

grants. Strong local leadership transform these centers into places many older citizens now depend on for warm wholesome meals, fellowship and recreation and a way to support the maintenance of an independent life style.

Twenty-seven years ago, using a \$25,000 budget provided by a "model grant," Winston Bledsoe started the first agency in Southwest Missouri to organize and open senior centers. The Southwest Missouri Office on Aging grew out of that effort and opened nine senior centers in six weeks in 1973.

Today, the agency that Bledsoe helped create provides services and a daily meeting place for more than 40,000 seniors a year. The Southwest Missouri Office on Aging has 38 centers and a budget of more than \$6.8 million providing individual social services, transportation, meals, recreation and home-maker care. Bledsoe encouraged seniors at each center to own their own building, thereby reducing the government's role in the future of the facilities in case federal aid was ever curbed or interrupted.

Dorothy Knowles, who was Bledsoe's chief lieutenant over the last quarter century and the new agency director, calls Winston a visionary, who was "dedicated to the lowest cost of keeping older people independent." For most people, quality of life is defined by their degree of independence.

Bledsoe has been a tireless advocate for seniors and group who serve them. He has often battled bureaucrats, politicians, and local opponents. He has not always been diplomatic but he has never forgotten who he serves. The interest of older Southwest Missourians are always foremost in his efforts.

Winston, at age 70, retired as the director of the agency this year. A former insurance salesman and football coach, his third career will leave a legacy cherished by every senior in Southwest Missouri who finds friends, support and nourishing meals at one of the centers that Bledsoe nurtured.

WILLARD MUNGER, MINNESOTA'S
ENVIRONMENTAL ICON

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 11, Minnesota lost our most senior, longest serving, best loved friend, mentor and state representative, Willard Munger at the age of 88.

After forty-eight years of public service and a lifetime of fighting for people and the environment, DFLer Willard Munger stands as a testament to public service. Unbending in principle but pragmatic and patient to achieve results, Munger's list of achievements are too numerous to mention. While 88 years of age he was still contemporary in his thinking and open to new ideas and solutions. Many of his policies were ahead of their time, such as packaging laws, water and air pollution.

I was proud to serve in the Minnesota Legislature on Chairman Munger's revered Environment and Natural Resources Committee. I was an eager student and to this day, twenty-

nine years later, both the lessons I have learned and the Munger spirit and excitement guide me in my Congressional work. Indeed I, like to many others, stand on the shoulders and work of one very special Minnesotan environmentalist, Willard Munger.

We can all see further because of his work and the benchmarks Munger has set in Minnesota. We should try to employ his vision and lessons as we work for future generations in the preservation, conservation and restoration of the natural world.

The following are two editorials from the July 13th St. Paul and Minneapolis papers which give testimony to the work and life of Willard Munger, who is being laid to rest today.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, July 13, 1999]

MORE THAN A POLITICIAN

Willard Munger campaigned for Floyd B. Olson, first ran for office under the banner of the old Farmer-Labor Party and won his first election when Dwight Eisenhower was president. At age 88, Munger was the oldest legislator in Minnesota history and its longest serving House member—with 48 years of service.

But Munger, who died early Sunday in Duluth, will be remembered for more than his phenomenal political longevity.

Long known as "Mr. Environment," Munger left his mark as the father of the state Environmental Trust Fund and an architect of virtually every major piece of environmental legislation enacted in the last three decades.

While he was not the Legislature's most gifted orator, the motel owner from west Duluth had a way of getting people's attention and getting things done. Munger's environmental activism began in earnest in 1971, when he passed a bill to create the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District and begin the cleanup of the heavily polluted St. Louis River.

Two years later, after the DFL captured control of both houses of the Legislature, Munger took over as chairman of the House Environment Committee and helped enact dozens of major environmental laws. They included legislation to protect wild and scenic rivers, promote recycling and reduce solid waste, clean up polluted lands, safeguard groundwater supplies and preserve wetlands.

But Munger's greatest achievement was the passage of a state constitutional amendment in 1988 that created the Environmental Trust Fund, and earmarked 40 percent of state lottery proceeds for this purpose. Since its creation, the fund has generated more than \$100 million for parks and trails, fish and wildlife habitat, and environmental education.

Willard Munger truly left this state and Earth a better place than he found it.

[Minneapolis Star Tribune, July 13, 1999]

(Willard Munger)

MINNESOTA'S ENVIRONMENTAL VISIONARY

There is talk about the best way to memorialize Willard Munger and his four decades in the Minnesota House, perhaps by renaming the Environmental Trust Fund for him. Not a bad move, but possibly a superfluous one.

