

Mr. Speaker, Tony DeMarinis was a public servant of the highest order. He served his country in the Army for three decades. He served the City of Groton as City Clerk. He did so unselfishly and with boundless enthusiasm and pride. Tony DeMarinis embodied all of the best qualities of America—service, patriotism and pride in community. I extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

U.S. AIRLINES REACH SAFETY
MILESTONE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, in the late summer of 1908, just five years after he and his brother, Wilbur, completed the first successful powered flight at Kitty Hawk, Orville Wright was demonstrating their flying machine for the U.S. Army Signal Corps at Ft. Myer, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from where we now assemble.

After a successful first flight, Orville took off again, this time with a young Signal Corps officer, Lt. Thomas Selfridge, aboard. As they completed their first circuit of the field, Orville heard two strange thumps. He cut the engine and attempted to glide the plane to a safe landing, but the Wright Flyer lost lift and plummeted nose-first to the ground.

Lt. Selfridge died as a result of the crash and became the first person ever to be killed in an airplane accident. Orville Wright survived, but took four months to recover from his injuries.

Now, 90 years after that fatal day at Ft. Myer, air travel has become commonplace. Last year, American air carriers transported 615 million passengers, most of us in this House among them, through the skies. However, for the first time in the 31 years such records have been kept, and possibly the first time in history, U.S. airlines completed their flights without a single fatal accident. Let me repeat that: 615 million passengers carried by U.S. scheduled air carriers, not one single fatality.

For many years now, statistics have shown that travel on America's airlines has been among the safest of all transportation modes. In contrast, 42,000 people died on America's roads, streets and highways in 1997, the latest year for which a total is available.

The airlines are to be congratulated for this remarkable safety record. Congratulations, too, are to be extended to the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the aircraft manufacturers, all of whom can share credit for this remarkable accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, we indeed have cause to celebrate, but we must also temper our celebration with a dose of realism. Travel, whether by air, rail, highway or sea, is never without some element of risk. We cannot rest on this single year's result.

Worldwide, flights are expected to increase from 16.3 million this year to over 25 million by 2010. The number of passengers on U.S. domestic and international flights is expected to increase to over 900 million by 2006, a 50 percent increase over 10 years. We must be ready to manage this growth.

Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater and FAA Administrator Jane Garvey, in partnership with the aviation community, have initiated a targeted safety agenda, focusing on issues such as terrain avoidance systems, to help us meet the challenge.

We in Congress must ensure that airports continue to have the resources to make critical capacity and safety investments. The FAA and NTSB must have the safety inspectors, air traffic controllers, airway system specialists and the air traffic control equipment to meet the increased aviation demand. As a matter of fact, from all indications, we can expect to debate a measure on the House floor sometime this year to provide these resources.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee since I was first elected to the House 24 years ago. When I had the privilege to chair the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee, and later the Aviation Subcommittee, I held many, many hours of hearings which called the airlines, the manufacturers and the FAA to account for practices that threatened to diminish the margins of safety for the traveling public. I feel it is only right that, when the country's air transportation system has achieved such a remarkable safety record, I should also stand to give those responsible the credit they most certainly deserve.

I call upon my colleagues to join me in this commendation.

RECOGNITION OF DELRAY BEACH
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce's acquisition of its 1,000th member. The membership of Redhead Yacht Charters, owned and operated by Mr. Jerry Janaro, bring the Delray Chamber's membership to 1000, placing the Chamber in an elite group of just 30 Chambers in Florida to have reached this landmark.

The Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce has an 86 year history of serving the South Florida business community boasting over 175 businesses which have been members for 15 years or more, including a select group which is celebrating their 50th anniversary with the Chamber.

Although Mr. Janaro's Redhead Yacht Charters is a new member, Jerry is not new to the Chamber. Jerry joined the Chamber in 1984 and has served on the executive board, holding positions as Vice Chair of area committees as well as Chairman of the Board. Jerry has joined other chambers now that his business takes him up and down the coast, but says, "None can beat the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce for value, services and friendliness. It's the best chamber around."

The mission of the Chamber is to provide "leadership, promote the economic well being of our total community, preserve our free enterprise system, and promote business growth and development." Mr. Speaker, the Delray Chamber is doing a fine job in promoting their mission and I congratulate them on their milestone 1,000th membership.

HONORING DR. MARY SCOPATZ

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Mary Scopatz of Santa Barbara, California as she retires on January 29, 1999 after serving our local schools for 28 years.

Mary began her distinguished career in 1970 as the Department Chair and teacher for the Santa Barbara High School Business Education Department. After only three years, she was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1973. In 1978, she served as the Project Director for Disadvantaged Students, and then became the coordinator for the Youth Employment Training Programs and the Private Sector Involvement Project.

After receiving her Educational Doctorate in 1980, Mary focused her attention on involving local industry with education as the Director of the Santa Barbara Industry Education Council, and providing year round and summer employment opportunities for young people as the Director of the Career and Youth Employment Programs.

Mary has also shown a deep commitment to her community through her involvement in organizations such as the American Vocational Association, the California Business Education Association, as a member of both the Santa Barbara and the Goleta Chambers of Commerce, the Santa Barbara Youth Coalition, and the Children's Resource and Referral program.

Recently, my office had the pleasure of working with Mary on establishing a Job Corps Program on the Central Coast. Her determination and commitment to the success of young people is unquestionable.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Mary Scopatz for her lifelong work as a committed, innovative educator. Her dedication and vision will be missed but never forgotten.

HONORING MRS. RUTH ANN HALL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman, Mrs. Ruth Ann Hall of Waldorf, MD who passed away on January 18, 1999. Her passing is a tremendous loss for her family and all the people who knew her.

Ruth Ann graduated from Charles County Community College and the University of Maryland and was a teacher for the Charles County Public Schools for more than 20 years. She was voted outstanding teacher of the year in the mid-1980s, was a past president of the Education Association of Charles County and was active in many political associations.

Christa McAuliffe, one of our country's best known teachers, used as her credo: "I touch the future, I teach." Ruth Ann touched, indeed she embraced and shaped, the future. Ruth Ann fought tirelessly for children and for their teachers. She advocated public policies that would benefit our students and recognize the critical importance and inestimable worth of

those we entrust to expand the minds of our children, our teachers.

Ruth Ann was the embodiment of excellence and enthusiasm. She inspired her students and colleagues. She was what every parent would want for their children—a person with great ability, who loved children and enriched their lives and shaped their future and, in turn, our country's future.

Her love of politics was a joy to behold. She was a leader—by example, by conviction, by courage, and by extraordinary competence.

Ruth Ann Hall was, in sum, one of those very special people who make a difference. She was a good and decent person, whose goals and ideals motivated her actions. I extend my deepest sympathy to Ruth Ann's husband, Bob; her parents George and Anna Collier, her brother George Collier, Jr., her son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Laura Ann Johnson, and her granddaughters, Kaitlyn and Eryn Johnson. Ruth Ann Hall will be remembered as an outstanding teacher, a loving wife and mother, and a very special friend to all who knew her.

HONORING LEIGH MORRIS

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, there is a common question asked in theoretical science that has also become part of the political lexicon. And I think I have the answer. The question is "What happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable object?" The answer is "Leigh Morris."

I say this because Leigh is both. He has been a tireless worker for our community and a vortex of organized activity to advance health care quality. And he has also been a stoic, standing rock-solid in his insistence on excellence, community participation and vision for the future.

Although we consider Leigh our own in northern Indiana, he is nationally recognized for his expertise and abilities in health care management and planning. I must also add that Leigh is equally well-known for his grace, courtesy and intellect.

Leigh Morris has served in his capacity as President of LaPorte Hospital, which is now known as the LaPorte Hospital Regional Health System, for twenty-one years. His stewardship at the helm has steered through some very rough times, and some very good ones. And he will be leaving at a time of very positive growth and success. We will know in the future that the good health of our hospital system was due in part to Leigh's planning and foresight.

Although his dedication to the LaPorte Hospital is the counterpiece of Leigh's career, he will also be remembered for his leadership at the Indiana Hospital Association and the American Hospital Association. He has brought his unique vision to hospitals, administrators and providers throughout the nation, and I know they are as grateful for his gifts as we Hoosiers are.

Mr. Speaker, Leigh has impacted our community in many ways beyond the health care system. He has been involved in other quality of life issues, fighting for superior education,

pulling for economic development, laboring to bring enriching cultural experiences to our citizens, young and old.

