

THE OPENING OF A NEW HATFIELD-McCOY TRAIL HONORING THE FOUNDER, LEFF MOORE

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, monumental achievements are the work of visionary people. On the celebratory occasion marking the opening of a new 100-mile section of the Hatfield-McCoy recreational trail in Wyoming County, it is important to take the time to honor the visionary behind this monumental accomplishment, the late O.L. "Leff" Moore. Leff Moore was one of the wisest men I have ever had the great pleasure of knowing, and I consider it an honor to call him my dear friend. I had a habit of calling him "Uncle Leff". He just had that affect on people. He had this unique way of encouraging and inspiring people to come together and do great work for their communities. It was rare to hear a negative word from Leff. He was an optimistic who truly thought ahead of his time.

Leff was a driving force in the West Virginia Democratic Party, a life-long civil servant, and a tireless advocate for the safe operation of recreational vehicles. A deep love for the Mountain State ran through everything Leff did in his life, and his commitment to public service was evidenced by the numerous boards and committees he served on. His vision and leadership were widely respected in Putnam County, and his efforts contributed greatly to the area's growth and success. In recognition for his work, Leff was the only two-time recipient of the respected Putnam County Chamber of Commerce Mayo Lester Award.

Born in 1943, the son of Orville L. Moore, Sr. and Margaret Peyton Moore, Leff graduated Winfield High School and West Virginia State College. He served as the executive director of the West Virginia Manufactured Housing Association for more than 30 years where he helped write the policies and set the laws that will govern safe housing practices in West Virginia for future generations.

When his beloved Putnam County started growing rapidly in the 1970's, Leff's vision and determination led to the establishment of Putnam General Hospital, and planning measures brought public water and sewer to aid in the county's growth.

Leff's most stunning success, though, may be the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority trail system in southern West Virginia, which is breathing to new life into an entire region's economy. Over a decade ago when many of us had no idea what ATV's were, Leff somehow knew how popular they would become and saw the potential of marrying ATV's to West Virginia's scenic beauty. With little more than a VHS tape of a Utah trail and his gift for articulating ideas in a way that excited people, he sold even the most skeptical on the benefits of a recreational trail that will eventually reach into Kentucky and Virginia.

Southern West Virginia has already begun to feel the impact of Leff's vi-

sion for the trail as more and more out-of-State tourist dollars flow into the mountains of Mingo, Logan and Boone counties. During the last fiscal year, trail riders bought nearly \$400,000 in trail permits, and this year, the Regional Recreation Authority expects that number to rise 25 to 31 percent. The average visitor who comes to take advantage of the Hatfield-McCoy trails spends between \$250 and \$500 during a 3-day stay.

Even at a conservative estimate, that translates into nearly \$1 million tourist dollars injected into the local economy every month. These visitors to Southern West Virginia stay in local hotels and eat at local restaurants, many of which have sprung up to feed the growing tourist trade.

Leff's plan to stimulate the Southern West Virginia economy and showcase the beauty of the Mountain State has certainly been a resounding triumph thus far, and the potential for further expansion is limitless. The addition of this new section of trail brings the total system up to 500 miles across 4 different counties. I look forward to the day when Leff's original vision of over 2,000 miles of trails over all of Appalachia becomes a reality.

Soon, I will participate in the grand opening of the Wyoming County section of the Trail, and I am very happy about what it will mean for the area. I am also proud of all the Wyoming County officials who worked so hard to make the Trail a reality, but there will be a deep sadness in my heart as I miss my friend Leff Moore. I am comforted, however, because I know that his passion and vision for the people of West Virginia will guarantee that he is never forgotten in the hearts of many communities. I know that as his vision continues to expand into a reality, the legacy of Leff Moore will live on for a long time in many positive ways for West Virginia. ●

TRIBUTE TO LTG JAMES E. SHERRARD

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional officer in the United States Air Force and a good friend, LTG James E. Sherrard III, upon his retirement after more than 38 years of distinguished service. Throughout his career, General Sherrard has personified the Air Force core values of integrity, selfless service, and excellence across the many missions the Air Force provides in defense of our Nation. As Chief of Air Force Reserve, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with General Sherrard on a wide variety of Air Force issue and programs and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments. I commend his superb service to the United States Air Force and this great Nation.

General Sherrard is a native of Tutwiler, MS, and graduated from the University of Mississippi's Reserve Officer Training Corps program in 1965.

His career has spanned a variety of operational assignments and major command staff functions. The general has commanded the 910th Airlift Wing at Youngstown, OH; the 433rd Airlift Wing at San Antonio, TX; the 4th Air Force, March Air Reserve Base, CA; and 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, GA. Currently, General Sherrard serves as both the Chief of Air Force Reserve and Commander, Air Force Reserve Command. He is a command pilot with more than 5,000 hours in the T-41, T-37, T-38, C-130A/B/E/H, AC-130A, C-141B, and C-5A/B. In 1996, he received special recognition from the Air Force enlisted force with the presentation of the Order of the Sword.

General Sherrard's exceptional leadership skills have been evident to both supervisors and subordinates throughout his career as he repeatedly led and inspired those around him. He was the Chief of Air Force Reserve during the most demanding period in history for the Reserve Components. Under his tenure, the Air Force Reserve successfully experienced the largest mobilization since the Korean War. Cumulatively, more than 28,000 members of the command have been activated since September 11, 2001, with 5,300 members still on orders in support of the Global War on Terror, OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

During his term as the Chief of Air Force Reserve, General Sherrard has always maintained a "People First" philosophy. He has called on each member of his team to advance legislative strategies, readiness, and quality of life issues that are absolutely essential to maintaining both active and reserve components of our all volunteer force. The results of his efforts include a Montgomery GI Bill Kicker for the Selected Reserve and extension of eligibility from 10 to 14 years; command responsibility pay; hostile fire and imminent danger pays for Reservists on inactive duty; expanded TRICARE benefits; lodging reimbursements during leave; and commissary privileges for all reservists. General Sherrard has been the driving force on every major Air Force Reserve issue from rebalancing the force structure between the Reserve and Active components to updating Cold War era laws to more effectively employ Reserve members.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank General Sherrard, his wife Marsha, and their entire family for the commitment, sacrifices, and contribution that they have made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an exceptional and extremely successful career. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:19 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Chiapparti, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in