"This state abounds with monuments to Munger's tireless advocacy of the natural world, from clean rivers to bicycle trails to metropolitan wetlands to northwoods wilder-

ness preserves. Many a Minnesotan needs no plaque to know that "Mr. Environment," who died on Sunday at age 88, is the man to thank for these.

Munger was already in his second decade of legislative service when the modern environmental movement began in the early 1970s. His political experience, informed by the passions he acquired from a naturalist grandfather and populist father, positioned him as both visionary and strategist of the new ideals.

One of his proudest victories was among the first: the \$115 million cleanup that transformed the St. Louis River from an industrial drainage into one of the state's loveliest streams. Munger built his last home along the river and hosted an annual canoe trip and barbecue for friends and colleagues; the tenth of these would have been held last month but his illness forced postponement.

Munger loved politics of the old-fashioned sort, stubbornly advancing his cause with a combination of persuasion, patience and shrewd deal-making. He was not notably charismatic; journalists ranked him among the legislature's worst-dressed members and marveled at his mumbling, fumbling style of address on the House floor. But he excelled at one-to-one negotiation and played a masterful role in conference committees, where his passion could win the day for his position.

He was deeply respected by colleagues, if not particularly beloved. Northern legislators were regularly aggrieved by his advocacy for public lands and lakeshores, for wetland protection, for halting Reserve Mining Co.'s discharge of tailings into Lake Superior. But they could count on him to support spending that would bring employment and tourism to their districts. Some, perhaps, began to see the correctness of his views that more jobs are created than destroyed through environmental progress.

In recent years, as the tide turned on environmental concerns, Munger fought to save his earlier achievements from dismantling. But his file drawers were said to contain plenty of new initiatives, too, awaiting the right moment for introduction. Now they form another Munger legacy, awaiting a new champion to take up the task.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY SNYDER

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Chisholm High School bank conductor, Jerry Snyder.

Jerry Snyder was borne in Duluth and graduated from Duluth East High School. As a child, Jerry learned to play the piano and went on to learn how to play the tuba, baritone horn, and trombone. He graduated from the University of Minnesota—Duluth. A few years later began his career as a conductor at Chisholm High School. Jerry began his conducting career 30 years ago when he became the band conductor in Chisholm. In addition to directing the Chisholm High School Band, he also conducted two area church choirs, St. Joseph's Catholic Church and St. Leo's Catholic Church.

Jerry has continued his personal interest in and enthusiasm for music through the years.

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He is a member of band called "Four of a Kind," which consists of three other former music teachers. Although he is now retired, Jerry plans to continue playing in this band, and also conducting the Hibbing City Band during the summers.

Jerry Snyder made a valuable contribution to the city of Chisholm for his enthusiasm toward music and his dedication to teaching. I know he passed along that enthusiasm for music to his students. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Jerry Snyder for his many years of service to the students and entire community of Chisholm, MN.

HONORING LINDA R. WILLIAMS,
CRNA, J.D., PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding constituent of Colorado's 5th Congressional District. Ms. Linda R. Williams, the outgoing national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). In my opinion it is appropriate at this time to recognize the distinguished career of this individual.

Founded in 1931, the AANA represents over 27,000 certified registered nurse anesthetists, or CRNAs, across the country. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, and for all types of surgical cases including hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

As president, Ms. Williams was responsible for charting the policy and direction of the association from 1998-1999. Throughout her involvement with the AANA, Ms. Williams has held a variety of leadership positions prior to being elected President, including Treasurer and a Director of Region 5 on the AANA Board of Directors.

Ms. Williams began her studies at Stephens College receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Health Science. She then received her Bachelor of Science in Nurse Anesthesiology from Ohio State University and her diploma from St. Mary's School of Nursing. Lastly, she received her juris doctorate in law from the University of Denver, Colorado College of Law.

Ms. Williams is currently in private practice in Englewood Colorado. She has been widely published and speaks often before professional groups and societies, which has earned her the esteem and respect of her peers and others in all professions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing Ms. Williams for her notable career and outstanding achievements. Congratulations Ms. Williams for a job well done.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING ROCKY MOUNT
ON ITS ALL-AMERICA CITY DESIGNATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Rocky Mount, North Carolina for earning the designation of an All-America City. I have the honor of representing Rocky Mount in the U.S. House.

Founded in the early part of the Nineteenth Century, Rocky Mount is now a city of more than 57,000 people located in the heart of eastern North Carolina. Its name derives from the rocky mound situated at the falls of the Tar River, which was the site of a new post office and one of the first cotton mills in North Carolina. In 1907, Rocky Mount, then with a population of about 7,500 people, was incorporated as a city. Following decades of growth and achievement, Rocky Mount was first named an All-America City in 1970.

