

offered incentives to lower daily water usage by offering high-efficiency toilets and implementing a progressive seasonal rate structure. Rebates were offered for water-efficient washing machines and central refrigeration systems. In addition, 185,000 efficient shower heads, 9,000 evaporative cooler bleed-off line clamps, and 170 waterless urinals were provided at no cost to improve efficiency. Thousands of residents also eliminated their grass lawns through the Turf Rebate Programs, saving El Paso 894 million gallons annually of water. These efforts combine to conserve over 3.6 billion gallons of water annually.

In addition to these measures, El Pasoans use 2.1 billion of reclaimed water annually, a water source that is unaffected by drought, and awareness campaigns have encouraged El Pasoans to conserve water. In two decades, El Paso was able to coordinate a series of programs to achieve its goal of averting a water shortage, while dramatically reducing consumer demand and saving \$460 million in the process by deferring the expansion of water facilities. The El Paso Water Utilities desalination plant has helped provide water especially in the most recent drought we are experiencing, and has become a main source of water for the city. It treats 27 million gallons of water daily, making it the largest inland plant in the world.

El Paso is serious about water conservation, and I am proud to represent a community that works together to protect and conserve our precious resources.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. DOROTHY LEAVELL AS SHE CELEBRATES HER 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH THE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS AND GARY, INDIANA CRUSADER NEWSPAPERS

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 14, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Dorothy Leavell migrated to Chicago, Illinois from Pine Bluff, Arkansas and began her newspaper career as an office clerk with the Crusader Newspapers in 1961. She took over as publisher in 1968 after the death of her first husband, Balm Leavell, who was one of the two founders of the Crusader.

In the ensuing years Mrs. Leavell distinguished herself as a militant minded muckraking journalist, community activist and business person. She joined the National Newspaper Publishers Association and for more than 40 years she has been a dedicated and active member and leader of the organization. She has been its Chairperson, Chairwoman of various committee and task forces. As well, she also led a controversial 20 member group to Nigeria to investigate its political crisis.

As a media advocate she also was a staunch and critical supporter for the confirmation of Alexis Herman to become the U.S. Secretary of Labor. As publisher of the Crusader, Ms. Leavell has been a strong supporter of affirmative action, parity in advertising and civil rights pursuits. Dorothy Leavell has been an outstanding journalist and a

brave publisher and a great humanitarian; therefore, I am pleased to commend her and wish for her fifty more years of productive service.

In addition to her journalist work, Ms. Leavell is the wife of Mr. John Smith, her second husband, the mother of two children, three grandchildren and has also raised a niece and a nephew. She is actively involved in her church, Holy Name of Mary in the Morgan Park Community of Chicago.

Under Ms. Leavell's tutelage the Crusader has become the City of Chicago's largest locally Black owned paid circulation newspaper. May it long live and may the legacy of Ms. Dorothy Leavell last forever.

IN MEMORY OF ZONA ANN STRATHEARN

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 14, 2011*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of my good friend, Zona Ann Strathearn, who passed away last month and whose life will be celebrated next week.

Zona epitomized life, even during her nearly 10-year battle with cancer. She was the consummate volunteer, philanthropist, world traveler, card shark, outdoor enthusiast, and tennis player. But most importantly, she was a tireless partner to her husband, Bruce, with whom she recently celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary, and a devoted mother and grandmother.

Among her volunteer activities, Zona was a member of the Flight Bags, a community-oriented group of pilot wives during her first marriage, and a candy stripper at Simi Valley Hospital for 12 years and a hospice volunteer with Livingston Memorial for three years.

Zona also assisted Bruce's work on various committees and served as a Rotarian wife for 12 years. Additionally, she contributed to the Women's Legacy Fund, Heritage Fund, Destino Latino 2000 Fund, the Strathearn Family Fund to support the Chamber's Foundation for Simi Valley, and the Bruce and Zona Strathearn Fund for future Ventura County Charities.

She was a shark at several card games including Gin, Gin Rummy, Cribbage and Bridge, and she relished in her marathon bridge sessions with locals throughout Ventura County. Zona was an exceptional singles and doubles tennis player, and she played both competitively at Sunset Hills Country Club. After experiencing an exotic hiking excursion to Provence, France, in 1999, Zona became involved with a local hike and bike club and enjoyed several hiking trips across Southern California in the following years.

In addition to several trips to Europe, Zona also toured South Africa, Vietnam, China, Australia and New Zealand. Her travels included many annual trips to Northeastern Oregon and the Sierras, where she consistently caught the most and largest fish on each trip. For her many excursions, Zona earned the nickname "Zoomer."

In addition to Bruce, Zona is survived by her daughters, Allison Strathearn-Forrest and

Allison's husband, Roger, Kim Strathearn, and Kimberly Gustafson and Kimberly's husband, Kurt; and her son, David Strathearn and his wife, Alisa; granddaughter, Khysa Gustafson; and grandsons, Kaden Gustafson and Preston Lloyd Strathearn.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in celebrating Zona's exceptional energy and passion, and in sending our sincere condolences to Bruce and their family.

AWARD FOR PRIVATE ERNEST WEDELL

### HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 14, 2011*

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our brave warfighters, Mr. Ernest Wedell. Mr. Wedell entered the United States Army in July 1952 in Galesburg, Illinois. After he finished his training he was sent to Korea, where he was assigned to the 17th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "the Buffalos," of the 7th Infantry Division. They were nicknamed the Buffalos after one of the Regiment's Commanding Officers in the Korean War, Colonel William W. "Buffalo Bill" Quinn. This incredible regiment was an important part of the Korean War and continues to fight for our country to this day.

In April 1953, elements of the 7th Infantry Division were ordered to take and hold what would later become the famous battle for Pork Chop Hill. On April 20, during the first battle of Pork Chop Hill, Private Wedell was wounded in combat. During this battle the United States experienced 243 casualties and an additional 916 were wounded. Less than three weeks after the second battle, the Armistice was signed thereby ending hostilities.

On May 7, 1953, while recovering in a military hospital in Japan, Private Wedell was awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart because of the wounds he sustained during this battle. In addition, Private Wedell was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal for his exemplary service in the United States Army.

However, another award that every infantryman cherishes is the award that Private Wedell earns today. The Combat Infantryman's Badge, commonly called the CIB, is awarded to soldiers, both enlisted and officers holding the rank of colonel or below. Those who receive this award were personally present and under hostile fire while serving in assigned primary infantry or Special Forces duty in a unit actively engaging the enemy in ground combat.

On the 17th day of October, 2011, after fifty-eight years of waiting, it is my humble privilege and honor to present to Ernest Wedell on behalf of a grateful nation and the citizens of Illinois, the Combat Infantryman's Badge. We are very lucky to have had dedicated warfighters like Mr. Wedell in our Army. Our country owes him and those like him a great debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they have made for us.