

the Cadet Corps at the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, AL. He soon became a fighter pilot and joined the Army Air Corps 99th Pursuit Squadron. In World War II, Lane flew 26 combat missions, flying P-51 Mustang fighter planes. Following the war, Lieutenant Colonel Lane continued his service in the U.S. Air Force for 27 years, until his retirement in 1970. His last station was at Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Base, near Bellevue, NE. Following his service, Lane and his family remained in the area.

In 2007, Lane was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President George W. Bush in recognition of his bravery, courage and sacrifice during World War II. Along with his fellow Tuskegee Airmen, he bravely rose above the racial divisions of the time to serve our country with honor and valor. In addition to their courageous service, the Tuskegee Airman provided inspiration to our country, paving the way towards greater equality for all Americans.

As a civilian, Lieutenant Colonel Lane continued to serve his community. As Executive Director of the Greater Omaha Community Action Inc.—GOCA, he fought poverty on a number of fronts by addressing hunger, substance abuse, mental health and others. Spanning his tenure of more than two decades at the agency, he was known as being determined efforts to help the impoverished achieve self-sufficiency.

Demonstrating Lieutenant Colonel Lane's tireless passion for service, upon retirement he continued to volunteer his time, talent and resources to a number of important causes in the Omaha area. He founded the 99th Pursuit Cadet Squadron of the Nebraska Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force. As the Squadron's first Commander and later its Commander Emeritus, he mentored countless youth and promoted aviation throughout Nebraska. He also served as a national representative of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

May Lieutenant Colonel Lane's lifelong commitment to our great Nation and serving others is truly commendable. I ask my colleagues and the citizens of the United States to join me in honoring his service on this day.●

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, each November we recognize National Native American Heritage Month to honor the tradition, culture, contributions, achievements, and sacrifices of those that originally inhabited this great Nation. With over 5 million individuals of Native American descent in the United States, it is important to celebrate the instrumental impact Native American culture has had on American history. National Native American Heritage Month is an oppor-

tunity to focus our attention on tribal sovereignty by ensuring trust responsibilities are upheld and government-to-government relationships with tribes across the Nation are strengthened.

This month has added significance to me, as I represent a state with nine treaty tribes. I would like to personally acknowledge and honor South Dakota's nine treaty tribes: the Cheyenne River Sioux, the Crow Creek Sioux, the Flandreau Santee Sioux, the Lower Brule Sioux, the Oglala Sioux, the Rosebud Sioux, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Standing Rock Sioux, and the Yankton Sioux. Each tribe brings rich cultures and histories that greatly benefit all South Dakotans, not just in November, but throughout the year.

American Indians across the United States have served and continue to serve in our Armed Forces at rates higher than any other ethnic group, and their dedication and commitment to the United States is unwavering. This month, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate and Yankton Sioux Tribe were honored with Congressional Gold Medals for the contributions of their code talkers during World Wars I and II. The use of tribal languages equipped our Armed Forces with a system of communication that was not decoded. The valiant contributions of tribal code talkers to the United States are unparalleled and to be commended.

It is also important to reflect on the numerous contributions Native Americans across the country have made in our society this November. Countless dedicated individuals continue to work on the ground in Indian Country to improve tribal communities for future generations. However, the Federal government must also uphold its trust responsibility with tribes and continue to improve access to healthcare, education, and adequate housing. Thoughtful communication and collaboration between tribal and federal leaders on these issues is necessary to advance the quality of life for American Indians.

This November, I urge Americans to participate in the celebration of Native American Heritage Month by taking a moment to learn more about the heritage, culture, and various contributions Native Americans have made to the United States throughout our shared history. I would like to acknowledge and praise the more than 70,000 American Indians in South Dakota who enrich our communities on a daily basis. Education and awareness of tribal histories will enable us to move forward as a Nation which embraces the diversity of all.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE E. WILLIAMS, JR.

● Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today I recognize and pay tribute to Charlie E.

Williams, Jr., who will retire as director of the Defense Contract Management Agency—DCMA—on November 25, 2013, after more than 30 years of service to our Nation.

Director Williams began his public service career in 1982 through the Air Force Logistics Command at Kelly Air Force Base in Texas. Over the following years, his career included a series of appointments with ever-increasing responsibility. He was the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Contracting, in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, a U.S. member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Airborne Early Warning and Control Program Board of Directors, the team lead of Program Executive Officer and Designated Acquisition Commander programs, and finally, Director of DCMA.

Director Williams was stationed at Fort Lee, VA for his final mission. As Director of DCMA he oversees the delivery of all products and services, from water to weapons systems, to our troops around the world. He leads nearly 11,000 personnel, both civilian and military, who execute contracts worldwide, covering more than 19,900 contractors and more than \$223 billion in obligations. Recently, Director Williams and DCMA oversaw more than 300 critical theater support contracts valued at more than \$20 billion, delivering logistics, security, transportation, maintenance and critical life-support services to 230,000 International Security Assistance Force personnel at over 180 forward operating bases. Under Director Williams' leadership, DCMA professionals provided mentorship and guidance to more than 60,000 deployed contractor personnel throughout Afghanistan, executing more than 5,000 missions, despite significant danger. Their efforts ensured service of more than 240 million meals to coalition force personnel, production of more than 10 billion gallons of water, and delivery of 48 million bags of laundry and 900 million gallons of fuel.

I commend Director Williams' commitment to duty and cause, as well as his passion for public service. In every role in which he served, he contributed to the success of the mission, demonstrated high standards of conduct, and served with honesty, loyalty, and integrity. His long career of service will leave a lasting impact on our Nation. Director Williams is a devoted husband to his wife, Tujuanna, and dedicated father to his two daughters, Chloe and Charity.

I extend my gratitude and that of the entire Nation to Director Williams for his service to our country. The Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States are fortunate to have had Director Williams among our ranks. I wish him the best of luck in the months and years ahead.●