

being of her students. I fondly remember the time we spent working closely together on *The Shortridge Daily Echo*. While I hold those memories dear, I am only one of the many students that benefited from her wise counsel and generous nature.

After graduating from Shortridge High School in 1920, where she also served on the staff of *The Echo* as a student, Ms. Grubb went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from Indiana University and a Master of Science degree in Journalism from Northwestern University. Ms. Grubb began her teaching career in Sanborn, IN, before moving on to teach in Crawfordsville for 17 years and then finally settling at our alma mater where she taught until her retirement in 1970.

Ms. Grubb has always been an active member of the Shortridge High School alumni community. As publications advisor, Ms. Grubb organized the 50th anniversary celebration of *The Echo*. She also has worked to gather names and contact information for the Shortridge High School Alumni Association so that each of us can stay closely in touch with our friends and classmates. Following her retirement, Ms. Grubb worked with the Indiana Historical Society to compile a complete history of our alma mater.

I know that each of our fellow alumni and I are thankful for the remarkable impact Ms. Grubb has had as a member of the Shortridge community and we look forward to many more opportunities to benefit from her experience as she begins her 103rd year and continues to bring joy to those around her.

I appreciate this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Jean Grubb on this signal honor and wish her continuing good health and happiness among her many friends in the Indianapolis community.●

HONORING BILL T. TEAGUE

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Bill T. Teague upon his retirement as president and chief executive officer of Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in Houston, TX.

Mr. Teague is a State, national, and international leader in blood banking and transfusion medicine management. During his 31-year tenure, the non-profit Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center has become one of the most respected blood banking facilities in the country, currently serving more than 220 healthcare institutions in the 24-county Texas gulf coast and east Texas regions. Prior to this position, he served as director of the Community Blood Bank in St. Petersburg, FL, and director of the Travis County Medical Society Blood Bank in Austin, TX. A past president of both the South Central Association of Blood Banks and the American Association of Blood Banks, and a former treasurer of the American Blood Commission, Mr.

Teague is also active in a number of professional organizations. He has received numerous honors throughout his career and has been recognized, due to his involvement and service, as a leader in the Houston community.

Mr. Teague has dedicated both his professional career and personal time to generating blood donations and encouraging others to give the gift of life. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his accomplishments and wishing Mr. Teague well in all his future endeavors.●

DON OVERMAN: RURAL AIRPORT CHAMPION

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I am here today to honor a fellow Nebraskan, Don Overman, who has made a significant contribution to maintaining commercial airline service in rural Nebraska.

Mr. Overman is a former mayor of Scottsbluff, NE and currently serves as Chair of the Western Nebraska Regional Airport Authority Board in Scottsbluff. For nearly two decades in his various roles Mr. Overman has dedicated himself to assuring that Nebraskans are not deprived of having access to passenger airline service.

It can be hard for those who have never lived in sparsely populated areas of this country to understand just how difficult it is to provide services that people in large urban areas take for granted, such as airline service.

In large urban areas, there is never a question whether citizens will have ready access to airline service because of the economies of scale where expenses are offset by a large number of users. In lightly populated areas where there are fewer customers, the economy of scale can be nonexistent.

For instance, at the Western Nebraska Regional Airport in Scottsbluff, NE, they struggle to board 10,000 airline passengers per year. Compare that to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Atlanta, GA, which is the busiest airport in the world and boards, on average, nearly 10,000 passengers per hour. Even with 10,000 passengers per year, the Western Nebraska Regional Airport is the third busiest airport in Nebraska.

Residents of the Nebraska Panhandle who use Scottsbluff's Western Nebraska Regional Airport are taxpayers, just as certain as those who use Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson and, as such, deserve to have convenient access to an airport.

The economy of scale makes convenient access a challenge. It is a challenge that Don Overman has accepted. As Chair of the Airport Authority Board, he has worked tirelessly to increase boardings so Western Nebraska Regional Airport can be considered a primary airport and remain eligible for Federal funding. I have worked personally with him and can attest to his perseverance and dedication.

Under his leadership, Western Nebraska Regional Airport will exceed

10,000 boardings this year for the first time since 2001. This is a significant achievement which is not only important to the flying public but to economic development in lesser populated areas of Nebraska. Airports provide a vital link for business to ensure that those Nebraska communities remain competitive in attracting new opportunities.

Among other achievements of Don Overman and the Western Nebraska Regional Airport Authority Board is the construction of a new \$4.2 million terminal of which \$2.7 million was funded through the Federal Airport Improvement Program and \$1.5 million was secured through local funding. This is a new facility to replace the current terminal which dates back to World War II. As Mr. Overman has observed in the past, the first image people see when they arrive in a community is the airport. That first impression creates their feelings about the community. Thanks to Mr. Overman's hard work, that first impression will be a positive one which will help attract economic development and growth to the area.

Mr. Overman, who is often referred to fondly as Mr. Scottsbluff or Mr. Airport, will be recognized Saturday, October 29, 2005, when the new terminal is dedicated and named the "Donald E. Overman Terminal." It is a well-deserved honor for a man whose achievements in the past have earned him recognition as the Scottsbluff Star-Herald Newspaper's Citizen of the Year and Citizen of the Century in Government.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Don Overman on this historic occasion. Thanks to him and the Western Nebraska Regional Airport Authority Board, citizens of the Nebraska Panhandle and surrounding States will have a modern new building and continued access to commercial airline service.●

RECOGNIZING GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER KIN RAISING RELATIVES' CHILDREN

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue of great importance that receives far too little attention. Across the country, more than 6 million children live in households headed by either a grandparent or another relative. About 2.5 million of these children live in homes without either parent present. Regardless of the myriad reasons children enter relative care whether it is the death of a parent, neglect, or substance abuse it is never the fault of the child. I commend grandparents and other relatives who step forward to care for these children, keeping them out of foster care while providing safe, stable homes, often at great personal and financial sacrifice.

Jackie Hope of Denver, CO, is one such grandmother. She became a second-time mother at the age of 53 when she quit her job to be a full-time parent to her newborn grandson. Jackie's