

Tillamook County Creamery Association. The Tillamook Creamery Association and its world famous cheese factory is an institution in Tillamook County, Oregon, and now, for 100 years, has been one of the oldest farmer cooperatives in my state.

The roots of the Tillamook County Creamery Association date back to those pioneers who ventured out West on the Oregon Trail. When they arrived in Oregon, many established farms after seeing that the fertile lands and cool ocean breeze of Tillamook County were appealing for dairy production. In 1894, an entrepreneur named T.S. Townsend took 30 cows from local Tillamook farmers and created the first commercial cheese plant in Tillamook County. His cheese, and specifically his cheddar cheese recipe, gained fame across the west and Townsend eventually became known as the "Cheese King of the Coast."

As more local dairy owners followed Townsend's lead and founded their own cheese plants, 10 came together in 1909 to form the Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA). The goal of the association was to promote their community by marketing all of the cheese from Tillamook as being from the county, instead of from individual farmers. That cooperative ensured that all profits from the sale of dairy products from Tillamook would go back to the farmers and everyone else who ensured its production.

By the late 1940s several of the larger independent cheese production plants merged and by 1968, all of the small cheese plants had combined and together built a centralized cooperative plant in Tillamook known as the Tillamook Cheese Factory. As the factory and its delicious cheese became known across the country, the owners built a visitors center where tourists could watch the cheese making process, taste homemade fudge and ice cream and of course, sample the cheese. The factory eventually became the largest attractor of tourism in Tillamook County, with now close to 1 million people visiting annually.

Even today, Tillamook cheese is still being internationally recognized. It won six awards in cheddar cheese at the 2008 National Milk Producers Federation cheese contest and five at the 2009 Oregon Dairy Industries. In 2009, for the third year in the row the factory was ranked by the Portland Business Journal as one of the Most Admired Companies in Oregon for forestry or agriculture products. It's owned, of course, by 110 local Tillamook dairy families.

While 100 years have now passed since the establishment of the association, the guiding principles that the founders promoted remain the same. In the association, it's called "The Tillamook Tradition." That "tradition" always ensures a commitment to quality, cooperation, integrity, stewardship, responsiveness, and a dedication to their local community dairy industries. The association also supports that tradition by annually donating to more than 200 organizations across the state of Oregon. I know, that those original pioneers would be proud to see that even after 100 years, two things have stayed constant: the notion of community first, and of course, the cheese.

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CHANGE OF COMMAND

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the service and contributions of Colonel Paul Grosskruger of the United States Army Corps of Engineers—Jacksonville District as he passes Command to Colonel Pantano and prepares to retire from military service. He has had a long and admirable career, worthy of distinction and worthy of our gratitude.

Colonel Grosskruger assumed command of the Jacksonville District on July 25, 2006 and it has been my distinct pleasure to work closely with him for these past several years. Most notably, I have worked with Colonel Grosskruger on the Merrill-Stevens Expansion Project and was also fortunate to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they completed the restoration of Virginia Key Beach. Each time, Colonel Grosskruger impressed us with his clarity, candor and fairness. Colonel Al Pantano has large new responsibilities to fill, but from reading his resume and noting his experiences, I am confident that he will be more than up to the task.

Below is a brief biographical sketch of Colonel Grosskruger's long and distinguished career. We have come to expect nothing less than great things of this career officer and we look forward to hearing from Colonel Grosskruger again, though as a private citizen. I know that many members of Florida's delegation join me in wishing him the best as he enters this new stage of life and we have every confidence that Colonel Pantano will continue the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Jacksonville District's fine tradition.

Born and raised in eastern Iowa, Colonel Grosskruger was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1983. Colonel Grosskruger is a graduate of the U.S. Army Engineer Basic and Advance Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering mechanics from the United States Military Academy and a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University. He is a registered professional engineer in the both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Florida.