Almost 30 years later, Mr. Speaker, Rocky Mount continues to stand out for its civic excellence. The National Civic League, which has given out the All-America City Awards for the past 50 years, commended Rocky Mount as a community that teaches the rest of us how to face difficult situations and meet those challenges in innovative and collaborative ways. According to the organization, Rocky Mount is a city in which citizens, government, businesses and voluntary organizations work together to address critical local issues.

Specifically, the National Civic League cited three examples of this type of cooperation in Rocky Mount. The city developed the Down East Partnership for Children, which is dedicated to achieving the fundamentals of quality child growth and development. It annually reaches more than 12,000 children, parents, and agencies. Rocky Mount also formed the Carolinas Gateway Partnership, a nationally recognized non-profit corporation partnership with 190 investors, which has secured commitments worth \$170 million that will eventually create 2,300 jobs as it seeks to promote economic development in the area.

In addition, Rocky Mount became part of the Rocky Mount-Edgecombe-Nash Educational Cooperative, which was designed to coordinate the resources of business and education for the betterment of both schools and students. Thus far, the Cooperative has funded more than 935 creative teaching grants worth about \$500,000 that have affected thousands of students. I would like to take a point of personal privilege in adding that I am profoundly grateful and proud of the Nash-Rocky Mount Public School system for its leadership in teaching character education in the classroom, yet another reason why Rocky Mount is an All-America City.

Finally, I want to thank the Leadership Rocky Mount Alumni group and the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce for all their hard work over the past few years to bring this outstanding recognition to Rocky Mount.

Mr. Speaker, it is both an honor and a privilege to represent Rocky Mount and her 57,158 All-American citizens in the U.S. Congress. I

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encourage all my colleagues to read the following article from the Rocky Mount Telegram celebrating this well-deserved honor.

[From the Rocky Mount Telegram, June 27, 1999]

ROCKY MOUNT IS ALL-AMERICAN!!

'ALL-AMERICA CITY' DESIGNATION CAPTURED AT PHILADELPHIA EVENT

(By Tom Murphy)

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—There's something about "Rocky" and Philadelphia.

In the city famed as the home of Sylvester Stallone's fictional movie boxer, another Rocky—Rocky Mount—captured All-America City status Saturday in the 50th annual awards sponsored by the National Civic League and Allstate Insurance Co.

The other nine winners were Stockton, Calif.; Union City, Calif.; Tallahassee; Fla.; Wichita, Kan.; Shreveport, La.; Lowell, Mass.; Tupelo, Miss.; Green Bay, Wisc.; and Tri-Cities (Bristol, Va.; Johnson City and Kingsport, Tenn.). Two other North Carolina finalists, Hickory and Morganton, failed to make the cut.

The awards honor communities that show exemplary grassroots community involvement and problem-solving. The original field of 93 applicants was cut to 30 finalists. As a winner, Rocky Mount is eligible for a \$10,000 award from Allstate.

Mayor Fred Turnage, in accepting the All-America City Award, reflected on another delegation from Rocky Mount that stood on the All-America City stage in Philadelphia 30 years ago.

They also proclaimed that Rocky Mount was a community that was walking to the beat of a different drum, and how it had focused on racial harmony, quality education and job opportunity, Turnage said.

Turnage added in subsequent years and certainly in the most recent decade, many citizens have worked diligently to accomplish those goals.

"In recent years, the formation of partnerships has enabled us to make significant strides in all of those areas," he said. "The Down East Partnership for Children is a tremendous example of what cooperation can accomplish with its total focus on giving our young people Smart Start and a quality education.

"The Gateway Partnership has demonstrated what cooperation and teamwork between the private and public sectors can truly accomplish, and is helping provide quality job opportunities and economic stability for our community."

Turnage said the third partnership, which was a part of Rocky Mount's presentation, is a great example of what the business and education community can and must do to achieve quality education.

"It would be my hope that as pleased and humbled as we are to have received this award that we, as well as other award-winning cities, would simply use it as an opportunity for even greater cooperation and basis for addressing many of the challenges that still confront us," he said. "It is important to recognize that the All-America City Award does not mean a community is perfect, but that it is attempting to meet challenges and solve problems in innovative and cooperative ways at the ground level of democracy."

Turnage commended the Leadership Rocky Mount Alumni group for initiating this process some two years ago, and for the Chamber of Commerce for carrying the process to its conclusion.

"There is a tremendous amount of work and effort that goes into this process, and it