

through the ranks and in 1957 became the fifth commandant of the WAC, a position she occupied for 6 years, first appointed by President Eisenhower and reappointed by President Kennedy. Mary Louise led the way for women in the military. Mrs. Rasmuson's oral history of the WAC unit, World War II and the Korean War is among those recorded by The Library of Congress for The Veterans History Project.

In 1942, as the United States entered World War II, Mrs. Rasmuson left her job as an assistant principal in a school district near Pittsburgh and became a member of the first class of the new WAC.

As director of the WAC unit, military historians credit her with major achievements including increasing the WAC's strength, insisting on effectiveness in command, working with Congress to amend laws that deprived women of service credit and benefits, and expanding the range of military opportunities open to women.

Mrs. Rasmuson retired in 1962 after 20 years of military service, during which she received a Legion of Merit award with two oak leaf clusters for her work integrating Black women into the WAC. She was also awarded the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Occupation Medal and National Defense Medal. At an event honoring her, former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry said, "When you hear about women seizing new opportunities to serve, remember that they march behind Colonel Rasmuson."

Mary Louise's impact can be felt virtually everywhere in Alaska, whether improving the position of families, founding a world-class museum, enhancing research in healthcare, and advancing understanding of Alaska Native cultures on a national stage. Her contributions have reached every corner of Alaska, from Ketchikan to Gambell.

Mrs. Rasmuson arrived in Alaska in 1962 after her marriage to Elmer E. Rasmuson, chairman of National Bank of Alaska. Together, they made a formidable team influential in the public and civic agenda in a rapidly developing city and State. She quickly adapted to life in Alaska and became active in several community groups. One of her most visible impacts on Alaska came from her service as head of the Municipality of Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Commission and later as chair of the Anchorage Museum Foundation. Her vision, passion and personal effort led to the creation of the Anchorage Museum of Art and History in 1968. As Mayor of Anchorage, I was proud to be with Mrs. Rasmuson to cut the ribbon on the latest expansion of the museum, now named the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, a culminating moment in her decades-long vision to build a great museum for all Alaskans.

In 1967, Mrs. Rasmuson began what would become 45 years of service on the

board of Rasmuson Foundation. She maintained an active voice in the affairs of the Foundation and regularly attended board meetings until her late 90s, when she transitioned to an emeritus position. Even in the last years of her life, Mrs. Rasmuson received briefings from Foundation staff on projects seeking Foundation support.

Facilities that bear her name include the Elmer and Mary Louise Rasmuson Theater at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, the Elmer and Mary Louise Rasmuson Center for Rheumatic Disease at the Benaroya Research Institute of Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle, WA, and the Mary Louise Rasmuson Pavilion at the Boy Scouts of America Camp Gorsuch in Chugiak, AK. Mary Louise Rasmuson will be missed by all who knew her, but her legacy will live forever in the hearts and minds of Alaskans.●

TRIBUTE TO SOFIA GUANA

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of one of Nevada's own, Sofia Guana, on her 100th birthday. Her dedication to community service is commendable, and I am proud that she calls Nevada home.

After Sofia came to Carson City, NV, just more than 20 years ago, she dedicated her time to investing in the Silver State. Whether it was through working for the University of Nevada's Cooperative Extension or volunteering for the local senior citizen's center, Sofia's commitment to the betterment of her State and community is commendable. She serves as an example to us all, and I hope that many more will follow in her footsteps.

Sofia's dedication to the betterment of others does not stop with her local community of Carson. A devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, she is the lifeblood of her family.

Mr. President, I am proud to call Sofia one of Nevada's own and wish her a very happy 100th birthday. On behalf of the State and the residents of Carson City, I thank her for her service and wish her all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDY KROLL

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I would like to take this opportunity to honor Judy Kroll of Volga, SD.

Judy Kroll has spent her career serving the community of Brookings, SD, in her capacity as an educator, as well as the director of the thriving speech and debate program at Brookings High School.

Judy, who retired this summer, served as a South Dakota educator for 37 years, teaching in both Madison and Parkston before starting at Brookings High School in 1980. During her 32 years as an educator and debate coach in Brookings, she has left an indelible impact on her students, dedicating an immeasurable amount of time to posi-

tively impacting the lives of young people. Judy has devoted countless hours to advance the critical and analytical skills of those students who she taught, coached, and mentored.

During her coaching career, Judy has been awarded South Dakota Forensic Coaches Association Coach of the Year on numerous occasions and coached her students to multiple State championships in various speech and debate events. Her success as a coach was also demonstrated at the national level. She coached policy debate teams to 2nd and 3rd place finishes in 2000 at the National Forensics League National Speech and Debate Tournament and a 7th place finish earlier this summer at the same tournament.

Judy's longstanding involvement in the debate community has been recognized not only by her South Dakota peers, but at a national level as well. In 2011, she was admitted to the National Forensics League Hall of Fame. Of the thousands of debate coaches who have been a part of the National Forensics League since its inception in 1925, only 158 individuals have earned this honor. Judy is one of four South Dakotans to have received this honor. In addition, she was recently named the 2012 National Forensics League Coach of the Year. This award recognizes Judy's outstanding leadership and commitment to National Forensic League activities. Judy's receipt of this award marks only the second time a South Dakotan has received such an honor since it was first awarded in 1953.

During her teaching and coaching career, Judy encouraged her students to never give up on accomplishing their goals. She promoted outstanding sportsmanship and for years a large display in her classroom read, "What is popular is not always right, and what is right is not always popular." Judy exemplified for her students the importance of working hard and attaining success without compromising ethics and sense of doing what is right.

I join Judy's family, friends, and students in recognizing her meritorious work and extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Judy for all she has done for her students and the State of South Dakota, and wish her the best in her retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 828. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that persons having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for Federal employment.

H.R. 3641. An act to establish Pinnacles National Park in the State of California as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment: