

on the line to save two Concordia, Missouri, boys' lives.

Recently, Admiral Thompson made the difference between life and death for two Lafayette County 10-year-old boys during a driving rain storm. Cameron Holsten and Gregory Kueck were playing in a ditch near downtown Concordia, with Cameron's twin brother, Kendall, when they were swept into a storm sewer by floodwaters. Working at a nearby drive-in restaurant, Thompson had no idea he was about to risk his life to save two others.

Shortly after 5:30 p.m. on a Sunday evening, word came that the young boys were trapped in the raging waters in the storm drain below the restaurant. Without a second's thought, Thompson sprang into action and headed for the drain. He waded into the waist-deep pool in front of the drain gate, but was eventually forced to jump into the fast moving current.

Thompson located the boys approximately 50 to 75 feet inside the tunnel. While their feet and legs dangled in the current, the boys hung on to small, wire-like rebar strap protruding from the wall of the tunnel. Thompson then made the decision to assist these young boys, and with the help of Concordia fire and rescue teams, he successfully brought Cameron and Gregory to safety one at a time.

Mr. Speaker, Rear Admiral Stanton Thompson (USNR) is a true hero. I am sure that the members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding American who risked his life to save two young Missourians from drowning.

TRIBUTE TO CARNEY CAMPION,
GENERAL MANAGER OF THE
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGH-
WAY AND TRANSPORTATION DIS-
TRICT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Carney J. Campion on the occasion of his retirement as General Manager of one of our Nation's most revered historic landmarks, the Golden Gate Bridge. For more than two decades, Mr. Campion has been admired for his effective leadership in managing the Bridge, the Bridge District's bus and ferry services, and in navigating the political waters connected with running such an important transportation enterprise. He will long be remembered as one of the most effective general managers in the history of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District.

During an illustrious career, Mr. Campion was instrumental in advancing numerous projects of critical importance to the District. He successfully guided to completion the re-decking of the Bridge in 1986, purchased and preserved for future transportation use an abandoned Northwestern Pacific Railroad right-of-way, and implemented a public safety patrol and installed crisis communication phones to respond to emergencies on the Bridge. He reorganized the District departments to improve environmental health and safety management, and assured the District public transit system attained full compliance

with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Under his leadership, the District obtained federal funding for the seismic retrofit of the Bridge, deployed new capacity transit coaches on long haul trips from Sonoma County, and purchased a new high-speed catamaran placed in ferry service in 1998.

Perhaps District Board Member Ginny Simms said it best in a recent issue of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Transactions report: "I don't know of anyone . . . who can state they took a bridge and turned it into a bus and ferry line. That really says something about . . . Carney's ability to look into the future and say, 'Why not?'"

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mr. Campion for his steadfast commitment to excellence over such a long and distinguished career. We sincerely appreciate his 23 years of dedicated public service with the Bridge District and extend to him our best wishes for an active and enjoyable retirement.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH LUBIC

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman whose commitment and unselfish devotion, has helped countless women and their children have a better life as well as a more promising outlook to the future. The woman with a heart of gold of whom I speak is Ruth Lubic.

Ruth Lubic, who until recently made her home on Manhattan's Upper West Side, is a nurse-midwife who has come to the nation's capitol with a vision of opening a birthing center in one of the District's poorest neighborhoods. Her need, her aspiration of personally doing something about the city's high infant mortality rate, is evident in her drive, her tenacity, and in her faith in humanity.

Allow me to share with you this article about Ruth which recently appeared in The Washington Post. It's a heartwarming story which speaks of how Ruth is truly "fulfilling a dream."

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 30, 1998]

A BATTLE WON, A CENTER BORN
NURSE-MIDWIFE TO OPEN BIRTHING FACILITY
FOR D.C.'S POOR
(By Cindy Loose)

To explain how she came at age 71 to be opening a birthing center in a poor District neighborhood, Ruth Lubic first has to tell about the things that have been bothering her for decades.

The sickly babies she saw in tenement houses during a nurse-midwife career that began in 1961. The child sitting on the floor of a Mississippi sharecropper's cabin, covered with flies, her hair reddened by malnutrition.

That visit to Mississippi was 30 years ago, but Lubic chokes on her words and actually cries when she quotes the state health official who told her not to worry so much, that "some Negroes got red hair."

When the phone call came five years ago telling her she'd won a MacArthur "genius grant," she knew right away what she would do. She would come to the nation's capital and build a model of infant mortality prevention.

Never mind that she was a white-haired grandmother from New York City, a carpet-

bagger without a building, or millions to run such an operation, or staff, or permits, or city connections. She did have her MacArthur grant of \$75,000 a year for five years; she had the power of her convictions.

And she's actually pulling it off.

This month, the new nonprofit she formed began a \$1.2 million renovation of an empty supermarket donated by John Hechinger Sr. and her family partnership. The D.C. Developing Families Center will open on Benning Road NE, across from the Hechinger Mall, in early spring.

For the price of a hospital delivery, she and her partners can deliver a baby, offer a wealth of services to the mother and nurture the child for three years.

Although it is a far commute from her life and home on Manhattan's Upper West Side, Washington was an easy choice for Lubic. The city's infant mortality rate of 14.4 per 1,000—double the national average—"has always been on my professional conscience," Lubic said. Besides a center here would be only a cab ride away from policymakers who might be persuaded to replicate the model nationwide.

At a time of life when even the most driven type-A personalities are slowing down, Lubic took on one of her biggest projects ever. Those who have come into her path describe her as single-minded, forceful. She calls herself a "stubborn old woman."

Asked why she would take on what seemed an impossible task, she answered: "People are used to the idea that Ruth is a little crazy. But I'm the age I am. I've had my career, I've been honored and all that. I have nothing to lose."

Soon after being awarded the MacArthur grant, Lubic quit her job as director of the Maternity Center Association in Manhattan. She and her husband took turns flying between cities for visits. She settled in an apartment in Southwest Washington and launched her assault.

Hechinger still seems amazed that he let Lubic talk him out of the building and 1.2 acres of property—land he had planned to develop. He gave it up only after Lubic had badgered him and his real estate manager, Jim Garabaldi, for three solid years.

"We both told her over and over again it would never, never, ever happen," Garabaldi said. "We explained this was our business entity, that as individuals we give charitable contributions, but this is our business here."

But Lubic quite simply wore them down.

"She can soften you up because she's so intellectually and emotionally sure of the rightness of her cause," Hechinger said. "When she's through with you, you have this guilt feeling. Plus you're shocked at the statistics which prove she's right."

While she was working on Hechinger, Lubic also was banging on doors all over town.

"The women we'll reach have been put down and let down their whole lives," she would say. "The doors of this building are going to be an escape hatch from despair."

She haunted the hallways of the Department of Health and Human Services hoping for a chance encounter with Secretary Donna E. Shalala—a tactic that actually worked.

Through a friend of a friend, she wrangled a meeting with former HHS secretary Louis W. Sullivan. Over breakfast, she turned him into a major fund-raiser who helped her match a \$785,000 grant within a three-month deadline.

She made city contacts from the bottom up. When a taxi driver protested that it was too dangerous to drive her to an evening community meeting in a tough neighborhood, she told him, "If I can go, then you can go, so let's go."