

TO HONOR WILLIAM ANTHONY  
CARGILE

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am honored to stand here today to praise the distinguished service of Mr. William Anthony Cargile. Through his service as a Volunteer Firefighter in the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue, he has distinguished himself from his colleagues in a variety of ways. At the age of 14, Anthony (as he is known to his friends and colleagues) started his volunteer firefighting career as a junior fireman. Thirty years later he continues to serve his community not only as a volunteer firefighter but in a number of other roles as well.

Anthony's firefighting credentials are impressive. He holds an Advanced Firefighter Certification as well as a Level II Instructor's Certification from the State Fireman's and Fire Marshal's Association of Texas. Along with serving as President of the Gulf Coast Firemen's Association from 1999 to 2000, he has served as the Training Commissioner for the Galveston Firefighter's Association from 2001–2003 and Coordinator of the Galveston County Field Day in 2003.

A fitting example of Anthony's character was his effort to establish an Honor Guard for the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue. Anthony did all the necessary research, received approval from his superiors and even designed and assembled the uniforms. Because of his tireless endeavor, he was able to successfully assemble the Honor Guard in 2004, which has performed admirably in a number of ceremonies. As another sign of Anthony's service to the firefighting community, he has received Fireman of the Year from the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue twice, in both 2000 and 2007, and was chosen as the Firefighter of the Year in 2008 by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshal's Association of Texas.

Consequently, it is not surprising that he was nominated for National Firefighter of the Year, an award given by the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Anthony is a model citizen and a true public servant. His actions have distinguished him in his community and the 22nd District of Texas is proud of its son.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVE  
THOMPSON

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Steve Thompson. After more than 30 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, he is retiring on August 2nd.

Steve Thompson served as the Director of the Service's California and Nevada Region. In this post he oversaw Service programs in California, Nevada and Klamath Basin that ad-

ministered the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and managed 51 national wildlife refuges, and three national fish hatcheries.

Prior to coming to Sacramento, Thompson was based in Atlanta as the Regional Chief for the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Service's Southeast Region. Prior to serving in Atlanta, he spent three years as the Branch Chief for Resource Management for the National Wildlife Refuge System Headquarters in Washington, DC

Thompson began his career with the Service as a wildlife biologist at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Burns, Oregon, moving on to the Puget Sound National Wildlife Refuge in Olympia, Washington, and Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge in Fallon, Nevada, before becoming refuge manager at Laguna Atacosa National Wildlife Refuge in Rio Hondo, Texas.

In 1994 Thompson was chosen as the first "Refuge Manager of the Year" by the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Refuge Association. In September 2007, he earned the Distinguished Executive Award, the highest Presidential Rank Award given to career Senior Executive Service employees.

Thompson, was born in Nevada and raised in both Nevada and California, where he graduated in 1976 from Humboldt State University with a bachelor of science degree in wildlife management. He is a competitive swimmer, avid birdwatcher and hunter.

Throughout his career at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Steve Thompson has been well known for his balanced, common sense approach. His partnership philosophy and demonstrated ability to work with diverse stakeholders will be missed. As he embarks on a new chapter in his life, I wish him continued success and good luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DICK RUTAN

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Glenn "Dick" Rutan, an aerospace pioneer, as he celebrated his 70th birthday on July 1, 2008.

Dick was born in Loma Linda, California, on July 1, 1938. At a young age, Dick developed an avid interest in piloting. By the time he turned 16, Dick was earning both his driver's license and pilot certificate. Dick has always had a passionate thirst for learning, thereby leading him to join the Air Force Aviation Cadet Program at the age of 19 and later receiving a commission as a Lieutenant. Dick went on to obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree at the American Technological University through the Air Force Professional Education "Boot Strap" Program.

When the Vietnam War broke out, Dick established himself as a brave, highly competent, and rigorous leader. As a Tactical Air Command fighter pilot, Dick flew 324 combat missions, 105 of which were as a high-risk classified operation known as the MISTY's. The many achievements Dick accomplished

while serving in the Air Force merited him the Silver Star, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, 16 Air Medals, and the Purple Heart.

After Dick's retirement, he joined forces with his brother, Burt Rutan, as the Production Manager and Chief Test Pilot for Rutan Aircraft Factory. He is widely recognized for his successes involving the world speed and distance records set in the Long-EZ, an airplane designed by Burt. To honor Dick's many achievements in record-setting flights, he was awarded the prestigious Louis Bleriot Medal by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

In 1981, Dick expanded his wings even further to found Voyager Aircraft, Incorporated and settle in the history books by completing the first-ever around-the-world, non-stop, non-refueled flight. Nine days, three minutes and forty-four seconds after Dick and his copilot Jeana Yeager took off, he landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California. The plane he piloted in this successful quest is now suspended in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's "Milestones of Flight" gallery in Washington, D.C. President Ronald Reagan awarded Dick and his team with the Presidential Citizens Medal, four days after the team's outstanding feat.

Time and time again, Dick has delved into projects that allow him to expound upon his knowledge and share his expertise and adventures with others. These have included a sightseeing airplane trek to the North Pole, the World Quest Project, and the Spirit of EAA Friendship World Tour. He established the Dick Rutan Scholarship Fund to assist youth in furthering their education and is actively involved in the Experimental Aircraft Association's Science, Math and Technology (S-M-T) program.

Today, Dick continues his quest of traveling the world by educating others through the accounts of his many adventures. He exudes dedicated passion, courage of conviction, and wisdom and he exemplifies the true marks of leadership. His distinguished achievements have gained him renowned recognition and respect, and I am pleased to wish him a happy birthday!

STEINHAGEN OIL COMPANY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor the Steinhagen Oil Company, for their commitment to community service has earned them the 2008 Spindletop Award for outstanding corporate citizenship.

The Steinhagen Oil Company is a third generation, family owned business that owns over 25 gasoline stations across Southeast Texas and supplies numerous others with unbranded fuel. E. Harvey Steinhagen founded the company and began selling fuel in the 1930's. They currently employ over 200 workers across the region.

The Steinhagen Family has a long history of community service. Mark Steinhagen served as Chairman of the Board of the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce from 1970–71 and encouraged a focus on economic development