

This latest feat of the human spirit harkens to the accomplishments of the very earliest heroes of flight. Charles Lindberg crossing the Atlantic. Amelia Earhart crossing the Atlantic, the Pacific, and attempting to circumnavigate the globe at the equator. Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett making the first flight over the North Pole. And Gus McLeod repeating their journey in an open-cockpit bi-plane.

LUBBOCK AVALANCHE JOURNAL  
CELEBRATES 100 YEARS IN PRINT

**HON. LARRY COMBEST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2000*

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal newspaper in Lubbock, Texas in celebration of their 100 year anniversary of publication on the South Plains. The A-J has served the people of the South Plains for an entire century, longer even than the official town of Lubbock itself, which was incorporated in 1909.

Over the years, like its home, the paper has grown tremendously. The A-J now boasts an impressive number of over 64,000 subscriptions in Lubbock and the surrounding area. Without fail, the A-J has printed the latest news every day and has been instrumental in helping our town grow from a rural, rustic town into the thriving city it is today. The A-J has also helped shape the history on the South Plains by providing essential information to our community.

With the advent of the Internet and the World Wide Web, the A-J online is now able to connect people from all over the world. Current, former and future Lubbockites are just a mouse-click away from getting the latest information on what's happening on the South Plains.

The A-J has helped build a bridge of communication on the South Plains and has made a century's worth of friendships. I extend my gratitude to all involved in its successful production—from the publisher and editors to the printing press operators and paper couriers. Your hard work and dedication has made a significant contribution to our community. Best wishes for at least another century of continued and devoted services.

HONORING RICHARD A. WATSON,  
FROM THE 20TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2000*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as a former high school teacher, today I commend a retiring teacher from the 20th District of Illinois, Mr. Richard A. Watson. For 31 years, Mr. Watson taught agricultural education and served as the FFA advisor at Lincolnwood High School in Raymond, IL.

Some teachers think that education is a 9 to 5 job, but not Mr. Watson. Besides teaching in the classroom, he spent countless hours coaching judging teams, public speakers, and parliamentary procedure teams. Mr. Watson

spent time after school assisting students with their Supervised Agricultural Experiences and other various community activities that the FFA Chapter set out to do.

Because of Mr. Watson's hard work, he was able to watch his students achieve their goals. Whether it was a State FFA Degree, Foundation Award or State FFA Office, he was an advocate and a motivator. More importantly, Mr. Watson was known for his famous phrase, "Keep your chin up," when things didn't go so well.

Mr. Watson has contributed to the betterment of the 20th District because he taught high school agricultural education to the person who advises me today on agricultural issues, Amy Matthews. I thank him for his 31 years of service and congratulate him for his outstanding teaching career.

But I also want to remind him, that our area won't let him slip away. Good teachers, good people are always needed and always welcome in our communities. While his official service may be ending, I know we can count on him to continue to make a difference in the lives of our children and therefore our collective futures.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FURNITURE FIRE SAFETY ACT OF 2000

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2000*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my colleagues, Representative ROB ANDREWS and Representative CURT WELDON, to introduce legislation that is long overdue. The United States has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world. In the vast majority of home fire deaths, the killer is upholstered furniture, which is one of the most flammable items in the American home. Because of the seriousness of this problem, and the devastation it has caused countless American families (including those of Fire Fighters killed in the line of duty fighting home fires), we have introduced the Furniture Fire Safety Act of 2000.

This legislation would amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to immediately establish a performance standard that is equal to the successful California state standard—the only one of its kind in the nation. California Technical Bulletin 117 (TB 117) is a mandatory standard for all residential upholstered furniture for sale in California that has been in effect since 1975. It is both an open flame test and a smoldering cigarette test for the component materials that make up the upholstered furniture. While the fire death rates for furniture fires have dropped for both California and the entire nation, death rates in California have dropped by a larger percentage than the nation as a whole. In 1994, for example, the theoretical number of California fire deaths due to upholstered furniture based on actual national figures, would be 65.2. However, the actual number of furniture fire deaths in California in that year was 10.

Mr. Speaker, two people die each day as a result of residential furniture fires. CPSC data report that, on average, 55 people die per

month in fires where upholstered furniture is the first item ignited. Most of these fires are caused by cigarette ignitions, while a significant portion is caused by open-flames such as matches, lighters, and candles.

