

This past summer, Mrs. Nelson taught a two-week course titled "Integrating Standards with Inspirational Teaching." She has been a presenter for the South Coast Writing Project Summer Institutes for the Ventura Unified School District and Santa Barbara School Districts, in such topics as Writing Workshop, Writing Response and Reading Comprehension. In the fall, she will work the Shoah Foundation to develop a curriculum for oral histories of Holocaust survivors.

She is, of course, a published writer.

But her real accomplishments are in inspiring her students. One way she has done that is by pairing her students with some influential adults—their parents—in a writing program suitably titled "Family of Writers."

Not surprisingly, Mrs. Nelson has garnered numerous honors, starting with her first year of teaching, when she was recognized as the Ventura Unified School District Sallie Mae First Year Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Ventura County has rightly honored Mrs. Nelson as the model other educators should strive to be. She holds her students accountable in a fun, productive learning environment. She holds herself and her peers accountable by stressing the skills teachers need to be effective educators.

Next month, Mrs. Nelson will compete for California Teacher of the Year. Win or lose, education will always be victorious in her classroom.

Mrs. Speaker, I'd like to close with Mrs. Nelson's own thoughts, her closing words in her Professional Biography. After hearing these words, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating her for her award and thank her for dedicating herself to our children.

"Even though students leave my classroom with beautifully bound poetry anthologies, framed self-portraits, and cherished pet beetles, my greatest contribution as a teacher is invisible. Students leave with an understanding that their opinions are important. They know that life is a process of learning, questioning and revising. They become life-long learners."

We couldn't ask for anything more.

HONORING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GREATER LANSING

**HON. DEBBIE STABENOW**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, the Big Brother Big Sisters of Greater Lansing program celebrates 45 years of bringing together young people at risk with older people willing to serve as a role model and mentor.

Before terms like "quality time," "mentoring," or "at risk youth" were buzz words in our society, Big Brothers and Big Sisters has been helping to give young people something we all need—a friend.

Perhaps more than any other program this century, the Big Brothers Big Sisters program offers an inspiring example of what can happen when an adult is willing to be a friend to

a young person in need of a positive influence. Like similar programs throughout the country, the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program of Greater Lansing has been a smashing success.

I would like to thank the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Lansing and everyone who has made the commitment to serve as a big brother or big sister for a child. Thousands of children have found the friend, the confident, the role model they never had in their big brothers and big sisters. I send my sincere thanks to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Lansing for taking the time to care and make the Lansing community a better place for all children.

PRAISING THE CAREER OF P-I PUBLISHER, BILL WILLIAMS

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, Bill Williams understands what community journalism is all about: ensuring an informed citizenry.

And he practiced that kind of community journalism in the pages of the Paris Post-Intelligencer every day.

Now at 65, he has decided to retire as publisher of the Paris Post-Intelligencer on August 20, 1999. He had been the paper's publisher since 1978, when he took his father's place at the paper's helm.

Bill took seriously the responsibility that comes with a free press, and you knew it immediately when you read his editorial page. Whether it involved the Land Between the Lakes, the Tennessee Valley Authority, State government, or even national issues, Bill Williams stood up for his community and he wasn't afraid to take a controversial position when he believed it was the right thing to do. Indeed, in 12 of the past 21 years his editorials were recognized among the best in the state.

Bill's family has owned the Paris Post-Intelligencer since 1927, when his great grandfather, W. Percy Williams moved to Paris from Alabama and purchased the P-I.

Upon his retirement, Bill Williams said he "is very proud of the newspaper." It's safe to say that the citizens of Henry County and many beyond the county's borders are proud of Bill and his commitment to this community.

His son, Michael Williams, takes over as the fourth-generation publisher and will continue the tradition of community journalism that has made the P-I an award winning newspaper.

An article published in the Paris Post-Intelligencer in Paris under the headline, "Publisher bill Williams steps down; Has been with P-I most of adult life" as well as his last column are printed below in honor of Bill's service and commitment to his community.

PUBLISHER BILL WILLIAMS STEPS DOWN; HAS BEEN WITH P-I MOST OF ADULT LIFE

With the retirement today of Bill Williams and the promotion of Michael Williams, The Post-Intelligencer will have a fourth-generation Williams as editor and publisher.

Bill Williams has been with the paper most of his adult life and has been publisher since

1978. His son, Michael, 40, who has served as editor since 1992, will add the duties and title of publisher.

Bill Williams, who turns 65 today, became editor and publisher at the retirement of his father, Bryant. Bryant Williams in turn had taken over as publisher at the retirement in 1967 of his father, the late W. Percy Williams, who had come from Alabama to purchase The P-I in 1927.

Bill Williams said Thursday he "is very proud of the newspaper."

"I tired to see that it's been a good citizen of our community," he added.

He said that even though it's no fun dealing with an irate advertiser or a reader who thinks he's been wronged in the newspaper columns, he "never seriously considered doing anything else."

While attending Atkins-Porter and Grove High schools, Williams was a paper carrier. During his high school years, he also worked as a reporter after school, on Saturdays and during the summers.

After graduating third in his high school Class of 1952, Williams went on to graduate with honors as a journalism student at Murray State University. During his summers, Williams took a break from his college work to be a reporter for the P-I.

Throughout his college years, Williams was also a member of The College News staff. He was named the outstanding journalism student during his senior year.

After graduating from college, he was a reporter for the Memphis Press-Scimitar for a brief period, then for The Tullahoma News for three years before he returned to Paris in 1960 to become The P-I's news editor.

One of the things he said he enjoyed about his work was that at the end of each day, he was able to hold a paper in his hands and say, "Here's what we did today."

"It's also a joy to hear from people who used to work here and have gone on to do well in the newspaper business or elsewhere, and heard them speak fondly of their time at The P-I," Williams said. "You feel like you had a small part to play in making someone's life a little more complete."

Williams also added he appreciated the contact he had with people both inside The P-I building and out, and that he enjoyed meeting people and being involved in various activities.

"Not every job offers that opportunity," Williams said.

The P-I has won awards and honors while under Williams' guidance. His editorials won state press awards in 12 of the past 21 years, including the best single editorial in 1998. That editorial lauded U.S. Rep. John Tanner, D-Tenn., for his controversial vote against a constitutional amendment to outlaw flag-burning.

A 125th anniversary edition of The P-I, published in 1991, won first prize in contests sponsored by the University of Tennessee and the TPA. Those judging the entrants declared it the best daily newspaper promotion in Tennessee during that year.

"This is an exceptional service not only for the reader but for the entire community, present and future," a contest judge from the Washington State Press Association commented about the anniversary promotion. "Many newspapers do something similar, but none with the depth and attention to detail so evident in your entire project."

Williams has served as president of the Tennessee Press Association and of the Tennessee Associated Press Managing Editors. He was a founding member of the board of directors of the Mid-America Press Institute.