

has been devoted to her wonderful family, raising eight children and caring for twenty-one grandchildren.

It is with the greatest respect and admiration that I pay tribute to this remarkable leader. Her public service and generosity are a shining example to us all. I know that I speak for all of the people of Massachusetts when I say that she will be missed greatly. ●

MINORITY ARTS RESOURCE COUNCIL AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RODEO

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, last year, for the first time in Philadelphia's history, the African American Rodeo came to that great city. It was a memorable occasion with approximately 8,000 school children attending the rodeo at the Apollo Stadium. While these children were entertained by the rodeo and re-enactments of life in the old West, they learned of the many contributions made by African Americans to our nation's history.

On October 8 and 9, of this year, the African American Rodeo is again coming to the City of Brotherly Love to present re-enactments of historical figures of the old West. Such performances are important because our history books and Hollywood have failed to give proper recognition of the great sacrifices and heroic deeds made by African Americans.

Mr. President, more than 200,000 African American soldiers served in the Civil War. After the war, many of these trained soldiers were sent west, forming two infantry and two cavalry units. The term "Buffalo Soldier" was given to them by the Native Americans whom they encountered. Those soldiers, their families, and thousands who were freed from slavery were among our early settlers, cowpunchers, and farmers in a number of the western states.

It is with pleasure that I salute the Minority Arts Resource Council, its founder and Executive Director, Mr. Curtis E. Brown, its board members, and its volunteers for once again bringing this great event to the city of Philadelphia. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting the invaluable services and contributions of African Americans and the role that they have played and continue to play in American history. ●

ON THE RETIREMENT OF ALEXANDRIA CITY MANAGER VOLA LAWSON

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor an outstanding public servant. Recently, Vola Lawson, the city manager of the City of Alexandria, announced her retirement. During her fourteen years as city manager, Ms. Lawson provided the City with solid leadership and opened the doors

of City Hall to all Alexandrians. I'm proud to add my name to the long list of those who are praising Vola Lawson. Her distinguished career offers the ideal model for public officials, and inspires confidence in our public institutions. I ask that yesterday's article from *The Washington Post* on Vola Lawson's retirement be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the *Washington Post*, Sept. 14, 1999]
AFTER 14 YEARS, 4 MAYORS, ALEXANDRIA LEADER TO RETIRE—FIERY CITY MANAGER LAWSON IN OFFICE SINCE 1985

[By Ann O'Hanlon]

Vola Lawson, the tough veteran city manager of Alexandria, announced yesterday that she will retire in March, marking a major transition for the city she helped define during the 28 years she worked for it.

"I think this city is one of the greatest cities in America," said Lawson, standing in the City Hall lobby that was named for her this year. "This is a very bittersweet day for me."

Lawson, who turns 65 today, has been city manager since 1985, a tenure more than twice the national average. During that time, the city has lured or endured major new development, including the planned U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and a planned 300-acre residential and commercial complex on an abandoned railroad yard. Under Lawson, Alexandria also turned away a bid from then-Gov. L. Douglas Wilder and then-Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke to build a football stadium there.

In her 14 years, Lawson served under four mayors, all of whom stood with her yesterday, singing her praises.

"Vola has never met a stranger," said state Sen. Patricia S. Ticer (D-Alexandria), one of the former mayors. "She is a shining example of what a public servant should be."

Although her retirement was expected, a murmur still ran through the city of 122,000 yesterday.

"Boy, that's going to change the city more than anything I can imagine," said Katherine Morrison, executive director of the Campagna Center, a prominent local charity. "I don't know anyone who knows Alexandria better or has devoted more of their life to Alexandria."

Lawson worked her way up in Alexandria, blazing a path for women and minorities that some say is her prime legacy. As city manager, she has transformed City Hall from a largely white bureaucracy to an institution that better reflects the city's 40 percent minority population.

"I think her legacy in the city and in the minority communities will be absolutely enduring," said J. Glenn Hopkins, executive director of Hopkins House, an agency for children and families. "Her ability to be compassionate and to create a compassionate government, her ability to manage and her ability to be accessible to black people, to Hispanic people, to old people, to everybody, regardless of their background or their history or their race, is exceptional among people of her level."

Among today's city and county administrators, Lawson's professional pedigree is unusual. She attended George Washington University part time but dropped out when she had her first child. She plunged into community activism, and as a campaign organizer helped elect the city's first black council member in 1970.

Her entry to City Hall was with the anti-poverty program, and she later worked in the housing office. She quickly rose to assistant city manager and found time to initiate the Head Start program and after-school child care at every elementary school.

Lawson said she became an Alexandrian by accident. She and her husband, David, a psychiatrist, had planned to move back to Chevy Chase, but she got hooked on the community.

"We'll live the rest of our lives here," she said. "We never planned to live here. We fell in love with Alexandria."

Praise gushed from all corners yesterday, but there were criticisms, too: of an overbearing management style and a temper.

"She's very controlling, and that probably is her downside," said Jack Sullivan, who heads the city's civic federation. Nonetheless, said Sullivan, she has "a marvelous personality" and is "one of the ablest public administrators I have ever met."

Lawson's wrath is "legendary," said a close friend, Rep. James P. Moran Jr. (D-Va.), who as mayor hired Lawson. But the source of the anger, he said, is unselfish.

"If you have acted in a way that hurt the city and you should or did know better, then you're dead meat with Vola," he said.

William H. Hansell Jr., who heads the International City/County Management Association, said her 14-year tenure is "remarkable," especially in a community as "diverse and challenging as Alexandria."

She accomplished it by reflecting the values of the city, he said, laughing that "there are not too many city managers who tell a billionaire and a governor where to stick their stadium."

Lawson put the city on firm financial footing, twice achieving the Aaa bond rating and significantly lowering real estate taxes.

Her retirement will take effect March 1, after which she plans to see more of her two grandchildren, enhance her reputation as a movie buff and read the three stacks of books she bought at yard sales.

When people walk into the lobby that bears her name and wonder who Vola Lawson was, Moran said, they should be told, "She was a woman who chose to devote her mind and her heart to all the citizens of this community." ●

PILT AMENDMENT TO THE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL

● Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I support the PILT amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill, which increases payments to counties in lieu of taxes. I have worked closely with my good friend and colleague, Senator ABRAHAM, in crafting this amendment, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Senator from Michigan for his efforts in this regard. Senator ABRAHAM has consistently shown a sensitivity to and an understanding of the needs of rural Americans, especially those living in communities surrounded by public lands.

Most of my colleagues understand, by now, that 70 percent of my home state is either owned or controlled by the federal government. I believe that Utah's public lands stand out for their grandeur and unique beauty. Many of our Senate colleagues and staff members have visited these areas to hike, fish, ski, or mountain bike.