

Mr. Ordway partnered with the city's Business League to purchase a parcel of land near downtown Saint Paul's Rice Park and finance the hotel's construction. Less than two years later, the Saint Paul Hotel was opened for business. It immediately was recognized as the premier hotel in the region, and less than one month after its grand opening celebration the hotel was named "Best in the West" by the National Hotelman's Association.

After falling into disrepair in the 1950s, civic and business leaders undertook an extensive renovation to return the hotel to its original glory between 1981 and 1982. Since then, The Saint Paul Hotel has won dozens of more awards for outstanding service and accommodations, and it has become, once again, one of the foremost luxury hotels in the Midwest.

Throughout its history, The Saint Paul Hotel has hosted a number of American Presidents, foreign dignitaries and heads of state, performing artists, writers, athletes, and numerous weddings. It has contributed a century's worth of memories to Saint Paul and the surrounding community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the Centennial Anniversary of The Saint Paul Hotel and its contributions to the rich history of the city of Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota.

HONORING ROY ISOM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man whose life and passions exemplified the well honored work ethic and spirit of fortitude, fairness, decency and citizenship that has made our nation great. Many things have contributed to the agriculture industry's prominence in our nation and the world, but one significant underlying factor in awareness of California's premier agricultural contributions to this great society has been the presence of individuals such as Roy Isom. On April 15th, 2010, agriculture and the entire Central Valley of California, lost a valuable friend and ally in Mr. Roy Isom, a radio icon in Fresno, California, the man colleagues called the hardest working person in broadcasting.

Roy Isom was a fixture in Central Valley California broadcasting for more than 40 years. Mr. Isom was known in the Central Valley by many as the "voice of agriculture" producing daily, an hour-long morning agricultural news show, reporting the concerns and activities of farming and agribusiness. Roy genuinely understood agriculture and its issues, talking regularly with farmers. Roy Isom was dedicated to agriculture.

Mr. Isom was a good hearted and good natured newsman who came to KMJ in Fresno in 1981 after a long stint in television news, including KFSN ch. 30. He started as farm news editor, but later added the title of news director to his resume. Colleagues marveled at his work ethic. He would come to work at 1 o'clock in the morning and then "maybe"

leave at 3 in the afternoon, only to come back to work the next day seemingly unaffected by it. Though he arrived to work so early, he'd refuse to be pulled off a story until that story was told—and told well.

Roy Isom was known for his fair and balanced reporting. There was no one who didn't like or respect Roy. Though passionate about his craft, he was never pushy. Former KMJ general manager Al Smith reported, "He was never a gotcha news guy. He was a guy who just wanted to get the facts ma'am.", always done in a respectful way. Roy could masterfully paint a mental picture for listeners when on the scene of breaking news events.

Over the course of 45 years, Mr. Isom covered countless major breaking stories. Roy covered some of the most important stories our Valley has ever seen, most notably the recent dire water crisis facing our Central Valley farmers and their communities. His collection of media badges and awards speak volumes. He was named the California Farm Bureau Agricultural Reporter of the Year in '94. In 2005, Roy received the "Heavy Puller Award" from the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Cancer may have claimed Roy's life at 72, but longtime friend and broadcaster Dennis Hart reports Roy went out just the way he'd planned; working until the very end. He's one of those rare people that got to do just that.

Roy Isom is survived by his wife of 45 years Pat Isom; son, Richard Isom; daughters Jennifer Isom Schmidtke and Catherine Isom; and seven grandchildren; all of Fresno. Mr. Isom will be long remembered for his love and dedication to his family and to the broadcast industry, and for his tireless efforts in doing his job, especially on behalf of Valley agriculture. A memorial scholarship in Roy's name has been set up with the Ag One Foundation at California State University, Fresno. Roy Isom will truly be missed by family, friends and the entire Central Valley Region. I will greatly miss Roy. Here's to a truly honorable and great man!

TRIBUTE TO GARY M. CHRISTMAS, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my Congressional District for his nearly 30 years of outstanding achievements and accomplishments in public service. Gary M. Christmas has served as Riverside County's Chief Deputy County Executive Officer since October 2008, and has been employed with the county in Riverside, California since July 1997. After almost three decades of service, Gary is retiring and today I honor his years of public service.

Gary graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and from San Jose State University with a Master's in Library Science. Prior to attending college, Gary served four years in the United States Coast Guard stationed in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Gary was a librarian for 16 years where he held progressively more responsible library management positions. He was also a reference librarian at several colleges and universities, including University of California, Riverside, Cal-Poly Pomona, Riverside Community College and Mt. San Jacinto Community College.

Gary served as the county librarian from July 1997 to June 2004 where he managed the library services contract and the County Library System with over 30 branches and more than 300 contract employees.

As Deputy County Executive Officer, a position he held from June 2004 to October 2008, Gary oversaw analysts in the Executive Office on budget and policy items, managed the County Capital Improvement Program team and coordinated the court facility transfer to the State Administrative Office of the Courts.

During his tenure as Chief Deputy County Executive Officer, Gary worked directly with the CEO, Assistant CEO and the Board of Supervisors in developing county policies and strategies. Additionally, Gary managed the Program Division of the Executive Office and has served as the legislative coordinator for the county advocacy program in Sacramento and Washington, DC. Gary has also represented the county at various federal, state and local meetings, boards and committees.

Gary has been married to his wife Kathy since 1974 and has two children, Erin and Andrea. In retirement, Gary will continue to travel and spend time with his family.

Gary Christmas's tireless passion for community and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. I am proud to call Gary a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset