

Century, including both World Wars. She was launched 100 years ago this year and commissioned on March 12, 1914. She was the most powerful warship that the world had seen, and she participated in the invasion of North Africa, Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Her most notable contributions came in WW II, firing at Nazi defenses during the D-Day invasion at Normandy. Called the “smartest man o’war afloat,” the *Texas* was an integral part of many US victories. As the flagship of the US fleet on D-Day, the *Texas* was the first of her kind to mount anti-aircraft guns and the first US battleship to launch an aircraft. At the end of the War, she made three trips, bringing American servicemen home.

On the anniversary of San Jacinto Day, April 21, 1948, the *Texas* was decommissioned. Her place in history took root right here in our backyard. School children across *Texas* saved their nickels to help pay to dry dock the Battleship at the site of the Battle-grounds on the San Jacinto River. As a kid, it was obvious to me why General Sam routed Santa Anna—we had a Battleship! After all she was retired on San Jacinto Day. It took me awhile to figure out that the *Texas* Revolution was in the 1800s, and the Battleship *Texas* was used in the 1900s. While that all made perfectly good sense to me back then, my love for *Texas* history in the years to come taught me that they were not the same war and General Sam’s accomplishments became far more impressive.

During my tenure as a judge, the “Mighty T” found its way back into my life and into the lives of offenders that I ordered to be “enlisted” in the “*Texas* Navy.” I ordered probationers who were skilled welders, painters, plumbers and electricians to help in the restoration efforts of the Battleship. As one of many creative sentences, this became another effective tool that both served the public and the probationer—a few even went on to be hired by the *Texas* Parks and Wildlife Department. The probationers became a part of the history of the great ship. After being dry docked in Galveston in the 80’s, many much needed repairs were made by different organizations and thousands of volunteers. The Battleship is now moored in its present location.

During my first term in Congress, I joined efforts with Congressman GENE GREEN in securing federal funding to permanently dry dock and display the USS *Texas* so that my grandchildren and generations to come could climb all over one of the world’s finest fighting vessels. My DC staff visits the ship, usually in August, and I act as the *Texas* historian, along with help from the real experts, the Battleship staff from the *Texas* Parks and Wildlife Department.

Today, the Battleship *Texas* serves as a museum and a reminder of wars long past. In 1948, she was designated a National Historic Landmark. Today, the *Texas* has an onboard museum that details her efforts in our fight for freedom and a history of the sailors that called her their own.

But, all is not well with the *Texas*. What her enemies in battle could not do to her, nature has. She is old and is taking on water. She is covered with rubber patches and aluminum plates, and about one thousand gallons of water pour through her body every day. Last week, visitors were turned away from this Na-

tional Historic Landmark. The grand lady of the seas is closed until further notice. Visitors have been told the ship is closed while workers battle her leaks. Her recovery could cost an estimated 50 million dollars. In a 2007 bond election, voters approved \$25 million for her repair. This isn’t enough. And, as much as it will help, the money won’t be released until September. *Texas* is not just a National Historic Landmark, she is a state treasure to *Texans* and a monument to American sailors who first sailed her 100 years ago. The *Texas* needs volunteers and money to honor the ship and all who sailed her. Time is not on the side of the ship. *Texans* must save the ship now.

Otherwise, as we approach the sweltering heat of the “season” of August, we may see the beginning of the permanent demise of the USS Battleship *Texas*. *Texans* cannot allow the great *Texas* to sink from neglect and disappear beneath the water of history. And that’s just the way it is.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. ROBERT JOHN “BOB” MESLER, AS PRINTED IN THE MIDLAND DAILY NEWS ON JUNE 21, 2012

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, Robert John “Bob” Mesler, Jr., 87, longtime Midland resident, World War II veteran and retired Manager of Emergency Response for The Dow Chemical Company, passed away Wednesday, June 20, 2012, after a lengthy illness. Bob was born on January 4, 1925, in Cass City, Michigan, to Robert John Mesler, Sr. and Ethelyn Louise (Smith) Mesler. The Meslers moved to Midland from Saginaw in 1941. Bob was a January, 1943 graduate of Midland High School, where he played football and ran track. He began his career at The Dow Chemical Company immediately after graduation. Less than six months later, Bob was drafted into the U.S. Army, and after basic training, was assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program at Hendrix College, Arkansas.

Bob married his high school sweetheart Margery Keicher on August 16, 1944, a month before shipping out to England, then to Belgium where he served in the U.S. infantry. During the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945, Sergeant Mesler was taken prisoner, escaping his captors at the end of April 1945, a few weeks before V-E Day. He was initially reported missing, and it wasn’t until he had escaped that his family learned he’d actually been a POW.