Upholstered furniture is one of the most flammable items in the American home. In just four short minutes, a sofa fire can engulf an entire living room in flames, filling the entire home with thick, dark smoke and toxic gases. Temperatures can exceed 1,400 degrees Fahrenheit in this short period of time, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Since 1994, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and many other fire safety and consumer groups have urged the CPSC to develop national standards to deter residential furniture fires. To date, there has been no significant progress on the part of CPSC. In lieu of national standards, the upholstered furniture industry is being asked to adhere on a voluntary basis to lax safety standards for home furniture sold in all states except California. The result has been that approximately 4,500 Americans have lost their lives in residential furniture fires since 1994.

What is even more disturbing is the simple fact that for a small 3–5% add-on cost to the manufacturers for flame-retardant measures (on average, the cost of three pizzas, \$20–\$30) a sofa can be made safe and potentially save lives. Even more telling is the fact that price studies have revealed that flame-resistant sofas purchased at retail outlets in California were priced equal to, or in some cases less, than identical, non-flame-resistant products purchased from that same furniture retailer at a location outside of California.

This legislation would save lives. The time has come to take action. We can not allow one more person to die unnecessarily from an upholstered furniture fire. I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

RETIREMENT OF McEACHERN  
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL RALPH  
WILLIAMS

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2000*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration—and some sadness—that I honor Principal Ralph Williams, as he plans for his announced retirement from the Cobb County School system and McEachern High School. Principal Ralph Williams came to Cobb County from Tennessee in 1972, to serve as administrative assistant for Pebblebrook High School. He later served as an administrator for Pebblebrook, Wheeler and North Cobb, before accepting his current position as principal of McEachern High School in 1982. For the past 18 years he has served the students of McEachern with honor and integrity; tirelessly devoting himself to the west Cobb community and this outstanding school.

McEachern High School has an extensive history in the community. It was founded in 1908 as an Agricultural and Mechanical School, with financial support and donated land from John Newton McEachern, co-founder of the Life of Georgia Insurance Company. In 1933, when A & M schools were abandoned, the community opened the Macland

Consolidated School to continue to serve the educational needs of the community. In 1938 the school was renamed John McEachern Schools, providing educational opportunities to students from first through eleventh grade.

In 1980, McEachern became a comprehensive high school, and is widely recognized as one of the very top high schools in the entire state of Georgia. Enrollment now approaches 3,000 students. The presence of Principal Williams on campus of McEachern High School will be greatly missed. His dedication and commitment to educating the young people of his community has made a lasting impression on two decades of Cobb citizens. We will miss him greatly and wish him the best as he moves into this new phase of his life.

CONGRATULATING BRITTANY  
HEATH OF THE 19TH DISTRICT  
OF TEXAS

**HON. LARRY COMBEST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2000*

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, today, I congratulate a young lady from the 19th District of Texas who has earned national recognition for her outstanding volunteer service. Miss Brittany Heath, a 13-year-old student from Lubbock, has been named one of Texas' top two youth volunteers for the year 2000 in The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, a national initiative honoring young people for exemplary acts of service.

Brittany, an eighth grade student at Evans Junior High School, initiated a chapter of "Suitcase for Kids" which collects, cleans, and distributes used suitcases to children in foster care. During her program's first year, more than 400 suitcases were given to children within the community. The Lubbock Children's Protective Services program and the Community Partnership Program Sponsored by Brittany by providing a storage facility for donations. Brittany set up a voice mailbox for donor calls, designed business cards, composed a brochure, and contacted the local newspaper. During the first two days of operation, more than 100 messages were received from individuals offering donations and assistance. Community support has been overwhelming, and Brittany plans to expand "Suitcases for Kids" to other counties around Luddock. She says as long as children are in foster care, there will be a need for this program.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to encourage youth volunteers and emphasize the importance and value of their contributions. Brittany was nominated by Evans Junior High School and selected from more than 20,000 high school and middle school students. She has received \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. This program is the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service.

