

call to duty when she enlisted in the Women Airforce Service Pilots—WASP—organization during World War II.

Like many of her counterparts in the “Greatest Generation,” Penny wanted to help the war effort. As a licensed pilot, Penny wanted to serve by flying planes, and joined 25,000 women in applying for the WASP program. After completing exactly the same rigorous military flight training as her male counterparts, Penny became one of only 1,100 women to receive her Silver Wings.

While the WASP organization was not recognized as part of the military until 1977, Penny and the other women serving in WASP played a critical role in the war effort. Within the United States, Penny brought planes from factories to bases, flew experimental aircraft, and towed targets for the gunnery school vital tasks that also freed up male pilots for combat service and duties.

Prior to the war, Penny graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a bachelor’s degree in business and earned her master’s in education from the University of Missouri. She married her beloved Vernon M. Ross and settled in Missouri. Vernon and Penny started a family, which grew to include four children: Robert, Barbara, David, and Richard; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. After WASP was disbanded in 1944, Penny began her teaching career. She taught secondary school for 30 years in Harrisburg, Glasgow, and Moberly, molding young minds in the subjects of business, math, and French.

In addition to her legacy of family and her love of learning, Penny has created a legacy of service to our Nation.

Penny, her fellow female pilots, and the countless other men and women who served their nation during World War II made possible the conquering of some of freedom’s worst foes of the 20th century: Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito. Thanks to the struggles and sacrifices of all of our troops from here at home, to Normandy, Tunisia, Midway, and Guadalcanal, those of us in subsequent generations have lived in relative peace and prosperity.

It is only fitting that earlier this year Americans like Penny were recognized for their contributions to the freedom we enjoy today. On March 10, 2010, Mrs. Ross attended the WASP Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in the U.S. Capitol. With her family by her side, she was presented with a bronze medal replica of the Gold Medal. Today, Penny resides in the Veterans Home-Mexico, MO.

Penny, we are grateful for your service to your family, your community, and your country. Your story is an inspiration to people in all generations today who want to make a difference.●

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Fresno City College, California’s first community college and the second oldest in the Nation.

Fresno City College was the brainchild of Charles L. McLane, the superintendent of Fresno Schools in the early 1900s. Mr. McLane was concerned that many students from the San Joaquin Valley could not afford to attend the nearest universities located outside the San Joaquin Valley. He envisioned a junior college in Fresno that would allow young students to receive an affordable and quality education through their first 2 years of college while still being able to reside at home.

Mr. McLane worked diligently to recruit instructors and design the curriculum. He secured commitments from the University of California and Stanford University that students who completed their coursework in Fresno would be accepted to those schools to further their education.

In September 1910, Fresno Junior College officially opened with 20 students and 3 full-time faculty members. Students studied mathematics, English, Latin, history, and economics. In addition, the new campus provided vocational training in areas such as agriculture, commerce and the industries that many 4-year universities did not offer.

In 1958, Fresno Junior College adopted its current name, Fresno City College. A year later, it permanently moved to its home for over the past 51 years on 1101 E. University Avenue in central Fresno.

Today, Fresno City College has grown from a small campus of 20 students and 3 faculty members to a dynamic community college whose average enrollment is approximately 25,000 students. It is a highly regarded community college that features award-winning programs in several disciplines, including nursing and vocational training.

For the past century, Fresno City College has been a dependable and accessible institute of higher learning that has empowered generations of San Joaquin Valley residents, many of whom overcame challenging backgrounds, to realize their full potential in many different aspects of life.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the administration, students, faculty, staff and proud alumni of Fresno City College on 100 years of educational leadership and excellence in the San Joaquin Valley. I send my best wishes for many more years of continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS MONROE HUDDLESTON

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I honor Lewis Monroe Huddleston on the upcoming occasion of his 80th birthday.

Mr. Huddleston has spent his life committed in service to his country, his church and, foremost, his family.

Lewis was born September 14, 1930, although this apparently has long been a source of discussion in his family. His actual date of birth may be September 13. His mother always swore he was born on September 13, and that all the legal documents, which list his birthday at September 14, were wrong. As one should, I think I will side with Lew’s mother on this one and would like to share with you some of the commendable actions of Lew’s life.

He honorably served our country in the military, entering the U.S. Navy in 1950. He was assigned to the USS *Henry W. Tucker* as a boatman’s mate. His military service took him on reconnaissance missions both in Korea and Red China. He received four medals: Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal—2-Star—and United Nations Service Medal. Lew was honorably released in 1954, and then headed to the Midwest.

He found work in the oil fields there, and one of his jobs took him to Sidney, NE, where he fell head over heels for a lovely young lady, Joyce Sewell. They were married on December 20, 1955, and have built a happy life together in Sidney where they raised three children, Lewis, Jr., Cindy and Shawn, who have given them three wonderful grandchildren.

Lew and Joyce built a life committed to family, service to God and service to the community. Throughout his life, Lew has given of himself—first in military service, then to his church and his community. Always involved, he could be heard cheering for his kids at their sporting events or found heading up a DeMolay or Jobs Daughter fundraiser. Not ever characterized as shy, Lew walks into a room of strangers and leave that room as everyone’s best friend. Those friends, spread across the country, know that if called upon for help and he will always answer.

Even as he approaches his 80th birthday, Lew remains very much involved with his community. Although his children are grown with families of their own, Lew continues to volunteer in the local schools and wherever he is needed.

I am honored to number his son Lewis, Jr., and his wife Leslie among my friends. Through them, I have come to know Lew Huddleston as a true patriot, who exemplified that label not only by his military service, but the continued gift he gives every day to family, community and country. Lew, it is individuals like you who are America’s true heroes and give the United States its strength. We can never fully repay your contribution. Thank you for your service to our country, and happy birthday.●