“At the present, we live for the future, but we will long remember the past,” he wrote home in an April 8, 1945 letter to his bride that vividly described his capture and treatment at the hands of his German captors, long marches and strafing by friendly fire. He was serious about remembering the past. Whatever it cost him in painful memory, he talked about those wartime experiences with generations of inquiring middle and high school students, as well as with those now-grown children of his fellow World War II veterans who perhaps hadn’t shared their stories as can-

didly. Though he rarely claimed the distinction, Bob was proud to have served as a member of “The Greatest Generation.” With Marge by his side, he revisited the Ardennes battlefield in 1989, where he was impressed by a local memorial to his fallen comrades. “It kind of finished off some unfinished business I had,” he said upon returning home. Fifteen years later, Bob and fellow Midland veterans Max Bottomley and Bill Kennett—father of Midland Daily News reporter John Kennett—joined their fellow honorees in Washington, D.C. at the dedication of the National World War II Memorial.

With his war service completed, Bob attended Central Michigan University, graduating in 1949, with a B.S. in Biology. He resumed his career at The Dow Chemical Company, capping his 40-year career there by retiring as Manager of Emergency Response. Always active in his church and community, Bob’s civic efforts included two terms on Midland’s Parks and Recreation Commission, the presidency of the Jaycees, and being district manager for then-Congressman William Schuette. A talented craftsman, Bob also worked on the crew that restored the Midland County Courthouse. Until recently, Bob was the Buildings and Grounds committee chair for St. John’s Episcopal Church in Midland, where he had previously served terms on the church vestry as both the senior and junior warden, as well as being a Sunday School teacher and youth leader.

An avid sports booster, Bob coached and refereed Little League baseball as well as coaching Pee Wee Football. Bob and Marge raised two sons; Jeff (Sheila) Mesler and Greg Mesler, both of whom survive him, as does Jeff and Sheila’s son Kyle Robert Mesler. Bob’s brother Garry (Jean) Mesler also survives him, along with nieces and nephews Kim, Liz, Kevin, Patti, Jim, Ethelyn, Mike, Lyn, John, Janette, Sherry, Mary and Bill.

Bob was “stand-in grandfather” to Anna, Maria, Cate and Matt. His extended family, the “Gang,” includes Niki (Don) Beckwith, Max and Martha Bottomley, Gloria and Pete Lehman, Bill and Bonnie Kennett, Grace and Mike Merrell, Janet (Larry) Lang, Helen (Bob) Ward and Caroline (Al) Gunkler. Bob was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, James Russell Mesler and James Richard Mesler.

Memorial Services will take place at 11 a.m., Monday, June 25, 2012, from St. John’s Episcopal Church, The Rev. Rob Skirving and The Rev. Mike Wilson will officiate, with inurnment to take place in the church mausoleum. Bob’s family will receive friends at the Ware-Smith-Woolever Funeral Home, 1200 West Wheeler Street on Sunday from 2–4 and 6–8 p.m. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the Toni and Trish House or Shelterhouse. Full military honors will be presented by the Midland Area Veterans and the Department of the U.S. Army.

The family would like to give special thanks to Bob’s Midland doctors, to Dr. Washer of the University of Michigan, and especially Dr. Hafez of the University of Michigan, for all the special care they gave Bob. Thanks also to the staff of MidMichigan Home Care (Hospice) and Bob’s special nurse Raime.

IMPORTANCE OF FUEL
EFFICIENCY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss fuel efficiency, an issue that is near and dear to the heart of all hardworking Americans. As Members of Congress, it is our mission to do all that we can to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil for America's families. We must work hard to create and incentivize ways to produce alternative fuels and reduce gas prices here at home. And we should continue to work with our auto industry to promote the manufacturing of more fuel efficient vehicles right here in America. America's auto industry is hard at work manufacturing and developing the technology to manufacture more fuel efficient vehicles.

My congressional district and the State of Alabama is home to many auto manufacturers and suppliers that are achieving that goal and are even working hard to exceed it. All Americans can contribute to promoting energy independence and environmental sustainability by taking a few simple steps. And as we head into the major summer driving season, it's important to remember that we all can improve fuel efficiency right now.

For example, using cruise control will help drivers maintain a steady speed and save fuel. Studies have shown that tuning your car and keeping tires inflated can increase your fuel economy by 3 or 4%. Driving responsibly and at the speed limit also helps to improve fuel economy.

