

ALAN G. LANCE ELECTED NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Mr. Alan G. Lance for his election on September 9, 1999, as the National Commander of the American Legion.

Mr. Lance is a twenty year member of the American Legion; and, has served as the Idaho State Commander, National Executive Committeeman, and National Foreign Relations Chairman. After serving in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps Mr. Lance moved to Meridian, Idaho, established a private legal practice, and was subsequently elected to the Idaho House of Representatives. He is currently serving his second term as Attorney General for the State of Idaho and is Chairman of the Conference of Western Attorneys General. Mr. Lance is the first Idahoan to serve in the distinguished position of National Commander for this respected and influential veterans' organization.

For the past eighty years the American Legion has stood tall for the rights and benefits of the men and women who have been willing to offer the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and way of life. The American Legion is a major sponsor of the Boy Scouts of America and is a vital partner in community service with 15,000 posts worldwide.

Mr. Lance brings legal and legislative experience which will serve him well in advocating for the needs of the American Legion's approximately 3 million members. He is a leader and a patriot, and will be a strong leader for veterans' issues, especially health care. Idaho is proud of the new National Commander. I look forward to working with Mr. Lance in helping to keep the promises made by Congress and the nation to our deserving veterans.●

TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY WAHLBERG

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is an honor to take this opportunity to recognize a community leader who has given so much to the people of South-eastern Massachusetts. Rosemary Wahlberg has been a Director of the Quincy Community Action Programs for twenty-six years. Under her leadership, these programs have helped large numbers of families on issues ranging from education to healthcare to child care to energy conservation. This year Rosemary is retiring, and her loss will be felt deeply by all of those whose lives she has touched.

Rosemary's commitment to public service is extraordinary. Throughout her many years of service, she has helped people to make impressive progress in improving their quality of life. As an advocate and coordinator, she has assisted South Shore communities in the battle to reduce poverty and promote self-sufficiency for low-in-

come families. She has served as a member of the Quincy Housing Authority, on the Quincy College Board of Trustees, and on the Board of Directors for numerous local, state, and regional committees devoted to community service.

Rosemary's accomplishments have earned wide recognition. She has received distinguished awards from the City of Quincy, the University of Massachusetts, the South Shore Coalition for Human Rights, the Atlantic Neighborhood Association, South Shore Day Care Services, and many other grateful organizations, who recognize the boundless energy, ability and commitment she pours into every project.

For all of us who know Rosemary, we are inspired by her dedication to those less fortunate in our society. She has served the people of Quincy and the South Shore with extraordinary distinction, and she is a dear friend to all of us in the Kennedy family. In addition to all of her other activities, she has been devoted to her wonderful family, raising eight children and caring for twenty-one grandchildren.

It is with the greatest respect and admiration that I pay tribute to this remarkable leader. Her public service and generosity are a shining example to us all. I know that I speak for all of the people of Massachusetts when I say that she will be missed greatly.●

MINORITY ARTS RESOURCE COUNCIL AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RODEO

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, last year, for the first time in Philadelphia's history, the African American Rodeo came to that great city. It was a memorable occasion with approximately 8,000 school children attending the rodeo at the Apollo Stadium. While these children were entertained by the rodeo and re-enactments of life in the old West, they learned of the many contributions made by African Americans to our nation's history.

On October 8 and 9, of this year, the African American Rodeo is again coming to the City of Brotherly Love to present re-enactments of historical figures of the old West. Such performances are important because our history books and Hollywood have failed to give proper recognition of the great sacrifices and heroic deeds made by African Americans.

Mr. President, more than 200,000 African American soldiers served in the Civil War. After the war, many of these trained soldiers were sent west, forming two infantry and two cavalry units. The term "Buffalo Soldier" was given to them by the Native Americans whom they encountered. Those soldiers, their families, and thousands who were freed from slavery were among our early settlers, cowpunchers, and farmers in a number of the western states.

It is with pleasure that I salute the Minority Arts Resource Council, its

founder and Executive Director, Mr. Curtis E. Brown, its board members, and its volunteers for once again bringing this great event to the city of Philadelphia. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting the invaluable services and contributions of African Americans and the role that they have played and continue to play in American history.●

ON THE RETIREMENT OF ALEXANDRIA CITY MANAGER VOLA LAWSON

• Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor an outstanding public servant. Recently, Vola Lawson, the city manager of the City of Alexandria, announced her retirement. During her fourteen years as city manager, Ms. Lawson provided the City with solid leadership and opened the doors of City Hall to all Alexandrians. I'm proud to add my name to the long list of those who are praising Vola Lawson. Her distinguished career offers the ideal model for public officials, and inspires confidence in our public institutions. I ask that yesterday's article from The Washington Post on Vola Lawson's retirement be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 14, 1999]  
AFTER 14 YEARS, 4 MAYORS, ALEXANDRIA LEADER TO RETIRE—FIERY CITY MANAGER LAWSON IN OFFICE SINCE 1985

[By Ann O'Hanlon]

Vola Lawson, the tough veteran city manager of Alexandria, announced yesterday that she will retire in March, marking a major transition for the city she helped define during the 28 years she worked for it.

"I think this city is one of the greatest cities in America," said Lawson, standing in the City Hall lobby that was named for her this year. "This is a very bittersweet day for me."

Lawson, who turns 65 today, has been city manager since 1985, a tenure more than twice the national average. During that time, the city has lured or endured major new development, including the planned U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and a planned 300-acre residential and commercial complex on an abandoned railroad yard. Under Lawson, Alexandria also turned away a bid from then-Gov. L. Douglas Wilder and then-Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke to build a football stadium there.

In her 14 years, Lawson served under four mayors, all of whom stood with her yesterday, singing her praises.

"Vola has never met a stranger," said state Sen. Patricia S. Ticer (D-Alexandria), one of the former mayors. "She is a shining example of what a public servant should be."

Although her retirement was expected, a murmur still ran through the city of 122,000 yesterday.

"Boy, that's going to change the city more than anything I can imagine," said Katherine Morrison, executive director of the Campagna Center, a prominent local charity. "I don't know anyone who knows Alexandria better or has devoted more of their life to Alexandria."

Lawson worked her way up in Alexandria, blazing a path for women and minorities that some say is her prime legacy. As city manager, she has transformed City Hall from