

and engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1963 and Texas A&M University in 1964. He is also a 1994 graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma.

In 1961, Don Waldon moved back to Mobile and began his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he worked as a project engineer conducting feasibility studies for water resource projects such as ports and waterways. In 1966, Don became a Budget Examiner in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the Executive Office of the President where he advised the OMB and White House officials, including the president, on major budgetary, policy, and legislative matters involving natural resources. His agency responsibilities included the Interior Department, the Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Valley Authority. From 1969 to 1974, he held the position of Principal Examiner, at which time he assumed the duties of Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior. His responsibilities included management of all land and water resource agencies within the Department of the Interior. At that point in time, they had a total annual budget of nearly \$2 billion and nearly 12,000 employees. Additionally, he served on a number of White House task forces, particularly those involving energy during this period.

In 1974, after a successful career in the federal government, Don decided to move back to the south and was hired as the Deputy Administrator at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority. On July 1, 1984 Don took over the position of Administrator, a position he has held for the past 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, there are few individuals who have provided more invaluable service to their community, their state, and their country than Donald Waldon. He is an outstanding example of the quality individuals who have devoted their lives to public service, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating him on the occasion of his retirement. I know his family—his wife, Jackie, his four children, and his four grandchildren—as well as his colleagues and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending heartfelt thanks for his many efforts on behalf of the state of Alabama, and indeed, a grateful nation. I would like to wish him much success in all future endeavors as he enters this new phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO TIMBERLINE LODGE  
ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Timberline Lodge on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary under the management of the Kohnstamm Family and their business, RLK & Company, and to commemorate the important historical events that have contributed to the lodge's status as one of the great landmarks in Oregon. Timberline Lodge is a National Historic Landmark and treasure of Oregon that provides abundant recreational activities on Mt. Hood and the Mt. Hood National Forest, providing Oregonians and Ameri-

cans alike with a special place to enjoy the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest. As I commute each week from my home in Hood River to our nation's capital city, I am warmly greeted by the sight of Mt. Hood and thus frequently reminded that Timberline Lodge is a very special place in our very special country.

100 years ago the U.S. Forest Service was established by President Teddy Roosevelt to maintain and sustain the diverse, healthy, and productive management of our national forests. Since its establishment in 1905, the U.S. Forest Service has been an integral part of the history of Mt. Hood and Timberline Lodge.

Timberline Lodge sits 6,000 feet above sea level on Mt. Hood, the tallest mountain in Oregon at 11,235 feet above sea level. Mr. Speaker, the lodge itself is a testament to the trials and tribulations that our nation faced during the Great Depression. It can be seen as a symbol of our strength and resolve, as well as a past generation's struggle to overcome adversity. President Franklin D. Roosevelt commissioned the construction of Timberline Lodge in 1936, a project many at the time called the "American Experiment." Through the Works Progress Administration, Roosevelt employed numerous craftsmen throughout the country who had fallen onto hard times during the depression. Over 500 people worked diligently for 15 months while battling the cold of the Cascades as they worked to construct the lodge by hand, even through the heart of winter. They did so with remarkable skill, style, and substance, and they did so very quickly and efficiently. In September of 1937, President Roosevelt opened the lodge to great fanfare.

Today we see Timberline Lodge as a fantastic success story and a shining example of the self-determination that helped propel a nation and a generation from the hardship and difficulties we faced during the Great Depression. This was not always the case. There were times when it appeared that Timberline Lodge would not succeed. Soon after the dedication in 1937, it fell on hard times. Mismanagement and poor decisions by numerous operators left many wondering if the toils of the labor that went into the construction of Timberline Lodge would be left for future generations of Oregonians to enjoy. It was closed temporarily during World War II, and just 18 years after its inception the future of the lodge appeared bleak.

Then a remarkable young man named Richard Kohnstamm arrived on the scene from New York City and brought hope and enthusiasm to the region, albeit with little experience in the hotel and lodging business. During his travels, Richard had seen how great lodges and castles were woven into Europe's cultural fabric and envisioned that Timberline Lodge could one day mean the same for tourists from all over the world in our beautiful state of Oregon. Through his creativity, perseverance, and steadfast entrepreneurship, he fulfilled the promise of the lodge and the plentiful recreational opportunities that were previously untapped. Not only did the Kohnstamm family repair the damages that existed at the time they first assumed management of Timberline Lodge and create a sense of permanent stability for it, they also established a world class tourist attraction and state of the art ski lift and trail system.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Timberline Lodge's manage-

ment under the Kohnstamm Family and RLK & Company, I would like to highlight the tremendous job that has been done to make the lodge one of the premier destinations in the Pacific Northwest that all walks of life enjoy year round. The Kohnstamms are great hosts and great neighbors to all of us in Oregon, and to outdoor enthusiasts around the world. Oregonians are fortunate to have them as our neighbors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
ROBERT RANGEL

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Robert Rangel, the staff director for the House Armed Services Committee, for his 18 years of loyal and dedicated commitment to the Committee and to the United States Congress.

Robert graduated from the University of Kentucky and immediately went to work for Representative Larry J. Hopkins in Lexington, Kentucky. He then moved to Washington, D.C. to be a Rep. Hopkins's Senior Legislative Assistant.

In 1987, Robert joined the House Armed Services Committee as a Professional Staff Member responsible for intelligence, defense, acquisition and counter-drug policy. He also served as the lead writer of the committee's after-action report on Operation Desert Storm. By 1994, Robert assumed the role of Deputy Staff Director and was responsible for the daily operations of the committee and staff. In 2000, he was appointed Staff Director for the Committee under former Chairman Floyd Spence.

Robert is a respected leader who shepherds the annual defense authorization act through the Congressional process and ultimately into public law. As such, he is a constant and trusted advisor to the Chairman, ranking member, staff, and the committee as a whole. Through his 18 years of steadfast service, Robert has bestowed onto the committee an extensive knowledge of national security issues & policy and was able to provide a clear understanding of legislative procedure. I speak for myself, past chairman, ranking minority members, and any and everyone who has had the privilege of working with Robert, in thanking him for his tireless work and dedication to the House Armed Services Committee.

On behalf of the Committee and the United States Congress, I wish him, his wife Joy, and two boys Alex and John, the best of luck as he leaves the Committee and begins a new chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO LTC JUAN CRISTOBAL  
GOMEZ III

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, on this coming Memorial Day, we pay tribute to the men and