

While we may have lost Lyman Hubbard, Sr., his legacy lives on.

Just last week, it was announced that his sons will donate a collection of their father's medals, badges, and photographs so that we can all have a chance to see them.

They will be displayed at the Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport in Springfield, and I hope that those of us who can will take the time to see them and reflect on the life and heroism of Lyman Hubbard, Sr.

I know I will.

TRIBUTE TO BILL ROBERTSON

Mr. DURBIN. I rise today to say a few words in honor of Bill Robertson, an extraordinary man from Rockford, IL, whom we recently lost to illness.

Bill Robertson was a public servant in the best sense of the term. For the last few years, he was considered the voice of reason on the Rockford, IL, City Council, but his service started well before his election to the City Council.

After college, he served in the Marines before signing up for the Rockford Fire Department. To put this another way, after serving in a job where he would have been under fire, he decided to take a job running into fires. It made sense to him, and he loved it.

He spent 36 years of his life in that fire department, rising to command the department's training academy. He will be remembered for always knowing cadets by name and frequently checking in to see how recruits were doing.

He did so well that in 1991 he was asked to be the ninth chief in the Rockford Fire Department's 133-year history. He held that job for 17 years, until he retired in 2008.

Retirement turned out to be short-lived for Bill Robertson. In 2009, he was elected to the Rockford City Council, and he quickly became a leader there too.

His council colleagues recall that, even in a time of bitter and occasionally over-the-top politics, Robertson always strove for common ground and acted as a voice of reason. Perhaps that is one of the reasons one of the many reasons so many people from the Rockford community came to pay tribute and celebrate his life when he passed away. I am told there were hundreds of well-wishers in attendance, and I am sorry Loretta and I were not able to be there to pay our respects to this generous leader.

Each and every one of them were touched by the good work he did throughout his life. He will not be forgotten, but he will be missed.

REMEMBERING DR. STEPHEN B. THACKER

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor and memory of Stephen B. Thacker, MD, MSc, RADM/ASG, retired, USPHS, who passed away on Friday, February 15, 2013.

Dr. Thacker was a true public health hero whose long and distinguished career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began as an Epidemic Intelligence Service, EIS officer in 1976. On his first day, he was sent out on an investigation of an unknown illness, which turned out to be the first recognized Legionnaire's epidemic. Throughout his 37 years at CDC, Dr. Thacker was a leader of public health science and the professionals who practice that science. Programs under his leadership introduced thousands of professionals to careers in public health and brought epidemiology directly into middle school and high school classrooms. He was instrumental in launching the field epidemiology training programs in more than 35 countries.

In all of the many position he held, Dr. Thacker was a steadfast champion of epidemiology, public health surveillance, and the development of a global public health workforce. Programs developed or expanded under his leadership have introduced thousands of professionals to careers in public health. Given all this, it is no surprise that Dr. Thacker's accomplishments were recognized through more than 40 major awards and commendations throughout his career, including the Surgeon General's Medallion, which he received just 2 weeks before his death.

Dr. Thacker's accomplishments were only exceeded by his treatment of all persons with dignity, honesty, and respect. His career has embodied the best of CDC's commitment to science and, most importantly, to service.

I offer my deep condolences to Dr. Thacker's family. Mr. President and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Dr. Steve Thacker. I believe there is no question that his important influence on public health will continue well into the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WOODS EASTLAND

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Woods E. Eastland of Indianola, MS, as the recipient of the 2012 Harry S. Baker Distinguished Service Award. The officers of the National Cotton Council of America recently selected Mr. Eastland to be the 27th recipient of this award, which is given annually to the individual who has contributed most significantly to the advancement of the U.S. cotton industry.

In bestowing this honor on Woods E. Eastland, the National Cotton Council cited his extraordinary leadership during his year as the council's chairman and his continued service to the U.S. cotton industry. The Harry S. Baker Distinguished Service Award was started in honor of former council president Harry S. Baker, and it is the industry's most prestigious award.

Woods E. Eastland is the chairman of the board of Staple Cotton Cooperative

Association and the Staple Cotton Discount Corporation, which are headquartered in Greenwood, MS. He served as their president and CEO from 1986 until 2010. A native of Doddsville, MS, Mr. Eastland earned a B.A. degree from Vanderbilt University and a J.D. degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law. He practiced law and was a faculty member of the Jackson School of Law from 1972 until 1974. In 1974, Woods married Lynn Ganier Wood and became a cotton, soybean and rice grower in Sunflower County, MS. He and Lynn have two children and three grandchildren.

Woods E. Eastland, in addition to being a farmer, has built a remarkable record of service to the cotton industry, his State and our Nation. He is a past chairman of the National Cotton Council, past president and chairman of Cotton Council International, and a past director of the Memphis Branch Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. He was a member of the board of managers of the New York Board of Trade when it was formed from the merger of the Cotton and Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchanges. He served 1 year as the vice chairman of the board of governors of the New York Board of Trade.

In 2005, during Mr. Eastland's term as the council's chairman, international trade in cotton and textiles dominated the U.S. cotton industry's policy concerns. In addition, the World Trade Organization's, WTO, Doha Round of negotiations was a primary focus of the cotton industry during Mr. Eastland's tenure as council chairman.

Under Mr. Eastland's leadership, the council worked as part of a fiber/textile/labor initiative that successfully convinced the United States to self-initiate WTO-sanctioned textile safeguards to impose a measure of discipline on the shipment of Chinese textiles into our country. U.S. officials were also persuaded to make changes in provisions of the Dominican Republic—Central America Free Trade Agreement that led to the U.S. cotton industry's support for congressional approval of that pact.

Mr. Eastland traveled to Geneva and Washington, D.C., to confer with key trade officials on trade developments and to convey the U.S. cotton industry's message that cotton should not be singled out for different treatment from the rest of agriculture in the WTO Doha negotiations.

Beyond his year of service as the Council chairman, Mr. Eastland has remained active in Council leadership. He was named chairman of the council's Trade Promotion Authority task force in 2007 to guide the industry on trade promotion policy. He is an advisor to the Council's board of directors and an active member of its Operations Committee.

I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Eastland on receiving this prestigious award, and to commend him for his contributions to the cotton industry, American agriculture and fair trade. •