His assignments include platoon leader, battalion S2 officer and company executive officer in the 317th Engineer Battalion, Eschborn, Germany; company commander and battalion S4 officer in the 82d Engineer Battalion, Bamberg, Germany; company commander of the 535th Engineer Company (Combat Support Equipment), Grafenwoehr, Germany; project officer and deputy resident engineer in the Omaha Engineer District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Colorado Springs, Colorado; battalion executive officer, 317th Engineer Battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia; group operations officer, 36th Engineer Group, Fort Benning, Georgia; Instructor, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Chief of Engineer Operations

and Assistant Corps Engineer, V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany; Commander of the 94th Engineer Combat Battalion, Vilseck, Germany, where he planned and conducted operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His prior assignment was as the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Colonel Grosskruger's awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (seventh award); the Army Commendation Medal (three awards and the "V" device); the Joint Commendation Medal; the Army Achievement Medal (fifth award); the NATO Medal; the Joint Meritorious Unit award; and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He has earned medals from Nicaragua and Poland. He has the U.S. and German parachutist badge and the air assault badge. His battalion earned the Presidential Unit Citation for service with the 3d Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I would be remiss if I did not also take this opportunity to thank Colonel Grosskruger's wife and family for their support and dedication. It is a well known fact that the hardest job in the military is that of the military spouse; our service men and women would not be able to do what our country asks of them without the backbone of a loving family. Claudia Grosskruger is to be commended as much as Colonel Grosskruger for their work in service to this country and for their efforts in raising Jerry, 20 and Jennifer, 18.

HONORING SSGT JUAN ROLDAN

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mr. PASCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true American hero, SSGT Juan Roldan of the United States Army. On December 29, 2006, SSGT Roldan of Paterson, New Jersey, lost both of his legs in an EFP explosion. SSGT Roldan is now fighting his next war as he must learn to walk again. Like so many other soldiers who come home from war, SSGT Roldan relies on his loved ones to help him win this and his precious daughter Rian, who just turned two years old, is now the driving force behind his recovery. SSGT Roldan is not only an inspiration to his daughter, but his experience teaches all of us courage in the face of great adversity. The following poem, written by Albert Carey Caswell, is a tribute to SSGT Roldan.

FOR MY DAUGHTER!

I went off to war, all for her future to so ensure . . .
 And all for God and Country Tis of Thee, as were my burdens, my burdens bore . . .
 And for all of those daughters, whose fine daddies won't be coming home no more . . .
 And oh yes, I have lost my two fine strong legs . . . but I won't moan, and I won't beg . . .
 For I have something to so live for . . . for My Daughter, I will win this battle, this war . . .
 For I have one of the greatest gifts from above, Rian, which came from such seeds of love . . .
 For I must teach her, for I must reach her . . . to show her all that it is she so needs each year . . .

All to help her grow up, and about life and what she needs to know . . . and what really counts so . . .

As I will inspire her by my love . . . as in my heart, I hold her close and so very high above . . .

As I will show her, how to lift up her head each morn, even though such pain is worn . . .

To cherish each new shining day, to touch all hearts along her way . . . as I live on . . .

Showing her how not to be bitter and afraid, as out and along life's road as made . . .

For I know she needs me so very much, for her this my battle . . . for her I do so much . . .

Because so many children . . . will never know, and grow up with such loving daddies so . . .

And never have such a best friend . . . who will stick with them, through thick and thin . . .

Who at night will tuck them in, and tell bedtime stories . . . as together, our two hearts blend . . .

Who from them so much can learn, as it's for her and her future, that this my heart so burns . . .

As she will learn all from me, how great a heart can truly be . . . as to her, mine so speaks . . .

Showing her, arms and legs yes we may need . . . but, without hearts we can not live indeed . . .

And what really counts, all in the end . . . is what's in your heart, as where it all so begins . . .

So for my daughter I will wake . . . as each new day for her, these most courageous steps I take . . .

As I fight through all of my pain, as I venture out upon heartache's way . . . my soul will remain.

All so I can see those smiles upon her face, and watch her grow up with such happiness and grace . . .

And for all of my buddies who died, who shall never so look into their children's eyes . . .

It's for you too I wake, and to Be the Best Father our Lord God could make . . .

As I will tell your children, all about your love . . . and how you spoke of them, so high above.

Recalling, all of those words of love you spoke . . . and all about them, as their names you invoked . . .

For I stand stronger on this day, all because of this child who before me so lays . . .

For you Rian . . . give me a reason to live, at night as I watch sleep in your crib . . .

Daughter, all of this . . . I do, for you . . . my gift from God, that will help see me through . . .

And if I ever have a son, Juan, I but hope and pray he is like you the one!

For my Daughter, all this I'll do!

IN RECOGNITION OF SGT STEVE
MAY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to recognize the passing of a great public servant, Sergeant Steve May of the Modesto Police Department who died from medical complications sustained from a 2002 accident that occurred

while on duty. As a 23 year veteran of the Department, Sergeant May gave the ultimate sacrifice to our community.

Sergeant May was hired by the Modesto Police Department on February 6, 1979 and promoted to Corporal on January 28, 1992. He was then promoted to Sergeant on September 20, 1994. Sergeant May was a respected member of the Department who was a consummate professional who served his community with distinction. The accident that took Sergeant May from his family and our community occurred on July 29, 2002. Stanislaus County Sheriffs Deputies saw a black pickup that they believed to be suspicious, and after the vehicle attempted to evade officers, it rammed the deputies' patrol car and sped off. Sergeant May was on patrol and spotted the suspect's vehicle in downtown Modesto. He followed the vehicle and pursued it vigorously as the vehicle reached high rates of speed. The suspect ran two stop signs and was evading police. While running a stop sign, Sergeant May's patrol car was struck and pushed into a tree as the suspect's vehicle hit a house. Sergeant May was trapped inside his car and freed by firefighters. Suffering severe injuries, he was rushed to the hospital for treatment.

Sergeant May's family and our community are deeply saddened by this loss. He leaves behind his wife Diana and their two children—Corinne and Michael. I offer my prayers and condolences as they grieve.

Sergeant May was clearly a remarkable individual, public servant and law enforcement officer who remained dedicated to public safety and service throughout his impressive career. Through his dedicated work, he touched the lives of many and helped change the face of our community. Madam Speaker, it is with respect and gratitude that I ask my colleagues to join me in this posthumous recognition of Police Sergeant Steve May for his dedicated service.

RECOGNIZING PIZZA 4 PATRIOTS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the extraordinary efforts of the Pizza 4 Patriots Organization, Uno Chicago Grill, and DHL, in teaming up to provide Chicago-style deep dish pizzas on Independence Day to our service men and women serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan. The cumulative effort brought 28,000 pizzas to the troops, allowing them to celebrate our nation's day of independence with a taste and feel of home.

The initiative of retired Air Force Master Sergeant Mark Evans, Pizza 4 Patriots is a non-profit organization that seeks to honor the service of the United States' Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. With pizzas provided by Uno Chicago Grill and international delivery service provided by DHL, Operation Pizza Surge broke the record for the "World's Largest Pizza Party," and will go down in the Guinness Book of World Records as such.

As our service men and women continue to courageously protect our freedom and liberties throughout the Middle East, the services pro-

vided by Pizza 4 Patriots, Uno Chicago Grill, and DHL are of the utmost importance. In garnering donations from individuals and organizations to make Operation Pizza Surge possible, they have helped raise awareness and recognition of the outstanding and courageous job that the United States' military continues to do to protect the liberty and safety of the American people.

We must always remember and pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of those proud men and women who serve and protect the American people. The efforts of Pizza 4 Patriots, Uno Chicago Grill, and DHL remind us that as we celebrate our independence at home, it is the efforts of our armed forces that allow us to do so.

Madam Speaker, today we congratulate Pizza 4 Patriots, Uno Chicago Grill, and DHL for a successful completion of Operation Pizza Surge, and we thank them for providing our brave troops with a slice of home while they protect our country and our freedoms abroad.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the U.S. House of Representatives Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding one earmark I received as part H.R. 3326, The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010:

(1) Institute for Science and Engineering Simulation (ISES), University of North Texas—\$6 million—Account: 0602102F Materials—\$4,500,000.

ISES at the University of North Texas is currently working closely with the U.S. Air Force to remedy a critical requirement. Due to increased operations as a result of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan during the past 5 yrs, Air Force aircraft are often pushed to perform beyond their intended design criteria: this has created serious concerns for safety of both the aircraft and personnel. The Air Force requires modeling and simulation research of the performance and lifecycles of materials in aircraft in order to extend the life of current military aircraft and to perform testing on future aircraft structures and material. Utilizing state-of-the-art facilities and equipment at the University of North Texas, the research conducted at ISES will be used to predict/identify and reduce the risk of catastrophic failure in aircraft structural components, extend the life of current aircraft and increase the safety of pilots and personnel.

University of North Texas is located at Hurlley Administration Building 175, Denton, TX 76203-2979.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FORT
GRATIOT FIRE CHIEF RONALD B.
NICHOLS

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fire Chief Ronald