At a time when our nation has seen a lack of community involvement from our youth and violence in our schools, it is good to be reminded that many young people are actively contributing to our society and working to

make a difference where they live. We can learn a great deal from Brittany's exceptional act of volunteerism. We should all reflect upon how we, as individuals, can work together in our own communities to improve the lives of others and establish a brighter tomorrow.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DONNA  
OSBORN

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2000*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Donna Osborn, who has worked in my office as an Albert Einstein fellow since July 1999. The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program offers elementary and secondary teachers with demonstrated excellence in teaching an opportunity to serve in the national public policy arena.

Since Donna's arrival in my office, she has handled all education issues—elementary, secondary, and higher education—as well as children's issues. She researches legislation, updates me on changing information, and answers constituent mail on these topics. Donna has also been invaluable in other areas of my office. I can guarantee you that she now knows more about steel manufacturing and bulletproof vests than she ever imagined she would. She is the first person to volunteer for any task, and greets every visitor with a warm welcome. Her enthusiasm is contagious.

Donna has not been a passive member of my staff, rather she has taken initiative and vigorously pursued projects that she believed would be valuable to my constituents. First, she organized and planned a grants workshop for all of the schools in Indiana's First Congressional District. Several Einstein Fellows and other individuals from Washington and Indiana provided educators with information on obtaining grants and other educational opportunities for students. She also reached out to our community, working with local businesses and organizations to include them in the event, and securing their place as stakeholders in the education of our children. This workshop was a very successful event, and would not have been possible without Donna's initiative and hard work.

Donna was also integral to the implementation of the Missing Child Alert Plan in Indiana's First Congressional District. The Missing Child Alert Plan gives detailed information about a missing child and the suspected abductor utilizing a joint police-media effort to alert the public when a child has been abducted. Donna worked closely with my staff and local police departments and media outlets, to get this program off to a successful start. The Missing Child Alert Plan has been successful in recovering missing children in other areas of the country. Thanks to Donna's hard work, Northwest Indiana is one of only 11 areas of the country with such a program. Activating the alert often receives considerable press attention, which increases the reach of the emergency announcement—enlisting hundreds of thousands of people in their search parties. Leads usually pour into police departments within hours. In addition to the Missing Child Alert Program, Donna saw to it that a

picture of a missing child from the First Congressional District appears on each of my office envelopes. The first set features five children, one each from Gary and Hebron, and three from Hammond.

The zeal that Donna brought to my office must be even more apparent to her classroom. Donna has taught mathematics in Lafayette School Corporation in Lafayette, Indiana since 1972, and is currently a mathematics teacher at Jefferson High School. She is a graduate from Anderson College, with a degree in mathematics. Her master's degree is from Purdue University. She was a Christa McAuliffe fellow in 1998 and a Tandy scholar in 1997. She won the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching of Mathematics in 1996. She taught school in Billerica, England on a Fulbright scholarship in 1979–1980; at the International School of Paris in Paris, France in 1991–1992; and at the Hong Kong International School in the summer of 1997.

She served as the President of the Lafayette Education Association Board of the Indiana Council for the Teaching of Mathematics in 1996–1997, and on the Mathematics Department Advisory Council (Purdue, West Lafayette). Donna has received the Golden Apple award from the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by the Purdue University-School of Science.

Donna has been a wonderful addition to my office, and I want to express my appreciation and gratitude for all of her hard work. She has touched the lives of countless young people throughout Indiana, the United States, and the world. Donna's passion for education and children, along with her indescribable enthusiasm, will surely be missed in my office.

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD  
AWARD RECIPIENTS—2000

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2000*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute six outstanding young women who are being presented with the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Vermont Girl Scout Council. They are:

Kellie Miner, 619 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes, VT 05491, Cassie Charlebois, PO Box 323, Vergennes, VT 05491, Catherine McEnerney, 39 Boothwoods, Vergennes, VT 05491, Linnea Oosterman, 1074 Slatterly Road, Vergennes, VT 05491, Stephanie Leonard, 201 Sunset Drive, Morrisville, VT 05661, Rebecca Robare, 6 Giorgetti Blvd., Rutland, VT 05701.

They are being honored on May 16, 2000 for earning the highest achievement in U.S. Girl Scouting.

The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development. The award can be earned by girls aged 14–17, or in grades 9–12. To receive the award, these Girl Scouts first earned four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge as well as designing and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project to