The EPA's website provides information about fuel efficient driving and there are numerous agencies and organizations that provide information and resources about how to drive more efficiently. Auto manufacturers and associations have also undertaken efforts to increase awareness and educate us all about fuel efficiency, and I support and applaud those efforts.

In closing, I encourage all of us to take the time to learn how to drive more efficiently and maximize our fuel economy. These techniques will save Americans fuel, decrease emissions and help us achieve energy independence.

HONORING KAY A. CALAS

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mrs. Kay A. Calas, who passed away on Monday, June 18, 2012 at the age of 88.

We often hear the term "founding fathers" used to describe the framers of this country. Kay Calas was one of the founding mothers of the City of Carson, California, and as a 29-year member of the Carson City Council, she was truly a legend in her own time.

Kay Calas was not only one of the longest tenured elected officials in Los County's history, she was also one of the most effective and revered council-members of her time. She is credited with helping to shape a thriving city

from what was once a collection of waste dumps, vacant land patches and oil production facilities in the eastern section of Los Angeles County's South Bay region.

The creation of the City of Carson happened during the time that my father, L.A. County Supervisor Kenny Hahn, presided over that previously unincorporated area. My father's great respect for Kay Calas and her husband John, himself a great community leader and former Carson Mayor, stemmed from their shared vision of an ideal city in which people from all walks of life could live and do business harmoniously. That shared vision made Kenny Hahn a John and Kay Calas ally for life.

Once the loftier goal of incorporating Carson had been accomplished, Kay Calas relentlessly pursued her passion: that is the business of serving the people. Kay was always a champion for the senior citizens, and she had a deep love for fine arts. The Carson Symphony Association had a yearly concert for 3,000 school children, and Kay would routinely pay for the buses to bring the children to the event. She spearheaded the effort to extend Del Amo Boulevard over the San Diego (405) Freeway creating an important thoroughway to ease rush hour street traffic in the middle of town. The bridge now bears her name, while a park on East 220th Street in Carson is named after her late husband John Calas.

Above all else, Kay Calas was a public servant of the highest possible integrity. Current Carson Mayor James Dear, who served as Mayor with Mrs. Calas during two of her eight terms in office, described Kay Calas' character as "above reproach".

I extend my deepest condolences to her three surviving sons, Frank, James and Thomas, and Kay's numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Though Kay Calas is no longer with us, her legacy lives on in the lives of her family and in the community that she served so tirelessly throughout her remarkable life.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANNIE
JOHNSON-SINKFIELD

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, reaching the age of 80 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield was born on June 14, 1932 and is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sinkfield has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sinkfield is celebrating her 80th birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in DeKalb County, Georgia, on June 16, 2012, she celebrates a life of blessings; as a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; an advocate, faithful church member at Poplar Springs Baptist Church in Ellenwood, Georgia, and a community leader; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 80th birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim June 14, 2012, as Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LAKEWOOD
CALIFORNIA'S BRUCE DUBOIS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of one of Lakewood California's most prominent residents, Bruce DuBois. Mr. DuBois was born in my own district in 1935 at Seaside Hospital in Long Beach. He attended school in Compton until transferring to Downey High School. He could not stay away from the 37th district for long, and after enlisting in the Army and serving in France, he returned to attend Compton College.

It was during his time in college where Mr. DuBois met the love of his life and the woman he would spend the next five decades with. Diane DuBois was also a student at Compton College, and after the two met at a party it was only a year until they were married. Mrs. DuBois would later go on to become mayor of Lakewood, always with the proud support of her beloved husband.

While being an avid family man, Mr. DuBois dedicated his life to serving the community. He was very active with the Jaycees, a service group that provides leadership training through community service for adults ages 18-40. He met many of his best friends through this organization.

After retirement Mr. DuBois continued his volunteer work with the organization Meals on Wheels. At least once a week he would deliver meals to his community's shut-ins and elderly. His wife stated that he took great pride in this work, and met many friends along the way.

Mr. DuBois' life can be remembered as full of service to his community, friendship and family. He was a man we could all look to for warmth and kindness, and his presence will be sorely missed. He leaves behind his wife, two daughters, four grandchildren and a sister.

HONORING NATIONAL PARK
CLIMBING RANGER NICK HALL
AND OTHER CLIMBING RANGERS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a hero who died last month leading an effort to save four climbers on Mt. Rainier in Washington State.

On June 21 four climbers fell into a crevasse on a glacier on Mt. Rainier. National