

centered care philosophy, Griffin has also created an extraordinary work environment for all Griffin employees—reflected in its recent celebration of its tenth consecutive year on FORTUNE Magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For" list.

Griffin Hospital not only provides outstanding care to its patients but also devotes programs and resources to benefit the greater community as well. The Valley Parish Nurse Program, which today serves thirty-five churches throughout the Lower Naugatuck Valley, provides health education, screening and referral services to a total of thirty-five thousand parishioners with a primary focus on outreach efforts to the underserved, minority, and low-income populations. Griffin also founded and sponsored the Healthy Valley project—the goal of which is to make the Valley a better place in which to live, work, raise a family, and enjoy life by measurably improving the quality of life and health of the community and its residents. Healthy Valley also focused on enhancing regional economic development by making the community a better place for businesses to relocate and expand as well as for their employees to live.

An industry leader in providing quality patient-centered care and understanding that their involvement is fundamental to the continued growth and prosperity of its surrounding communities, there are innumerable ways in which Griffin Hospital has made a difference. I am proud to stand today to congratulate the Board of Directors, administrators, and staff alike as they celebrate this very special occasion. Today, as they mark their centennial anniversary, they not only celebrate their past accomplishments but, as they have for the last one hundred years, they look to the future—to ensure that they continue to provide the best possible care to their patients and meet the ever-changing needs of our community. I wish them all the best for another century of success.

HONORING JOHN HARRIS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate John Harris upon being awarded the "Distinguished Citizen Award" by the Sequoia Council, Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Harris will be honored on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at a special luncheon at Harris Ranch.

Mr. John Harris was born and raised in Coalinga, California in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Harris attended and graduated from the University of California, Davis in 1965 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Agricultural Production/Agricultural Economics. While attending UC Davis, he was commissioned into the United States Army through the ROTC program.

Upon returning to the San Joaquin Valley, Mr. Harris began working on the family farm and ranch, Harris Farms. Harris Farms was founded in 1937 by Mr. Harris' parents, Jack and Teresa Harris. Over the years, the family business has grown to become one of the largest integrated farming operations in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The company

produces over a dozen crops including almonds, citrus, tomatoes, lettuce, wine grapes and pistachios. The farm has also expanded to include Harris Ranch Beef Company, which is one of California's largest fed cattle processors, producing nearly two million pounds of beef per year.

In 1966, Mr. Harris and his father decided to devote a substantial part of the Harris Ranch farming and cattle operation to raising and training of Thoroughbred racehorses. The company provides six hundred acres to the Thoroughbreds and has bred and raced several of California's championship horses. In addition to the farm, the cattle ranch and the Thoroughbred Division, the Harris Company also has multiple restaurants and an inn. Today, with Mr. Harris serving as the Chairman of the Board for Harris Farms, the companies in total employ over fifteen hundred people and have gross sales exceeding three hundred million dollars.

Outside of operating Harris Farms, Mr. Harris is involved with numerous organizations. He is a member of the board for the Water Growers Association and serves as Chair of the Water Committee. Mr. Harris also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Pacific Legal Foundation and is currently serving as Chair of Cattle PAC for the board of California Cattlemen's Association. He has been involved with the California Horse Racing Board since 2001 and is currently serving as Chairman of the board. Mr. Harris also serves on the boards of several agricultural related companies; including Sunny Cove Citrus, Los Gatos Tomato Products, Harris Woolf Almonds and California Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

Mr. Harris has worked with the Sequoia Council, Boy Scouts of America for almost twenty years, hosting an annual luncheon to benefit the chapter. The lunch supports the Scouting programs in western Fresno County and Kings County. His concern and dedication to the youth of our area and his love of Scouting has kept him working with the Sequoia Council, Boy Scouts of America and the growth of Scouting here in the San Joaquin Valley.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate John Harris upon being awarded the "Distinguished Citizen Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Harris many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on December 9, 2009, I was unable to be present for several rollcall votes. If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes:

Roll No. 942—"nay."

Roll No. 943—"nay."

Roll No. 944—"yea."

A TRIBUTE TO WESTON SPROTT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Weston Sprott who was appointed second trombone of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in the Spring of 2005.

Mr. Sprott attended Indiana University before completing his Bachelor of Music degree at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. While a student at Curtis, Mr. Sprott held the positions of principal trombone in the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra (Philadelphia) and the Delaware Symphony Orchestra. He was the founding member of the Texas Trombone Octet, a group that won the Emory Remington competition and was featured in concert at the International Trombone Festival in Helsinki, Finland.

Mr. Sprott has worked under the baton of many of the world's great conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, James Levine, Kurt Masur, Lorin Maazel, Christoph Eschenbach, Andre Previn and numerous others. Mr. Sprott was recently featured in the documentary film "A Wayfarer's Journey: Listening to Mahler" with actor Richard Dreyfuss and actress Kathleen Chalfant. He was also a performer in the film "Rittenhouse Square," a documentary under the direction of Robert Downey that played in major film festivals throughout the United States to critical acclaim. In September 2007, Mr. Sprott made his Carnegie Hall solo debut performing Lars Erik-Larsson's concertino in Weill Recital Hall at the invitation of the Bulgarian Consulate. Other engagements have led to performances with gospel and jazz artists such as Branford Marsalis, Take 6 and Donnie McClurkin. Mr. Sprott's performances and interviews have been seen and heard on various TV and radio shows such as: PBS' Great Performances, NPR's Performance Today, and Sirius Satellite Radio.

In demand as a soloist and master class clinician, Mr. Sprott has been a featured guest artist at several of America's leading conservatories and universities. He is currently on the faculty at the Purchase College Conservatory and Julliard's Music Advancement Program, and he previously served on the faculty of The New School University, a division of the Mannes School of Music in New York City. Weston Sprott is an artist/clinician for the Edwards Instrument Company and Music. He performs exclusively on Edwards's trombones and Greg Black mouthpieces.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Weston Sprott.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 and Wednesday, December 2, 2009.

For Tuesday, December 1, 2009, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 911, on motion to suspend the