

the Alabama Trucking Association to the well-being of the State of Alabama as the Association celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2013.

The Alabama Trucking Association was founded in 1938 in Birmingham and later incorporated and moved its offices to Montgomery. The Association has grown from 16 trucking companies in 1938 to over 675 trucking related firms in 2013, and has been a valuable source of information and statistics pertaining to trucking. With one of every fourteen citizens in Alabama being employed by the trucking industry, trucking provides over 106,570 jobs contributing to the economic growth and development of the State. The Alabama trucking industry pays \$545 million in federal and state roadway taxes and fees representing 38% of all taxes and fees owed by Alabama motorists, despite the fact that trucks represent only 13 percent of vehicle miles traveled in the State. In addition, trucks serve all areas of Alabama and are the only transportation for goods for over eighty percent of Alabama communities and play a major role in transportation import and export movement.

The Alabama Trucking Association members put safety first through improved driver training, investment in advanced safety technologies and active participation in industry safety initiatives at the local, state and national levels. The leadership of the Alabama Trucking Association has developed many friendships among Alabama's trucking companies, related industries and organizations, and members of the State Legislature and state and federal government agencies.

The Alabama Trucking Association is well respected and has been very successful with its legislative and regulatory agenda, its efforts to improve highway safety, and the efficiency of trucking in Alabama.

I am thankful for the Alabama Trucking Association and the service and support they provide to a vital part of Alabama and our na-

tion's economy and work force. Congratulations to them again for 75 excellent years.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TOM STAED

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of an outstanding businessman, a community leader and a friend, Tom Staed. With his passing on February 26, 2013, both his family and our state have lost a loved one and strong voice for the benefit of our region.

Tom was born on April 27, 1931, in Memphis, Tennessee and attended Sacred Heart Grammar School and Christian Brothers High School in Memphis before attending Memphis State. His college career was interrupted by the Korean War as he was called to serve in the United States Marine Corps and distinguished himself as an artillery coordinator. After being honorably discharged as a Corporal, he returned to Memphis State where he became Editor of the School Newspaper, President of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, graduated with a B.A. in Journalism, and then went on to Tulane University School of Law.

While at Tulane, Tom met Barbara Dodd, and the couple soon married and moved to Daytona Beach, Florida. It was in Daytona Beach where Tom began his long, successful, and distinguished career in the hospitality industry; almost singlehandedly transforming the landscape of hotels on the coast of Volusia County through his 11 hotels and interests in the Ocean Eleven Resorts. He financed and purchased several old hotels in the Daytona

area and was able to make them successful in a short time through hard work, determination, and a can-do style.

Tom was a recognized leader and committed member of both the Florida and national lodging and tourism industries, and firmly believed in civic involvement. Some of the notable local, state, and national boards he was appointed to include President of Best Western International Inc., President the Florida Hotel and Motel Association, Chairman of Florida's Governor's Tourism Advisory Council, Visit Florida, Inc., Chairman of the American Hotel and Motel Association. He was the Florida Hotelier of the Year in 1982. He was also a past Chairman and Founding member of the Halifax Area Advertising Authority.

Tom had a life long interest in politics and I recall the last time I saw Tom at one of his hotels, he spoke of past campaigns and issues he worked on over 30 years in Florida and specifically his times as a trusted friend and ally of leaders in both the Democrat and Republican Parties. He was truly a gift to all Floridians.

As someone who served on numerous local associations, commissions and boards for civic and charitable organizations, Tom was a committed philanthropist that always focused on giving back to those less fortunate than himself.

A devoted husband, father and grandfather, he truly made an indelible mark on his family, community and industry. In our community, the name Tom Staed stood for integrity, compassion and public service, and through that principled dedication he leaves a proud and distinguished legacy. Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing Tom Staed's years of service and dedication to our community, our state and our Nation.