

pygmy-owl and the endangered masked bobwhite quail. Additionally, 325 bird species, 53 species of reptiles and amphibians, 58 mammal species, including mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, javelina, and mountain lions all call the Refuge home. Without the protection of the Refuge, many of these species would disappear and be lost to us forever. The Refuge is also a vital part of the community and offers guided tours, hiking, camping, horseback riding, mountain biking, excellent birding, and plenty of beautiful picnic areas. The Refuge even offers wonderful educational opportunities through volunteer projects and nature workshops.

The men and women employed at the Refuge work tirelessly to preserve this beautiful area. Through their efforts, the Refuge has successfully reintroduced the endangered bobwhite quail and the pronghorn deer into the wild and ensures their continued protection. These people are truly the guardians of an environmental treasure and view their task as a privilege, not just a job.

In addition to the wonderful staff at the Refuge, an exemplary group of volunteers known as the Friends of the Buenos Aires National Refuge dedicate their time to the community education conservation, and preservation of this wonderful land. This non-profit group gives selflessly to promote the goals of the Refuge and with the help of the Refuge staff; they recently held the 1st Annual Grasslands Fair to celebrate this beloved land.

The Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, its staff, and the volunteers who dedicate their time are all truly valued players in the protection of America's wild lands. Being a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and having seen our community grow to over a million people, during my lifetime, I know the importance of protecting areas like the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. It gives me great joy to see such wonderful people giving of themselves to preserve and protect this spectacular region of Southern Arizona.

RECOGNITION OF STEFANIE SPIELMAN

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stefanie Spielman, a dedicated activist who fought to increase funding for breast cancer research and raise awareness about the disease. Stefanie was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998, survived four bouts of cancer and worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the vital role routine examinations play for women. Stefanie's death in November 2009 was a tragic loss for her family and the Columbus community, but her legacy will live on.

After her diagnosis, it became Stefanie's life mission to raise money for breast cancer awareness and research. Her initial efforts were focused locally. Her neighborhood grocery store asked shoppers to purchase paper footballs, the donations from which would be given to the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital. The response was overwhelming. Within six months donations totaled \$1 million, far ex-

ceeding the initial goal of \$250,000. Inspired by this outpouring of support, Stefanie established the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research and Stefanie's Champions, an annual awards program recognizing those whose love, dedication and strength have had a powerful impact on the lives of cancer survivors. Stefanie's fundraising efforts continued over the next twelve years and at the time of her death, the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research had raised over \$6.5 million for breast cancer research, education, and patient assistance. Stefanie also helped establish the Stefanie Spielman Patient Assistance Fund, which provides financial support to breast cancer patients and their families who are experiencing financial hardships. Through these efforts, Stefanie has touched the lives of countless individuals and families who have struggled with breast cancer.

The Upper Arlington Historical Society and the city of Upper Arlington have chosen Stefanie Spielman as one of the 2010 inductees to the Upper Arlington Wall of Honor. Each year, the Historical Society and the city select members of the community who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and personal character, or provided valuable service to the community. The induction ceremony will be held on May 23, 2010, in honor of Stefanie, her contributions to Upper Arlington, Columbus, and the search for a cure for breast cancer. I am proud to honor Stefanie Spielman, whose leadership and courage in the fight against breast cancer in the Columbus and greater Ohio area has been and continues to be an inspiration.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR REPRESENTATIVE DALE KILDEE

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge one of our most devoted and respected colleagues, Representative DALE KILDEE, and congratulate him on the casting of his historic 20,000th vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. For those of us in this chamber who have been fortunate enough to work with the gentleman from Michigan, such a remarkable achievement comes as no surprise.

As my colleagues have justly pointed out, it is not only the quantity of votes that makes this feat remarkable, but it is the consistency with which he has cast them that proves to be especially noteworthy. Missing only 27 votes since 1977 is a reflection of the pride and seriousness he takes in representing the people of Michigan's Fifth District.

Since entering Congress, I have had the honor of serving with Mr. KILDEE on the Education and Labor Committee. He brings the same work ethic to the committee as he has on the floor of the House.

Representative KILDEE has set a standard here in Congress that most will not replicate, but it will indeed continue to inspire and serve as an example for me and his other colleagues in the House. Once again, I send my congratulations on this historic achievement and thank Representative KILDEE for his service to his district in Michigan and to this institution.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL LARRY DODGEN

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my condolences to the family of LTG Larry Dodgen, former head of the Army's Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal.

On February 20, 2010, I along with many others across the State and Nation were saddened to hear of the passing of Retired LTG Larry Dodgen.

Dodgen served in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 2006. He was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

Lieutenant General Dodgen served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, near Huntsville, Alabama, from September 10, 2001, to December 16, 2003.

After retiring from the Army in 2006, Lieutenant General Dodgen worked as sector vice president and deputy general manager of the Missile Defense Division within Northrop Grumman's Mission Systems sector.

Lieutenant General Dodgen will be remembered for his outstanding leadership, effective communication, and for making safety and security the top priority for both his troops and their families. It was an honor to work with him, and I know he was well-liked and respected throughout Congress.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Leslie and her family and friends.

RECOGNIZING AND THANKING AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women who are striving to realize the American dream and who will be integral in our economy's recovery. This week we are recognizing and thanking American small businesses and the entrepreneurs behind them.

Entrepreneurs are a key component to our Nation's economy now more than ever. They are responsible for the creation of two-thirds of all new jobs each year, and their small businesses comprise more than 97 percent of all employers in the United States—nearly 30 million businesses in all.

Entrepreneurs are important for the entire nation, but in Nebraska they are vital. In the most recent report from the Small Business Administration, Nebraska has an estimated 163,077 small businesses which employed more than 50 percent of the non-farm private labor force, bringing in \$6.7 billion in income. Quite simply, we need small businesses and entrepreneurs. They deserve our support and recognition as they work to rebuild our economy.