

21ST HONOR FLIGHT NORTHERN COLORADO

• Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I stand here today to honor the distinguished veterans of the Northern Colorado Honor Flight who have made their 21st and final flight to Washington, DC. The Colonel Stan Cass Memorial Flight, in honor of Northern Colorado Honor Flight's founder, consisted of over 120 distinguished veterans.

Military service is an exceptional duty to the country. Though these memorials honor our veterans' service, no statue or monument can truly express the level of gratitude we feel for the veterans who risked their lives for our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. When the United States has been threatened, our veterans have stepped up and answered our country's call without reservation or fear.

Twice a year, veterans are able to travel to our Nation's Capital, where we are able to recognize them for their selflessness, fortitude, and bravery. Thirteen years after the founding of the Honor Flight Program, it spans across our country and recognizes veterans from every generation and every branch. In the past decade, Honor Flight Northern Colorado alone was able to take almost 3,000 veterans to Washington, DC.

Please join me in honoring the veterans of the 21st Honor Flight: Robert Hauser, Donald Reisner, Kenneth Sweeney, Philip Bell, Wilbur Doeksen, Edmund Giese, Jr., Orville Markham, Roy Nichols, Lawrence Powers, Wesley Te Winkle, Gloria Atteberry, Walter Babcock, Terrill Bashline, Roger Bates, James Beemer, Anthony Benavidez, Michael Bernard, Gary Blomenkamp, Roger Boltz, Donald Bonenberger, Jimmy Bracking, Richard Bryson, Gerard Bucknall, Bruce Cameron, Cecily Cass, Larry Chartier, Archie Cloud, Jr., William Corbett, Steven Crall, Gregory Cranston, Gary Crego, Gary Cyr Sr., Thomas Danton, Raymond Davis, David DeCamp, Raymond Delgado, Salvatore Delprete, Ronald Dickerhoff, Brian Donahue, Alvin Dorsey, Eugene Eddy, Richard Fischer, Norman Fulton, Gary Garrison, James Gerck, William Gill III, Gregory Goettsch, Larry Goettsch, Allan Gott, Dallas Greenfield, Dennis Hammonds, Rodney Hansen, Gerald Henderson, James Hernandez, Edwin Hollingsworth, Donald Holt, Michael Hughes, Kenneth Iliff, Foy Jolley Jr., Gary Jones, Thomas Keen, James Kennedy, Stephen Kennedy, James Kepler, David Kinion, Mark Kintzley, Galen Konken, Nicholas Kricken, Donald Lambertson, Alec Leavitt, Roland Lei, Samuel Leighton, Robert Magnuson, Joseph Markham, Michael McCormick, Arthur Meek, Wayne Moeller, Juan Montoya, Marino Montoya, Charles Morgan, Richard Myron, Edward Nelson, Clayton Obland, John Ochoa, Dean Olson, Harleigh Pepler, Charles Powers, Albert Pribble, Rodger Price, Roger Ramsey, Paul Richmann, Kenneth Ricker, Robert Riggs, Philip Rouse,

John Rowland, Robert Rowton, Steven Rylant, Rodolfo Sanchez, John Sanger, Martin Sattler, William Schenk, John Schroetlin, Kenneth Schroetlin, Donald Shaffer, Bert Smith, Gerald Smith, Robert Starck, William Starck, Duane Steinbrecher, Billy Thornton, Robert Tomlinson, Larry Torrez, Garlin Trower, Jr., Ernest Tyler, John Vaughn, Eugene Vigil, Antonio Villarreal, John Ward, Howard Willich, William Woods, Steve Zivicky, William Zoller, and Brian Ivers. •

TRIBUTE TO DR. DOTTY MERRILL

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dr. Dotty Merrill for her work with the Nevada Association of School Boards. Dr. Merrill joined the association as executive director in October 2006, bringing more than 35 years of national, State, and local educational experience affecting K–12 schools and higher education.

Dr. Merrill provides executive leadership to the Nevada Association of School Boards, which represents and serves 107 elected and appointed members of the governing boards in Nevada's 17 school districts. Prior to joining the association, Merrill served as the superintendent of public policy, accountability, and assessment with the Washoe County School District, providing policy and fiscal representation on behalf of the district in the Nevada Legislature from 1999 to 2005.

Additionally, Dr. Merrill has dedicated her life and career to our State's education system and has extensive experience with charter schools, assessment to improve classroom instruction, accountability, State and Federal requirements, and molding collaborative and cooperative relationships among educational communities.

I also want to recognize that, before becoming a district-level administrator, Merrill taught high school English for 15 years and served for 10 years as a high school administrator. As the husband of a teacher and father of four who attended Nevada's public schools, I understand that our educators have one of the most challenging, important, and rewarding jobs, and I am extremely grateful for their work because I have seen firsthand the positive impact that high-caliber teachers have on their students.

Dr. Merrill's holds a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Nevada, Reno, a master of arts in English from the University of Nevada, Reno, and a bachelor of arts from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. She has also been published in several national education journals and currently serves on the editorial board for the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

We all know that a good education is the key to success and a better future, and as Nevada's senior U.S. Senator, I commend Dr. Merrill's dedication to our State's education and academic achievement. •

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT B. HEAD

• Mr. JONES. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Albert B. Head, a native of Troy, AL. Al has done a great deal for the southeast and the country. His work has been particularly impactful in my home State of Alabama, and I would like to touch on just a few of his accomplishments today.

Al earned his undergraduate degree from Troy State University, majoring in art history and aesthetics, was a star quarterback on Troy State's 1968 NAIA national championship football team, and received his master of liberal arts with a concentration on southern literature from Auburn University at Montgomery.

In 1972, Al joined the Fine Arts Council of Florida and subsequently received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship to attend Harvard's Arts Administration Institute in 1974. He served as executive director at the Stephen Foster Folklife Center and the Louisiana Division of the Arts before becoming executive director of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, a position he has held with distinction since 1985.

For more than 40 years as a director of three different cultural agencies and as a national arts leader, Al has advocated for the importance of the arts and the necessity of providing State support for the arts. He is the only State arts director to start folk arts programs in three States—Florida, Louisiana, and Alabama—and he has strived to show how important the folk and traditional arts are to defining and giving life to a community.

Al served two terms on the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies board and in 1998 received the Gary Young Award from that organization for his leadership and achievements in promoting the arts nationally. Al has also served as a member of the South Arts board for 38 years, presiding as its chair from 1983–85.

Al established the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture as a division of the Alabama Council on the Arts dedicated to research and presentation of the State's cultural traditions. In 1999, he received the Alumnus of the Year Award from Troy University National Alumni Association and in 2008 received the Distinguished Leadership Award created by Troy University to recognize an alumnus who has rendered outstanding service to the university and the public.

In 2012, he received the National Heritage Fellowship Bess Lomax Hawes Award from the National Endowment for the Arts recognizing his significant contributions to the preservation and awareness of cultural heritage.

Al has developed a reputation as one of the foremost arts agency directors in the Nation, has led the Alabama State Council on the Arts through a period of tremendous growth and accomplishment and has served as a mentor and champion for arts organizations and artists across the State of