

Walt Ruckel was a true Northwest Floridian, born and raised on the Gulf Coast. After graduating from high school, he attended Davidson College and North Georgia College as part of the U.S. Army Specialized Training Reserve Program. Upon completion of his training, Mr. Ruckel entered the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he served as an airplane mechanic before being honorably discharged in 1947. In 1948, he graduated from Soule Business College in New Orleans and returned to his native Northwest Florida where he began a distinguished career in the Northwest Florida business community. Mr. Ruckel took a position working as a bank teller and bookkeeper at Valparaiso State Bank in Valparaiso, Florida, where he quickly established himself, rising to become Assistant Vice President in 1950 before becoming President of the bank in 1951. Mr. Ruckel continued to serve at the bank as Chairman of the Board until 2004.

Mr. Ruckel's immense pride in his local community inspired him to pursue a career in real estate and property development. In 1955, he founded Ruckel Properties, which continues to serve the Northwest Florida community today. Through Mr. Ruckel's leadership, Ruckel Properties has developed countless homes and businesses in Northwest Florida and has been a driving force in the development of the cities of Niceville and Valparaiso.

In addition to his work in the Northwest Florida business community, Walt Ruckel was also a noted civic leader. He was a founding member of the Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary Club, where he served as President from 1954 to 1955 and was twice named the club's "Man of the Year." Mr. Ruckel truly believed in the value of community service, and he remained active in the Rotary Club until his passing, helping to organize and volunteer at the club's latest fundraiser. His steadfast dedication to serving his community extended beyond the Rotary Club, and he was active in many other civic organizations, including the local Chamber of Commerce, United Way and Boy Scouts of America.

Northwest Florida is also home to numerous military installations, and Mr. Ruckel was a strong supporter of the servicemen and women and their families who form such an integral part of our local community. Mr. Ruckel served as Chairman of the Air Force Armament Museum Foundation, where he helped lead a successful effort to raise more than \$1 million for the construction of the Air Force Armament Museum, located at Eglin Air Force Base.

All those who had the fortune of meeting Walt Ruckel were blessed by his kindness and generosity, and his impact on Northwest Florida will never be forgotten. To some, Walt Ruckel will be remembered as an invaluable member and leader of the Northwest Florida community, to others, an honorable member and strong supporter of our Armed Forces. To his friends and family, Walt Ruckel will most fondly be remembered as a loving and committed family man.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life of Walt Ruckel and his living legacy. Northwest Florida has truly suffered a great loss with his passing, and my wife Vicki joins me in sending our most heartfelt condolences to the entire Ruckel family.

IN MEMORY OF DELORES THOMAS HADNOTT

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor the memory of a noble public servant and spiritual leader, Delores Thomas Hadnott. With singular dedication, Ms. Hadnott devoted her life to faithfully serving her community.

Ms. Hadnott was born in Arcadia, LA on December 31, 1951. Her parents instilled within her the importance of education and the drive to help others. In 1972, she received her B.A. degree in Sociology from Grambling State University in only three years, while serving as salutatorian, class president and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

After Ms. Hadnott completed Management Training at the University of Houston, she started her thirty-six year career with the American Red Cross—Greater Houston Area Chapter. Ms. Hadnott excelled in her position, becoming the office director of the southeast branch office in 1987. Ms. Hadnott worked tirelessly to advocate for the betterment of Houston and under-served individuals.

In addition to her lifelong service in her community, Ms. Hadnott acted in several roles at the Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church. Through her unselfish hard work and virtue, she eventually became the assistant church secretary, a member of the finance committee, program coordinator for the Mission Society and a Sunday school instructor.

Ms. Hadnott's leadership and community service have been consistently recognized by her colleagues. Mayor Lee Brown honored her on May 9, 2002 when he proclaimed it Delores Hadnott Day in the City of Houston. In 2006, she received the 42nd Annual Founders' Day, Sojourner Truth Crystal and Professional awards. In 2009, I had the honor to present her with the 2009 Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Delores Thomas Hadnott will be missed dearly by her daughter, Crystal Denise, son, Lawrence Oliver, stepson, Lawrence Isaiah, grandson, Ashton Joshua, and daughter-in-law, Shakwanna. She will be remembered in the City of Houston as a dedicated public servant and valued community leader. May she rest in the peace she has so richly earned.

RECOGNIZING MASTER AGRICULTURIST DALE HINES

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate a second-generation dairy farmer from my home district in western Wisconsin. Dale Hines is a hard-working man from the beautiful small town of Ellsworth who was recently recognized as a Master Agriculturist. This distinction, awarded by the magazine Wisconsin Agriculturist, recognizes Wisconsin farmers who not only display an ability to raise crops or livestock, but those who also

dedicate significant time to their family, communities, churches, farm organizations, and other local efforts.

I'm proud to be from an area so rich with agricultural history—an area which celebrates and appreciates the hard-working men and women who work on our farms, raising crops and livestock, helping to put food on our tables. The family farm is an important American institution, and Dale Hines and the rest of the Hines family are an embodiment of that spirit. As a child, Dale grew up surrounded by farming. Even at a young age, he spent his time milking his family's 30 Holstein cows along with his older brothers—a chore which became a full-time career for Dale after graduating from Ellsworth High School in 1977. Today, the Hines Ranch, which was recognized in 1987 as the Wisconsin Conservation Farm of the Year, has grown exponentially. They cultivate 810 acres of land and milk 80 cows, a herd which produces more than 28,000 pounds of milk per cow.

However, despite their farm's growth amidst the ever-changing world of farming, one thing has never changed for the Hineses: the importance of the family-run operation. Although only Dale's family lives in the farmhouse, the entire extended family is still very much involved with the farm's day-to-day operations. Everyone helps out in whatever way they can, whether it's helping with the planting and harvesting of the crops, constructing all of the farm's buildings, or keeping track of the books—a task which Dale's 85-year-old mother Joyce still does to this day.

The Hines family is truly an example to follow, both due to the success of their farm and the importance they place on family. It is with great pride that I rise today and congratulate Dale Hines, a dedicated father, farmer, and citizen, on having received proper recognition of the hard work that he and his family have put forth over the last half-century. He is truly deserving of the title of Master Agriculturist, and I wish him and the rest of the Hines family all of the best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHANNIE FINLEY IN HONOR OF HER SERVICE TO THE COLORADO SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stephanie Finley, the outgoing President of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs and Public Policy Division.

Stephannie began her career working for a small food distribution business that served Peterson AFB, the Air Force Academy, and Ft. Carson. After the business was sold, Stephannie entered the world of politics.

She has extensive experience including: working for the White House Advance Team in the early 1990s, serving as a staffer to the Colorado General Assembly, the Chief of Staff for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District, the Director of State Government Relations for the University of Colorado, and the Chief of Staff to Lt. Governor Jane Norton.

Stephannie first joined the Chamber in February of 2006. She has been a passionate and