

When I complete this oversight investigation, I will submit a final report to Secretary of Defense Panetta. It will contain findings and recommendations for the Secretary's consideration. To facilitate this process, I ask Deputy Inspector General Halbrooks to answer all my outstanding questions promptly. In other words, I am getting tired of being jerked around.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SAMUEL WILSON THOMAS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a respected historian of my hometown of Louisville, KY, who has sadly passed away. Samuel Wilson Thomas died on Thursday, October 4, of this year, at his home at the age of 74.

Louisville is a wonderful city, and I am always pleased to sing its praises. This is much easier to do thanks to the work of Mr. Thomas. He wrote 18 books touching on every corner of Louisville history, from the famous Churchill Downs to the legendary Cave Hill Cemetery, from Oxmoor Farm to Crescent Hill.

Sam Thomas received his bachelor's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Louisville. He is best known for serving as the first director and curator of Locust Grove, a National Historic Landmark that was the home to George Rogers Clark, the founder of Louisville. Locust Grove also hosted three U.S. Presidents—Monroe, Jackson, and Taylor—and was a stopping point for famed explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark upon their return from their expedition to the Pacific.

The log cabin at Locust Grove was Sam Thomas's home for two decades. In his role as director and curator, he oversaw Locust Grove's restoration with careful attention paid to the preservation of its history.

Mr. Thomas also taught at the University of Louisville, edited numerous local publications, and published a host of articles. His role in preserving the history of Louisville and the legacy of its famous inhabitants was tremendous and will not be forgotten.

I know my colleagues join me in expressing gratitude for Sam Thomas's body of work and in extending sympathies to his family, including his wife, Debbie; his brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Susanna; his niece, Sheena McGuffey; his nephews, Ian Thomas, Mason Thomas, and Cas McGuffey; and many other beloved friends and family members.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an obituary for Mr. Samuel Wilson Thomas printed in the Louisville Courier-Journal be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal, Oct. 6, 2012]

SAMUEL WILSON THOMAS, 74, DIED THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2012, AT HIS HOME

Born on January 21, 1938, in Chestnut Hill, Penn., Sam moved to Louisville shortly after his graduation from Chestnut Hill Academy. He received his B.A. (1960) and Ph.D. (1964) in chemistry from the University of Louisville.

Although Sam taught for a short time at UofL, his life and career were forever changed when he began his long association with Locust Grove, overseeing its restoration and serving as its first director and curator. The log house there was his home for nearly two decades.

Sam is the author of 18 seminal books on Kentucky topics, all meticulously researched and primarily focused on Louisville: its neighborhoods, landmarks, and corporations.

His most recent work includes histories of St. Matthews, Anchorage, the Cherokee Triangle, Crescent Hill, Oxmoor Farm, Cave Hill Cemetery, and Churchill Downs, but the project closest to his heart was an overview of early Louisville architecture.

He edited numerous publications for the Courier-Journal's book division and published many articles on a host of Kentucky subjects. He also co-authored with his brother Jim "The Simple Spirit," a pictorial history of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.

He was also involved in the restoration of the Jefferson County Courthouse, the Ferguson Mansion headquarters of The Filson Historical Society, and the 1785 log house at Oxmoor. He was a founder of Preservation Alliance and the George Rogers Clark Press, a member of the Louisville Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission, and archivist of Jefferson County.

Sam is survived by his wife, Debbie; brother, Jim (Susanna); niece, Sheena McGuffey; and nephews, Ian Thomas, Mason Thomas and Cas McGuffey.

Sam chose cremation and requested that no funeral or memorial service be held. The family will receive friends from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, October 8, 2012, in the Audubon Room at Locust Grove, 561 Blankenbaker Lane.

Memorial gifts may be directed to Locust Grove or to the University of Louisville Photographic Archives, to which Sam gave his collection of photographs and research materials.

TRIBUTE TO JOE LILES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I stand before you today to pay tribute to a man who has spent a significant amount of his life working for the Kentucky Rural Water Association and the

National Rural Water Association. Mr. Joe Liles helped in founding the Kentucky Rural Water Association in 1979. He has also been an employee of the National Rural Water Association since 1999, when he was first elected to the Board of Directors.

He has progressed through numerous positions within the association, and as of September 2010, Mr. Liles has been President of the National Rural Water Association.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Liles on his achievements. I would also like to acknowledge the Kentucky Rural Water Association Leadership Award that Mr. Liles was given in 2008. He was presented this prestigious award based on his exemplary service, leadership, and commitment to Kentucky's water and wastewater utilities. Most recently, Mr. Liles received the 2012 Man of the Year Award from the National Rural Water Association.

After 38 years of dedication to the water systems of Warren, Butler, and Simpson counties, Mr. Liles retired in 2005 from his managerial position. However, he currently serves as the utilities' community and government relations assistant.

Mr. Joe Liles resides in Bowling Green, KY, with his wife, Sally, and his four daughters. He is a grandfather to six. Liles earned his bachelor's degree with an area of concentration in management from Western Kentucky University.

Mr. Liles has shown tremendous loyalty, devotion, and consideration, not only to his job and career, but also to the Bluegrass State. I appreciate all that Mr. Liles has done for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Mr. President, the National Rural Water Association recently published an article about the accomplishments of Mr. Joe Liles, and I would ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed as follows:

[From the National Rural Water Association Newsletter, Oct. 23, 2012]

The National Rural Water Association recently honored Joe Liles as the 2012 Man of the Year. A long-standing leader in rural water, Liles was honored during the Tribute to Excellence awards ceremony, held on Sept. 24th in Nashville, Tenn. Joe Liles, outgoing NRWA president and founding member of the Kentucky Rural Water Association board of directors, has served in numerous positions on the boards for both Kentucky Rural Water and NRWA.

The Man of the Year Award is a prestigious award that recognizes individuals for their many years of exemplary service, leadership, and commitment to our nation's water and wastewater utilities. Although Mr. Liles retired as manager of the Warren, Butler and Simpson counties water systems in 2005 after 38 years, he currently serves as the utilities' community and government relations assistant.

Kentucky Rural Water congratulates Joe on this esteemed honor!

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, now that the elections are over, I renew my call