Many have expressed concern that we are somehow "losing" Leigh Morris due to his retirement. I think otherwise. Leigh is not leaving us, rather he enters a new chapter in his life. I know that he will find new and interesting ways to bring added life and zest to our community: in health care, in business and in all ways. I am pleased to be able to join his wife Marcia and his family in sharing the pride and admiration I know they must feel at this important time.

Mr. Speaker, some among us are leaders, some are healers, and some are teachers. Leigh Morris is all of these. He has preserved the health of so many, kindled the imagination of more, and inspired everyone. For all he has done, he deserves recognition and reward.

For who he is, his own work was reward enough.

13TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all girls and women who participate in sports by recognizing the 13th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, February 4, 1999.

This year's theme, "All Girls Allowed," reminds us we all should have an equal chance to participate in sports regardless of gender. In my youth women were discouraged from team sports and were looked down upon if active in an individual sport. "All Girls Allowed" characterizes how far we've come. But there is more to do. This day grants us a special time to remember past and current achievements, and reflect on the continuing struggle for equality in sports.

In 1987, a Congressional Resolution created National Girls and Women in Sports Day to celebrate the achievements of Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman and to recognize her work to assure equality for women's sports. Today we take this day to celebrate the achievements of all girls and women in sports. Communities such as mine around the country observe this day with events, luncheons, awards banquets, and parades.

We can all call to mind significant women in sports who have paved the way for others including the high-profile tennis match when Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs, or the recent emergency of the Women's National Basketball Association. Because of the leadership of these women, there are more sports opportunities today than there were 25 years ago. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination from extracurricular activities—including sports—in federally assisted education programs. One in three girls in high school now participate in athletics. As a former educator, I have seen firsthand the value athletics has played in building self-esteem, establishing confidence and leadership skills in young women.

In the 5th District, the Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC) is sponsoring a luncheon to honor local girls and

women that have achieved significant goals in sports. WIN for KC was established to promote sports participation opportunities and recognition for girls and women in the Greater Kansas City area. Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics Shannon Miller will deliver the keynote address to encourage and support fellow athletes. This year's Kansas City award winners include Heather Burroughs for USA Track and Field, Janet Calandro for Spirit, Peggy Donovan for Senior Sportswoman of the Year, Linda Jones for Coach of the Year, Jean Nearing for Physically Challenged Sportswoman of the Year, Lauren Powers for Courage, and Jennifer Waterman for Mentor of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 13th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, congratulate every individual for their dedication and efforts, and thank them for paving the way for other women.

THE HAWAII FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce legislation to adjust the State of Hawaii's Federal medical assistance percentage [FMAP] rate. The intent of this bill is to more fairly reflect the ability of the state to bear its share of Medicaid payments. I am happy to have my colleague, Representative PATSY MINK, as a cosponsor of this measure. I am also pleased that our Hawaii Senators, Senator DANIEL AKAKA and Senator DANIEL INOUE, have introduced similar legislation in the Senate, S. 264.

The FMAP, or Federal share of the medical assistance expenditures under each state's Medicaid program, is determined annually by a formula that compares a state's average per capita income level with the national income average. States with a higher per capita income level are reimbursed a smaller share of their Medicaid costs. By law, the FMAP cannot be lower than 50 percent nor higher than 83 percent. In 1997, the FMAPs varied from 50 percent to 77.2 percent, with Hawaii receiving the lowest 50 percent rate.

Alaska was another state receiving the lowest FMAP rate in 1997. However, in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, a provision increasing Alaska's FMAP rate to 59.8 percent for the next 3 years was included. Language in the Balanced Budget Act also mentioned that the same conditions warranting an increase in Alaska's FMAP rate applied to the State of Hawaii. The legislation that I am introducing today would conform Hawaii's rate with Alaska's. This bill would increase Hawaii's FMAP rate from 50 percent to 59.8 percent.

The rationale for the FMAP change is quite simple. Hawaii's high cost of living skews the per capita income determining factor. Based on 1995 United States Census data, the cost of living in Honolulu is 83 percent higher than the average of the metropolitan areas. More recent studies have shown that for the state as a whole, the cost of living is more than one-third higher than the rest of the United States. In fact, Hawaii's Cost of Living Index