

An article published in the McCreary County Record recently described the events of McCreary County's centennial celebration. I ask unanimous consent that said article appear in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to appear as follows:

[From the McCreary County Record, Mar. 15, 2012]

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! COUNTY MARKS 100 YEARS
WITH DAY-LONG CELEBRATION

(By Janie Slaven)

WHITLEY CITY.—The past, present, and future converged Monday as McCreary County celebrated its centennial.

Festivities centered around the local courthouse, which attracted state and federal dignitaries.

Representatives for Governor Steve Beshear and U.S. Senator MITCH MCCONNELL read congratulatory letters while State Representative Sara Beth Gregory presented McCreary County Judge-Executive Doug Stephens with a resolution passed by the House on Friday.

Judge Stephens opened the ceremony with a prayer. Quoting *I Chronicles*, he acknowledged that McCreary County has suffered the "curse of poverty and scourge of drugs" but asked God to heal our land. The judge went on to praise the endurance and resilience of our citizens, saying that McCreary County is not just a spot on a map but a way of life.

"We have a rich history but we also have a rich future," Judge Stephens said.

To illustrate that history, the bulk of the ceremony was devoted to "A Governor's Visit"—the dramatization of namesake Governor James B. McCreary's 1914 visit to Kentucky's latest county—by local historian Sam Perry. Through speeches from the governor (as portrayed by Jimmy Waters), first elected county judge Joseph Williams (Adam Phillips), State Rep. William B. Creekmore (Grady Wilson), and narration from former judge-executive Jimmie W. Greene; the play gave the crowd attending a lesson in who settled the Big South Fork region and what went into forging the new McCreary County from portions of Wayne, Pulaski and Whitley counties.

Following the play, Judge Stephens ceremoniously cut the first piece of the county birthday cake (prepared by Yummi Bakery)—which he presented to the oldest citizen in attendance, Fannie Morgan, who turned 100 last November. The second piece went to the youngest citizen, four-year-old Bailey Gilreath.

The crowd then gathered into the fiscal courtroom, where county officials debuted the recently refurbished portraits of 14 of McCreary County's 19 judges and judge-executives. Centennial Commission member Shane Gilreath noted that the elite group came from all walks of life. They were attorneys, social workers, farmers, miners, teachers and more.

Photographs of Mahan Renfro and Joseph Williams, which had hung in the portrait gallery and have been replaced by paintings, were presented to family members. Maxine Lawson, "Cookie" Joe Williams and Debbie Jo Peterson represented three generations of the Williams family. Greene, Renfro's nephew by marriage, joked that he had lobbied for a portrait to represent each of his four terms.

Deputy Judge-Executive Andrew Powell and McCreary County Museum director Amy Combs recognized the artists in attendance—including Dorothy Washam, Dale Crabtree, and Nadine Heth—before unveiling two new portraits honoring the last two judge-execu-

tives. Judge Stephens's portrait will be hung at a later date, but Blaine Phillips's portrait was hung by his wife, Kathy, and twin brother, Wayne.

Before breaking for a luncheon hosted by the McCreary County Historical Society, those attending had the opportunity to view a number of exhibits displayed throughout the courthouse's ground floor.

If the morning was devoted to our county's past, the evening focused firmly on the future. After signing a proclamation honoring the county's centennial during Monday's regular fiscal court meeting, Judge Stephens signed another in honor of the Girl Scouts' 100th anniversary. Local troops—assisted by representatives from the Daniel Boone National Forest's Stearns Ranger District (which is celebrating its 75th anniversary)—planted a sugar maple on the courthouse lawn.

If you missed Monday's celebration, you have several opportunities to obtain centennial keepsakes.

For a limited time, the U.S. Postal Service is offering a postmark commemorating the occasion. Mail order requests for the special cancellations will be available for 30 days beginning March 12.

Customers should allow at least a 2-inch-by-4-inch space in the stamp area for the postmark and have postage applied to cards or letters before mailing them—inside another envelope—to: Postmaster, McCreary County Centennial Station, 1387 North Highway 27, Whitley City, KY 42653.

The McCreary County Museum is offering a set of 12 historic postcards as well as DVDs of the day's events for \$10 each. Call 376-5730 for more information.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, finally, let me shift gears to another topic I care deeply about; that is, taking care of our veterans. This weekend a group of World War II veterans from Montana will be visiting our Nation's capital. With a great deal of honor and respect, I extend a hearty Montana welcome to each and every one of them.

Together, they will visit the World War II Memorial and share stories about their service. This journey will no doubt bring about a lot of memories. I hope it will give them a deep sense of pride also.

What they achieved together almost 70 years ago was remarkable. That memorial is a testament to the fact that a grateful nation will never forget what they did nor what they sacrificed. To us, they were the greatest generation. They left the comforts of their family and their communities to confront evil from Iwo Jima to Bastogne. Together, they won the war in the Pacific by conquering an empire and liberated a continent by defeating Hitler and the Nazis.

To them, they were simply doing their jobs. They enlisted in unprecedented numbers to defend our freedoms and our values. They represented the very best of us and made us proud.

From a young age I remember playing the bugle at the memorial services of veterans of the first two world wars. It instilled in me a profound sense of respect I will never forget.

Honoring the service of every generation of American veterans is a Mon-

tana value. I deeply appreciate the work of the Big Sky Honor Flight, a nonprofit organization that made this trip possible.

To the World War II veterans making the trip this weekend, I salute you. We will always be grateful, and we will never forget your service or sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO STAN SLOSS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, as every one of our colleagues will attest, the work we do in this Chamber is made possible by many exceptional people who do not carry an election certificate. I am speaking of the dedicated staffers who work on committees and in our personal offices.

Many of the staff members we interact with every day go on to build their own careers in political life, while others use the skills they developed here to work in rewarding ways for the private sector. Others continue in public service with nonprofit organizations or other kinds of government service. A few will make their contribution to public service by staying here as employees of the House of Representatives or the Senate. A smaller and more distinct group will develop such broad expertise in the legislative branch that they might as well carry an election certificate of their own because of the respect, esteem, and high regard in which they are held. These are the men and women whom other congressional staffers seek for their wisdom and guidance. These are the wise people whom Senators and Congressmen look upon as peers, not only because of their good counsel and uniquely honed years of experience but also because they often know more about the legislative process than legislators themselves.

Among this more and most distinct group of staff members, there is a standout, my friend Stan Sloss. I know the Presiding Officer knows Stan Sloss. Stan is marking his 14th year of service in my office but also 37 total years of work in Congress.

A native of Glenwood Springs, CO, Stan is a graduate of Amherst College and Harvard Law School. He came to Washington, DC, in the late 1960s, working first in the General Counsel's Office of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Stan's congressional career started in 1975 when he joined the staff of what was then known as the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives.

In 1977 Stan became a counsel to the new Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands chaired by former Representative John Seiberling, an iconic past Member of the House of Representatives. In this capacity, Stan worked with both Representative Seiberling and my father, Morris Udall, who was chairman of the full Interior Committee.

Stan has had many successes, but one that I am most proud of is his work to help draft legislation that became the