

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am proud to honor a group of 97 World War II veterans from Louisiana who are traveling to Washington, DC, this weekend to visit the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable servicemembers.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, is sponsoring this Saturday's trip to the Nation's Capital. The organization is honoring each surviving World War II Louisiana veteran by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. On this trip, the veterans will visit the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials. They will also travel to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns.

This is the ninth flight Louisiana HonorAir will make to Washington, DC.

World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs, but was also a conflict rife with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American service members were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. The years 1941 to 1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there remain today more than 40,000 living WWII veterans, and each one has a heroic tale of achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. The oldest in this HonorAir group was born in 1913. They began their service as early as 1938, before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and some members of this group served as late as 1979. They served in various branches of the military—34 members in the Army; 14 in the Army Air Corps; 37 in the Navy; 8 in the Marines; 1 in the USO; and 3 in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Our heroes served across the globe, participating in major invasions such as those at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Guadalcanal, Leyte, the Philippines, and southern France. One was a prisoner of war in Italy, another served under General Patton, and one flew 35 bombing missions over Europe.

Many of these veterans earned Purple Hearts, Bronze Star Medals, Air Medals and Navy Crosses.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 97 veterans, all Louisiana heroes, that we welcome to Washington this weekend and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

RECOGNIZING TINA FLETCHER

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the work of an out-

standing young woman who has served Arkansas and our Nation this spring as an intern in my office, Tina L. Fletcher of Plumerville, AK.

Last month, Tina, a senior at the University of Arkansas, was named the 2008 recipient of the Henry Woods Student Leadership Award, which recognizes one outstanding student leader and his or her contributions to the University of Arkansas campus community. She is the ninth recipient of the Woods award and will receive a \$750 scholarship.

Friends and associates of Henry Woods created this award to honor his 25 years of service in the Washington, DC, area. While in Washington, Woods worked for U.S. Representative Bill Alexander and U.S. Senators David Pryor and Dale Bumpers. I was also fortunate enough to have Henry work in my Washington office for a short time and lend his years of experience to my staff. Prior to his professional service with in Congress, Henry was active in numerous campus organizations and served for 2 years as editor of the Razorback yearbook while attending the University of Arkansas.

In addition to winning the Henry Woods award, Tina is a Silas H. Hunt distinguished scholar and member of the Political Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha. She is a graduating senior in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences completing a combined major in political science and African-American studies.

In addition to serving as the former secretary of Pi Sigma Alpha, Tina also served as the 2007 president of the Kappa Iota Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the 2007 vice-president of the Black Students Association, and is the founder and first President of S.A.S.S.: Students Advocating Stronger Sisterhood. Tina is an active member of the Connections Mentoring Program, Order of Omega, and Tri-Council.

In November 2007, Tina was selected as one of 10 students to serve as a Congressional Black Caucus/Wal-Mart Emerging Leaders intern. She was among the first group of students to receive the Silas H. Hunt distinguished scholarship. Tina has also received many additional honors and awards since arriving at the University of Arkansas as a freshman in 2004 including being named the NAACP's University of Arkansas Legend.

Recently admitted into Harvard University, Tina will pursue her masters of education degree in political philosophy/political science and history during the upcoming school year. After receiving her master's degree, Tina plans to teach high school within the Delta region's urban and impoverished school districts.

Mr. President, it goes without saying that the future looks bright for Tina Fletcher. While we will certainly miss her, we wish her the best in all her future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING LEW WILLIAMS, JR.

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to talk about one of Alaska's greatest newspaper publishers and newsmen. Lew Williams, Jr. was a fixture in Ketchikan, AK, one of the State's largest cities as I was growing up in nearby Wrangell. Lew unfortunately passed away at age 83 this past Saturday, leaving a hole in the fabric of Alaska journalism that may never be fully patched.

Mr. Williams was a successful publisher, no simple accomplishment when publishing newspapers in relatively small Alaska towns is expensive, newsprint had to come by barge from thousands of miles away, and advertisers and readers were sometimes far too scarce. But he never scrimped on his product and was fearless in writing strong, clear and always factually accurate and well reasoned editorials.

Lew was a champion in supporting statehood for Alaska back in the mid-1950s. Along with Robert Atwood, the former publisher of the Anchorage Times, and C.J. Snedden, the long-time publisher of the Fairbanks News Miner, Mr. Williams was one of the three pioneer publishers and editors in Alaska who did more to establish modern Alaska than most community leaders and politicians. Avoiding the trend to sell his publication to outside chains, his daughter Tena remains as publisher of the newspaper today.

He also was a leading light in improving journalism in Alaska, being the founder in 1965, just 6 years after Statehood, of the Alaska Newspaper Publishers' Association, the forerunner to today's Alaska Newspaper Association. He served as president of each organization and later as director of the regional Allied Daily Newspaper Association.

Mr. Williams was born in Spokane, WA, in November 1924, the son of two reporters, Lew M. Williams, Sr., and Winfred—Dow—Williams, who worked for newspapers in Tacoma, WA. The Williams family moved to Juneau in 1935, where his father worked for the Juneau Empire. In 1939 Lew Williams, Sr., purchased the Wrangell Sentinel, starting a history of newspaper publishing in Alaska which continues to this day.

After serving as a sergeant in the paratroopers in World War II, Lew Jr. ran the Wrangell Sentinel for the family. He married Dorothy M. Baum in July 1954. The couple bought the Petersburg Press and acquired the Wrangell Sentinel from Mr. Williams' parents when they retired. They later sold the two newspapers and bought the Daily Sitka Sentinel—Sitka being the site of Alaska's first pulp mill started after WW II—and also bought an interest in the Ketchikan Daily News.

Ketchikan, a sawmill town in the heart of the Tongass National Forest, later saw its own pulp mill develop. The Williams sold the Sitka paper to