

early on, serving as President of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, President of the Inter Fraternity Council, and President of the Cardinal XX Honorary Society. Upon graduation, Stanley attended the University of Arkansas School of Law where he received his Juris Doctorate in 1976 and was also awarded Highest Honors. Upon taking the Arkansas Bar Exam that year, Stanley scored the highest grade in the State.

Although licensed as an attorney, Stanley returned to the family farm, producing cotton in Lee and St. Francis Counties. He soon became active within the agricultural community and served as president of the Lee County Farm Bureau from 1982–1984. Soon after, he joined the board of directors of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation in 1988, later serving as secretary-treasurer for 6 years, vice president for 4 years, and, as I mentioned before, president for the past 6 years. He has also served on the American Farm Bureau Board of Directors since 2004.

His involvement in the Arkansas agriculture community has led him on trade missions to Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Mexico, Turkey, Brazil, South Korea, and Peru. In addition, I had the good fortune to be joined by Stanley and other Arkansas farmers on a trade mission to Cuba in 2000 to discuss the opening of the Cuban market to Arkansas goods.

What makes Stanley so unique, though, is that his service to Arkansas extends beyond the agriculture world. Education has always been a priority for him. He served for 4 years on the Lee Academy School Board, where his children attended, and he just recently completed a 10-year term on the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, where he served as chairman for 2 years. He is a member of the Arkansas Academy for Agriculture Engineers and has been honored as Distinguished Alumni of the College of Engineering. Additionally, he has served on the board of directors for Baptist Health and as a board member of Simmons First National Bank.

Faith is an important part of Stanley's life. A member of the First Baptist Church in Marianna, Stanley has served as a Deacon in the church and taught youth and adult Sunday School classes for over 20 years. More importantly, he has been involved in prison ministries locally and oversaw the fundraising and construction of the prison chapel at an Arkansas Department of Corrections facility.

And last but certainly not least, Stanley's family—his wife Charlene and three children, Haley Davis, Nathan, and Anna—has been a tremendous source of pride and inspiration for him. In fact, Nathan is carrying on the family farming tradition and works with Stanley on the farm. Stanley is also the proud grandfather to Anna Kate, Jack, and Haven Davis.

As you can see, Stanley Reed is Arkansas through and through. So as he

steps down as president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, I want to thank him for all that he has done for Arkansas and in particularly, the Arkansas agriculture community. Stanley, although you are ending your tenure, I know you will not be far away. I look forward to working with you and know you will continue to make your impact felt in your community and in the State you love so much.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES E. LEA

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about the life of a truly outstanding Missourian. On October 7, 2008, this nation lost a son, a soldier, and a community servant when Dr. Charles E. Lea of Lexington, MO, passed away. While we mourn his passing, we are extraordinarily grateful for all that he gave to his community, his State, and his country during his lifetime.

I believe that Dr. Lea is a wonderful example and reminder of the brave men and women who have served our country in the past and continue to serve it today in this time of great need.

In 1957, Dr. Lea graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and after putting himself through medical school at the University of Missouri, volunteered for service in Vietnam. Widely regarded and recognized as a humble servant, Dr. Lea was awarded the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Soldier's Medal, four Air Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Combat Medical Badge, and the Parachutist Badge for his service.

While awards and commendations obviously show a great deal about a person, I am a believer that the strength of a person's character is revealed in his or her daily actions. Those who knew Dr. Lea best shared an anecdote with me regarding his time in Vietnam. Dr. Lea was featured in newspapers and on television here at home for his efforts during the war to save a village elephant that had been shot. Seemingly insignificant at the time, those efforts placed the United States, and our servicemen and women, in high regard in the eyes of the Vietnamese village. This small effort, not part of his duty or orders, but undertaken by a man trying to make a difference, had an extensive impact.

Following his military service, Dr. Lea became a general practice family physician and served countless families in Oklahoma and Missouri throughout his medical career.

As I reflect on Dr. Lea's life today, I am reminded not only of the value of his personal service and sacrifice, but of the committed service and selfless sacrifice of all the men and women who have served this country in uniform. America owes a large debt to all of the remarkable men and women who have served this great nation. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Lea and his family, and in remem-

brance of his life and his service, my utmost gratitude goes to all those who have served.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD DAVIS

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I honor a truly great man and a good friend, Dr. Ronald Davis, who died on November 6, 2008 at his home near East Lansing, MI.

Dr. Davis was an outstanding physician, a great leader, and an effective, impassioned advocate for the uninsured. As President of the American Medical Association, Ron helped focus our attention on making sure health care was available and affordable for all Americans.

We worked together earlier this year on the Farm Bill—an unusual issue for physicians to get involved in—but Ron and I were committed to making sure our Federal farm policy promoted health and nutrition. With his help, we passed a truly groundbreaking farm bill that increased the Federal commitment to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Last February, Ron was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. This cancer, which affects over 37,000 Americans each year, is unfortunately one of the hardest to treat. But Ron didn't see it that way. He told his fellow doctors, "Never take away someone's hope," and he lived by those words.

Even while undergoing painful and difficult cancer treatments, Ron was on the front lines, educating the public about support Web sites for cancer patients that allow families to stay informed while building a support network for the patient.

A champion for preventative medicine and public health, Dr. Davis was a leading advocate for healthier lifestyles. He traveled the country urging Americans to quit smoking, exercise more, and eat better.

He also led the effort for the historic apology by the AMA to African-American doctors for the organization's past exclusion of Black physicians. He believed that "by confronting the past we can embrace the future," and pushed to increase enrollments by minorities in medical schools and health professions.

I want to express my deepest sympathies to his wife Nadine and his three sons, Jared, Evan, and Connor. America has lost a great doctor, and his family has lost a great man. Ron's extraordinary record of community service, dedication, and courage should serve as an inspiration to us all.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages