

In addition, historically, a general fund payment averaging about 30 percent has been made to support our aviation system. This payment has been made in recognition of both the direct and indirect benefits of our aviation system to our nation's security and economic health. These benefits should be funded by the nation as a whole not exclusively by users of the aviation system. Any off-budget plan passed by this Congress must guarantee this general fund payment continues.

We must also ensure that the money provided to the FAA is well-spent. Full implementation and validation of a cost accounting system, and effective use by FAA management, will be an important step forward. In addition, appointment of the Management Advisory Council—which has been delayed for two years—is absolutely essential. Other reforms will get my full consideration but we must ensure that the critical safety function of the FAA is not compromised or weakened.

The other critical component of this legislation will allow the nation's waterborne transportation system to remain among the best in the world. The nation's coastal ports provide access to foreign and U.S. markets for virtually all international trade, while the inland system provides safe and efficient transportation for both domestic and foreign products.

The contribution of the U.S. navigation system to the economy is impressive. The value of foreign trade exceeds \$600 billion annually, creates 16 million jobs, and generates more than \$150 billion in annual revenues for the Treasury. Yet, for all these benefits we continue to under invest in maintaining and improving this transportation system.

The inland waterway system is in particular need of investment. By the year 2000, 40 percent of the locks on the inland waterway will be more than 50 years old; 26 locks will be over 100 years old; and, the Nation's two oldest locks opened in 1839. Unfortunately, because of budget constraints, only about 75 percent of the funds available for investment are actually used, and the surplus continues to grow.

The Truth in Budgeting Act will change that.

For coastal ports, the failure to spend receipts is even greater. As vessel drafts increase, there is a continuing need for maintaining and deepening channels. Unfortunately, budget constraints have forced expenditures from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to little more than one-half of available revenues.

The benefits of fully spending the trust fund extend beyond navigation. The Water Resources Development Act of 1996 expanded the uses of the fund to address critical needs related to disposal of dredged material. Environmental concerns dictate that increasing amounts of dredged material not be disposed of in open waters because of contamination of the sediment. Making the trust fund fully available not only benefits navigation, but the environment as well.

In closing, I urge all Members to sign on as co-sponsors of this legislation. Your support

will be critical to ensuring the safety, security, and efficiency of our nation's aviation system and waterways.

HONORING UAW LOCAL 599

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the 106th Congress on behalf of a group of men and women who proudly represent the best of working America. On Sunday, January 10, 1999 the members of United Automobile Workers Local 599 in Flint, Michigan will honor an historic milestone. On that day they will celebrate the 60th anniversary of their charter as a UAW local.

If you have ever visited my birthplace, Flint, Michigan, you would be greeted by a sign welcoming you to "Buick City." This sign embodies the long, deep-rooted tradition and history that is UAW Local 599. For the men and women of Local 599, this history involves a high level of pride in the Buick name, their product, and the community in which they have invested much of their lives.

Over the years, the products that have been produced by the members of Local 599 have received numerous accolades. One of their products, the 3800 Engine, is largely considered by experts to be the best 6-cylinder engine in the world. In addition their products have won awards from J.D. Power and Associates, Consumer Reports, and Smart Money Magazine, among others. Each of these citations have recognized the members of Local 599 for the excellent quality of their workmanship and product.

The members of Local 599 have worked diligently to improve their facility's productivity and quality. They have established initiatives to cut in-factory repairs by over 90% and cut the time it takes to build a car by 25%. It is because of steps such as these that have allowed Buick City to be highly ranked in national quality standings, including a recent study in which it placed second of all General Motors factories.

Mr. Speaker, I have a personal reason to be very proud of the achievements of UAW Local 599. My father was a founding member of the Local, joining the UAW in the 1930s. From my own family's experience, I know the difference the UAW has made in the quality of life for the Kildee household.

Mr. Speaker, we in the great State of Michigan are more than proud of our reputation as the automotive capitol of the world, having recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of the automobile. Just as we are proud of the product, we are proud and grateful for the men and women who day-in and day-out work to provide these quality products for our Nation and the world. As the U.S. Representative for Buick City, and as the proud owner of a Buick LeSabre, I ask my colleagues in the 106th

Congress to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the men and women of UAW Local 599.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN L. HOLDEN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on December 29, 1998, the Greater Cincinnati area lost one of its finest citizens. John L. Holden, an inspiration to many people, passed away at the age of 75. He was many different things to many different people: author, philanthropist, Navy officer, a national leader in camping, and business executive. But it was his fervent desire to counsel and provide learning experiences to young people that has left a lasting impression on a countless number of people throughout the community.

Mr. Holden graduated from Cornell University in 1943. He served his country as a communications officer in the Pacific Ocean during World War II, and later commanded a Landing Ship Tank which supported Chinese Nationalists in their fight against Communism. Upon his return home, he founded and directed Standard Laundry and Linen Service. He also served as a Vice President of Krause Hardware Company and as an estimator for Fisher-DeVore Construction Company.

However, as anyone who was acquainted with him knows, his real love and passion was camping. In 1948, he and others purchased Camp Kooch-i-ching. He later succeeded his mentor, Mr. Bernard S. Mason, as director of the camp, as well as the Wasaka Boys Club, a year-round program of camping and sports in Cincinnati. He later founded the Camping and Education Foundation to which he donated the camp. In 1969, he founded the Kee-Way-Din Ski Club, of which I was a member. This group takes youngsters on skiing trips throughout the western and northern United States.

Most importantly, however, was Mr. Holden's ability to be a positive role model in the lives of so many young people. Leading by example, he helped guide many children in their search for the difference between right and wrong. Mr. Holden had an uncanny way of opening the eyes of his campers if a problem existed. He would then lead them in finding a solution to that problem on their own. By helping them help themselves, Mr. Holden bolstered their self esteem and self worth. It also instilled a problem solving method in the children that could be used well into adulthood.

Mr. Holden's unfailing leadership and dedication to the youth of Cincinnati has touched and inspired many people. Mr. Holden's life is proof positive that one person can certainly make a difference. That difference will surely be felt for years to come.