

have minimal adverse impacts on downstream non-Tribal water users, and indeed, to benefit downstream users wherever possible. This is quite an accomplishment in an area of Montana with a scarce water supply. The Rocky Boy's Reservation is located in an arid area with an average annual precipitation of 12 inches on the portion of the Reservation suitable for growing hay. Fortunately, an average annual snowpack of 30 inches in the Bearpaw Mountains within the Reservation contributes to a significant spring runoff. Effective utilization of that runoff through enlarged or new storage facilities on the Reservation is a critical part of the settlement package which this bill represents. Accordingly, \$25 million in the budget of the Bureau of Reclamation is earmarked for specified on-reservation water development projects. To meet the future water and economic needs of the Reservation, the bill contains an allocation of 10,000 acre feet of storage water to the Tribe in Tiber Reservoir, a Federal storage facility.

In addition, the bill authorizes the initial steps of a more extensive process of obtaining a long-term drinking water supply for the Chippewa Cree Tribe—a process that is vital to the survival of the Tribe. Toward that end, the bill authorizes the following: (1) seed money (\$15 million) toward the cost of a future project to import drinking water to the Reservation; and (2) funds (\$1 million) for the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to identify water resources available to meet the Tribe's future drinking water needs, to evaluate alternatives for the importation of drinking water to the Rocky Boy's Reservation, and to assess on-reservation water needs. The bill also authorizes funds for a regional feasibility study (\$3 million) to evaluate water resources over a broader area of North Central Montana that contains two other Indian reservations with unquantified and undeveloped water rights.

In closing, I believe it is not an overstatement to say that the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation Indian Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act is a historic agreement. It is a tribute to the Governor of Montana, Marc Racicot, represented by the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission; the chairman of the Tribe, Bert Corcoran and the Tribal negotiating team; David Hayes, Counselor to Secretary Babbitt and the Federal negotiating team; and the water users on Big Sandy and Beaver Creeks in the Milk River Valley of Montana, that this Compact represents a truly local solution that takes into account the needs and sovereign rights of each party. Although numerous Indian water right settlements have been approved by Congress, none have come before us in recent years. In approving the Chippewa Cree Settlement Act, this Congress has the opportunity to send the message to western States that we endorse negotiation as the preferred method of Indian water right quantification, and that we will defer to States and Tribes to fashion their own approach to the allocation of water. I intend to work closely with Members of Congress to ensure passage of this vitally important bill this year.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. JACK VAUGHN,
CHAIRMAN, OPRYLAND LODGING
GROUP, FOR HIS VISION AND
LEADERSHIP

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Jack Vaughn, Chairman, Opryland Lodging Group of Nashville, Tennessee, for his vision and leadership in creating the internationally renowned Opryland Hotel and his outstanding community service.

Mr. Vaughn will officially retire from his duties at the Opryland Hotel this month but plans to continue working in a part-time capacity for the next two years. After a lengthy career in the hotel business which began at the Westin Benson Hotel in Portland, Oregon, in 1959, Jack Vaughn joined the Opryland Hotel Group as General Manager in 1975, before construction on the original 600 room Opryland Hotel had even begun. Now in his 24th year with the company, Jack has risen to Chairman of the Opryland Lodging Group.

Today, Jack Vaughn's beloved Opryland Hotel boasts 2,883 rooms and 600,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space, making it the largest hotel and convention center under one roof. His promotion of convention space inside of hotels earned him a spot in the Convention Liaison Council's Hall of Leaders in 1988. The Opryland Hotel is one of the most successful in the world, and generated revenues in excess of 225 million in 1997.

Jack Vaughn's peers have recognized him many times. In 1990, Hotels Magazine named him "Independent Hotelier of the World," and later that year he was named "Resort Executive of the Year." These numerous awards also include the Arthur Landstreet Award from the Educational Institute, and the Lawson Odde Award from the American Hotel and Motel Association.

Mr. Vaughn's achievements extend into the community through his involvement in a number of civic organizations. In 1995, he was awarded the American Heart Association's Heart of the Community Award. He is a past president of the Middle Tennessee Council of the Boy Scouts of America, a board member for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, an executive committee member of the Nashville Rotary Club, past chairman of the Metropolitan Convention Center Commission, and previously served as president, chairman, and director of the Tennessee Hotel and Motel Association. He has also served the Legal Aid Society of Nashville, the Easter Seals Society of Tennessee, the YMCA Black Achievers Program, the Tennessee Police Athletic League, the Nashville Chapter of the American Cancer Society, the United Way of Tennessee, and other organizations.

On the national level, Mr. Vaughn is a member of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus Advisory Council and a past member of the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism Issues Task Force, serving in 1995.

Jack Vaughn is a community leader and a personal friend whose leadership and selfless

contributions have greatly benefited residents of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee. I wish him much success in the years ahead and the very best in his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA SENATE'S RALPH GRAHAM; A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Minnesotan who represented the very best in public service for more than three decades as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms for the Minnesota Senate.

Ralph Graham passed away January 28 and leaves a loyal legion of friends at the Capitol in St. Paul, friends and former State Senators like me, who benefited so greatly from his wit, wisdom and key assistance.

Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected to the Minnesota Senate, Ralph Graham was one of the first people I met. His dedication to the Minnesota Senate and the law-making process was truly impressive. He quickly became a trusted friend and I was often blessed to be the recipient of his pragmatic, bipartisan insights on the important issues facing our state and the Legislature.

He was very proud of his job, and that's why he excelled at it. He kept watch over the Senate like a father over a child, the pride evident in his face and every gesture. The commitment he brought to his job each and every day was inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph's heart, energy and dedication made coming to the Senate a special pleasure. He guarded the Senate chamber's doors and decorum with a patient yet relentless zeal, plainly revealing a love for his job and deep respect for the integrity of the Minnesota Senate.

Ralph's sense of history and duty to his state and country was most remarkable. His father, Charles, also worked at the Capitol. And for nearly 40 years, Ralph helped our nation's brave veterans by working as an X-ray technician at the Minneapolis Veterans Medical Center and, before that, as a messenger in the veterans hospital's administration department.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph Graham's pride and performance set a tremendous example for generations of Senators and their staffs. His values, devotion to Senate traditions and the dignity he brought to the chamber will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all the people of our great state and nation, I want to express my heartfelt sympathy to his family, and my thanks for all he did to make our democracy stronger in so many ways. The Minnesota Senate has lost a valued officer and treasured friend.