr. Ralph Lomma. Please join me in acknowledging his determination, selflessness, and commitment to the ideals of community and camaraderie that have led him and The Village of the Four Seasons to such success.

REMEMBERING ALABAMA'S BELOVED STORYTELLER, KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to inform the House that Alabama has lost one of its great writers and favorite citizens. Just a few days ago, our beloved Southern storyteller and gifted author, Kathryn Tucker Windham, passed away after a year-long illness at the age of 93.

Life is a patchwork of trials, triumphs, joys, and sorrows, sown together through generations of experience. When it comes to colorfully interpreting the past, no one could artfully stitch the stories of our state and the Deep South like Kathryn Tucker Windham.

Born in Selma in 1918 and raised in Thomasville, Kathryn Tucker Windham began her writing career early in life, penning movie reviews at the age of 12 for the Thomasville Times. A graduate of Huntington College, she took her first full-time reporting job in 1940, covering the police beat for the Alabama Journal in Montgomery—the first female reporter to earn that assignment for the paper. She soon gained a reputation in the Capital City as a solid reporter. By 1944, she was hired at the state's largest newspaper—The Birmingham News—where she met her husband to be, Amasa Benjamin Windham.

After the death of her husband in 1956, Kathryn Tucker Windham began writing columns for the Selma Times Journal where she also gained attention as a skilled photographer. It wasn't until 1969, when she wrote 13 Alabama Ghosts and Jeffrey, that she began her more famous career as a prolific author and storyteller.

From 1967 to 2009, she authored over 30 books on subjects ranging from southern cooking to legends of the supernatural. Her well-known "Jeffrey" series of true ghost stories went on to include tales from Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and other Southern states. My personal favorite is her charming 1975 book, Alabama: One Big Front Porch.

While her writing helped establish her bonafides as a storyteller, she did not stop with print. She established the Alabama Tale Tellin' Festival in Selma and was a sought-after speaker at storytelling festivals and gatherings across the country.

Her Southern charm also captured the attention of National Public Radio's All Things Considered, which featured her as a regular Southern storyteller. She also took to the stage as the star of a one-woman play she

authored, They Call Me Julia, based on the life of another famous Alabamian, Julia S. Tutwiler.

In 2003, Kathryn Tucker Windham was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor at the recommendation of her friend, fellow Alabama author, Nelle Harper Lee. Today, Alabama Southern Community College in Thomasville houses the Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum.

Mr. Speaker, we mourn the loss of Kathryn Tucker Windham, and we will always be grateful for her devotion to telling the most beautiful and entertaining stories about Alabama and the South. There was only one Kathryn Tucker Windham and we will surely miss her greatly. The thoughts and prayers of our entire state are with her family at this difficult time.

ELECTION SUPPORT CONSOLIDATION AND EFFICIENCY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition of H.R. 672, the Election Support Consolidation and Efficiency Act, which eliminates the Election Assistance Commission, EAC. I oppose this legislation because terminating the EAC risks reducing the voting and civil rights of our citizens—rights for which many have given their lives.

The EAC is charged with developing standards for voting systems, and this precedent-setting work has been recognized by nations around the world. The EAC's certification program uses its oversight role to coordinate with manufacturers and local election officials to ensure that existing voting equipment meets durability and longevity standards. This relieves states and local governments of burdensome costs of acquiring new but unnecessary voting equipment.

Several countries are so impressed with our system that they have signed agreements with the EAC for technical assistance as they develop their own voting system standards and certification procedures.

The EAC has also played a central role in improving the accessibility of voting for the country's more than 37 million voters with disabilities. We still have a long way to go to achieve the Help America Vote Act's mandate to make voting accessible and the EAC's leadership is essential to continuing the effort to offer all Americans the right to vote "privately and independently."

Mr. Speaker, it is worth recalling that the EAC, an independent bipartisan commission charged with improving the conduct of elections in America to ensure that every vote counts, was born out of the 2000 presidential election fiasco with its unforgettable contributions to the political lexicon: "hanging" chads, "pregnant" chads, "dimpled" chads; "butterfly ballots"; and "voter intent."

In response to the 2000 debacle, the EAC has performed valuable work to ensure the reliability and trustworthiness of our nation's election systems. It has played a central role in collecting accurate and comparable election data. With our nation's complex and diversified election administration system, central data