

## A TRIBUTE TO MR. RALPH PAIGE

• Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, it is a pleasure for me to recognize Ralph Paige, executive director of the Southern Federation of Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, or LAF, as the recipient for the National Cooperative Month Economic Freedom Award.

For the past 14 years, under Mr. Paige's direction, the Federation/LAF has aided the underserved communities in the great State of Georgia, and the rural South, by creating credit unions, farmer-owned cooperatives, and new sources of affordable housing for low-income people. He has also been a leading advocate for fair treatment and land retention for African-Americans and other minority farmers. The Federation/LAF has created more than 70 cooperative member groups with a membership of more than 20,000 families across 10 Southern States, 200 units of affordable housing, and 19 credit unions with more than 10,000 members.

Under Mr. Paige's leadership, the Federation/LAF has been a frontrunner in not just developing new rural businesses and cooperatives but also provides the training and resources necessary so that they may continue to thrive. The Federation/LAF continues to also advance forestry cooperatives, providing special landowner training programs to advance their development.

Mr. Paige has given selflessly of his time to promote and enhance cooperative business. He serves on the boards of the National Cooperative Business Association, Nationwide Insurance, and the Cooperative Development Foundation. He has served as an appointee to several USDA advisory committees, including the 21st Century Production Agriculture Commission, the Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee for Trade, and the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board.

Mr. Paige is a past member of the boards for the Georgia Advisory Board on Small and Minority Business, Cooperative Business International, and Cooperative Works, which is a national network of cooperative development centers.

His achievements have been noted by national and international organizations. The Congressional Black Caucus recognized Mr. Paige's contributions to rural communities with the 2001 George Collins Rural Agriculture Advocacy Award. He is also an entrant into the George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame, and has received the Georgia Distinguished Cooperator Award from the Georgia Cooperative Council. Under Mr. Paige's direction, the Federation/LAF received the Humanitarian Award from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change and an award from the United Nations for "significant contributions of adequate shelter to the poorer segments of the community."

Ralph Paige epitomizes cooperation. Since 1967, the Federation/LAF has

worked on behalf of some of the most disadvantaged citizens of our Nation to enable them to do two of the things most basic to economic freedom: own land and operate businesses. For these reasons, it is my honor to recognize Ralph for his work to advance cooperatives and serve disadvantaged communities. I congratulate you on receiving the 2002 Cooperative Month Economic Freedom Award.●

## IN MEMORY OF HOLLY J. RICHARDSON

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, this week my colleague, the senior Senator from South Carolina, had a great loss on his staff with the passing of Mrs. Holly J. Richardson, after a battle with cancer. She was Senator THURMOND's executive assistant and personal secretary, having worked for him for half of his career in this body.

But Holly also was a part of the entire Senate family from South Carolina, being as kind and accommodating to my office in the many dealings that we have together as she was to Senator THURMOND. She was the most efficient, conscientious person you'll ever want to meet, always doing her job with the gracious attitude of the fine southern lady she was. We will miss her.

We extend our deepest sympathies to her husband, Phil, and to her children, Anne and Emmett.●

## TRIBUTE TO ANNIE REINHARDT LORITTS

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of the great State of Alabama, Mrs. Annie Loritts. Mrs. Loritts will celebrate her 100th birthday on December 15, 2002.

Over the past 100 years Mrs. Loritts has displayed a dedication to her family, her friends, her students, and her community. As a young woman in Lincolnton, North Carolina, in the 1920's, she pursued a teaching certificate from the Livingstone Normal Teachers School and taught under the supervision of her father, for a year. She then married Emory Loritts and went on to become very active in her community. Mrs. Loritts was involved with the Arts Council of Lincoln County, the Lincoln County Library, and the Seniors Center. However, Mrs. Loritts still had a desire to work with the young people of Lincoln County and returned to college to earn her Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science. She went on to teach in Lincoln County Schools for the next fifty years and was instrumental in shaping the minds and lives of thousands of American citizens.

Mrs. Loritts, who now resides in Huntsville, AL, is an example of the dedicated professionals that teach our young people every day. Her commitment to improving the lives of children and producing solid citizens should serve as an example to each of us. I ap-

plaud her tireless efforts on the behalf of others and would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all that she has contributed to her community and the impact she has made on the lives of others.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mrs. Annie Loritts for her outstanding achievements and in wishing her a happy upcoming birthday.●

## TRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT CAESAR KELLUM

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it has come to my attention that Technical Sergeant Caesar Kellum has been recognized as one of 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year by the United States Air Force. Technical Sergeant Kellum is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Airspace Division, Southeast Air Defense Sector, SEADS, Florida Air National Guard FLANG, Tyndall AFB, FL.

Caesar has excelled as a member of the United States Air Force. For example, he maintained a 100 percent academic average on all written evaluations; unprecedented in his unit's history. Out of 36 weapons directors, he is the only one to earn an "exceptionally qualified" rating on back-to-back evaluations. Additionally, he is a key member of an evaluation team to assess operations control center's readiness to help detect and identify 800,000 aircraft annually.

In addition to his excellent work with the U.S. Air Force, TSgt Kellum has exhibited a great deal of involvement within the local community. He orchestrated the sector's participation in the American Cancer Society's Annual Relay for Life event and served as team captain for the Millennium Cure Walkers. He raised \$5,061,56 for the American Cancer Society, exceeding the goal by 237 percent. As a result of his performance, he was awarded the highly coveted "Team Spirit" award, which is extended to the team with the best overall effort and attitude.

Caesar Kellum was raised in Athens, AL and, after graduating from West Limestone High School in Salem, AL, enlisted in the United States Air Force in August of 1990. Since arriving at Tyndall AFB, FL, Technical Sergeant Kellum has completed all the requirements and received his associate of science degree in Instructor of Technology from the Community College of the Air Force. Currently, he is in his junior year at the American Military University working on a bachelor of science degree in Management.

SGT Kellum's military decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Organizational Excellence Award, Humanitarian Service Medal, National Defense Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and the Air Force Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon.