

without having to worry that their children are well cared for.

I offer my sincere congratulations to Nike for their efforts to make their corporation family friendly. It is quite an honor for Nike to be recognized as one of the 100 best companies for working mothers.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD ADJUTANT GENERAL, MAJ. GEN. ANSEL M. "BUDDY" STROUD, JR.

**HON. BOB LIVINGSTON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 1997*

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my most sincere appreciation and thanks to Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., upon his retirement from a distinguished career of dedicated service as Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard. We will miss his leadership.

General "Buddy" Stroud gallantly served the U.S. Army, the State of Louisiana, and the United States of America for over 53 years.

General Stroud, while you will be most remembered for your 17-year tenure as Adjutant General which began in 1980—the longest of any AG in our Nation—Louisiana has been benefiting from your exemplary leadership since 1947, when you first joined the National Guard. And I want to particularly thank you for building the Louisiana National Guard into one of the premier State Guards in America. In addition, your personal efforts have made Louisiana's Emergency Preparedness Office and the Hurricane and Disaster Response Organization a model for the rest of the country.

Your career has been as distinguished as it has been long. In fact, few others in our Nation can lay claim to such an outstanding lifetime of achievement.

General, you are the definition of selfless service and the embodiment of what Douglas MacArthur called "those three hallowed words": duty, honor, country.

Mr. Speaker, General Stroud has earned the undying gratitude of the people of Louisiana and, in fact all Americans.

Thank you General Stroud. You and your wonderful wife Jane have my best wishes for the coming years.

RECOGNIZING CRISSIA REAY, WINNER OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 1997*

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted today to extend my sincerest congratulations to 15-year-old Crissia Reay of Wonder Lake, IL. Crissia is the winner of the National Youth Essay Contest for her essay comparing the lives and voyages of explorers Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci. The contest is sponsored by the National Italian American Foundation and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Crissia's essay was selected from hundreds of entries from across the

country. As a well-deserved reward for her dedication and hard work, Crissia will receive a \$1,000 prize and a trip to Washington, DC later this month where she will participate in ceremonies honoring Columbus by reading aloud her winning essay.

I am proud to have Crissia as one of my constituents. Her accomplishment reflects a love of learning and the discipline and motivation to accept a challenge and meet with success. I join with Crissia's parents, relatives, teachers, and friends in commending her and her remarkable achievement. Crissia's winning essay, entitled "Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci: The Men and Their Discoveries," appears below.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AND AMERIGO VESPUCCI: THE MEN AND THEIR DISCOVERIES  
(by Crissia Ahnna Reay)

Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci were both explorers, born in the same country in the same time frame, but there the similarities end. They were worlds apart from each other in their personal lives and significant differences were also visible in their voyages.

Columbus was born Cristoforo Colombo near Genoa, Italy in 1451. His father was a weaver and Columbus' family were humble, common folk. He had very little schooling in his early life. Bordering on illiterate when he left his home in Italy, he learned to read and write in Portugal. Vespucci was born in Florence, Italy in 1454. However, his early life was very different from Columbus' owing to the fact that Vespucci was born into a noble Florentine family. Vespucci was described as having a "sagacious" (scientific) mind and was educated in the areas of commercial science, cosmology, astronomy and geography. Consequently, we can understand why money and titles were so important to Columbus, while they seemed to play a lower key role in Vespucci's life and explorations. Having grown up with a common, almost low background, explains why Columbus felt that land, titles and wealth were symbols of success. Whereas, Vespucci's affluent background sheds light as to why he didn't seem driven to obtain those symbols of success and could explore for the simple quest of knowledge without stipulating what he must receive in return (as Columbus felt he must).

Columbus made four voyages to the new world, Vespucci only two that can be proven. In his explorations Columbus visited mainly the islands of the West Indies, San Salvador, Cuba, Jamaica and what is now modern day Mexico; touching only lightly on the continent of South America. Vespucci mainly explored and charted the eastern coastline of South America (from this experience, he concluded that it extended too far and couldn't be Asia). Columbus was interested in settling the places he found, Vespucci in mapping them.

There are other important discoveries that came from their journeys that are rarely mentioned. Columbus found the most efficient way to use the North Atlantic wind system for transatlantic sailing. He was the first to notice the equatorial current and made the first observations of the westerly compass variation. It was because of Vespucci that people found out that there were two oceans separating Europe from Asia instead of one. He created his own method of celestial navigation by which he obtained longitude and came within 50 miles of being correct in his estimation of the earth's circumference one of the closest guesses of that time.

Columbus and Vespucci were both undoubtedly great men. Their voyages, although each holding its own different signifi-

cance, greatly complement one another. Columbus (though unable to claim title as the first European setting foot on the Americas due to previous Icelandic adventurers) was the first to make the discovery stick. In that essence Columbus discovered the new world. Columbus was the rock that started the landslide of exploration and settlement of the Americas. Vespucci, picking up where Columbus left off, was the one to conclude that it was not Asia that his predecessor had found (Columbus died thinking it was) but it was indeed a new, previously unknown land. In Vespucci's own words. "These regions we may rightly call Mundus Novus, a New World, because our ancestors had no knowledge of them."

Vespucci actually outfitted and helped prepare far more voyages than he was part of himself. In fact, it was in that way he and Columbus first met. In collaboration with Berardi, a ship builder in Seville, Vespucci prepared a ship for Columbus' second voyage in 1493. In 1498, he and Columbus first became personally acquainted when Vespucci made even more ships for Columbus' third voyage.

Though there was much friction between their supporters, there is nothing to suggest any personal rivalry on the parts of these two renowned explorers. In fact, towards the end of Columbus' life when he was ailing and virtually deserted, he found in Vespucci a caring, sympathetic friend. This is apparent in the words Columbus wrote of Vespucci a year before Columbus' death in 1506. "He has at all times shown a desire to serve me, and is an honorable man."

Whatever else is said about them, one thing remains outstanding and undeniable; they were bold and courageous explorers, who made remarkable discoveries that have permanently changed the face of the world's geography and in a great part shaped the history of the world that followed after.

TRIBUTE TO THE J. C. PENNEY COMPANY

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 1997*

Mr. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the J. C. Penney Company is honored for its outstanding accomplishments in expanding the participation of people with disabilities in American life.

The company's philosophy has always embraced the core idea that it is ability, not disability, that counts in a job and in life. Indeed, the company has been true to the belief that its founder, John Cash Penney, who in 1913 called for partnership between the company and the people of the communities it serves, including those with disabilities.

In its policies and practices, J. C. Penney recognizes and utilizes the talents of individuals with disabilities. Hiring, training, and career development reflect this commitment.

As J. C. Penney has become a model for corporate citizenship, its customers have benefited. Stores nationwide exceed legal requirements for accessibility. With careful attention to the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, personnel are trained to serve customers with disabilities. J. C. Penney publishes a catalogue of special needs merchandise. Its catalogues and national advertising feature people with disabilities. The company generously supports the work of disability organizations and encourages its employees at all levels to volunteer.