

His fellow board members thought enough of his personal industry and leadership abilities that they elected him their secretary-treasurer in 1976, an office he held for ten years. During that time, Andrew was also active outside of the Farm Bureau arena as, among other things, a charter member of the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board, and as former president of both the American Soybean Development Foundation and the Arkansas Association of Soil Conservation Districts. In 1986, he was elected as president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau.

During his tenure, the organization has enjoyed unprecedented growth in membership, influence, and prestige. When Andrew accepted the mantle of top leadership, the Farm Bureau represented some 121 farm and rural families in the state. Today, that figure stands at almost 215,000, the eighth largest Farm Bureau of the fifty states and Puerto Rico.

As the Arkansas Farm Bureau has grown, Andrew's leadership has done likewise. As an influential member of the American Farm Bureau Executive Committee, he has traveled far and wide as an advocate, not just for Arkansas farmers, but for American farm interests in international trade and foreign relations. He was a member of the Farm Bureau delegation that visited Russia after the fall of the Iron Curtain to offer assistance to farmers and to experience that nation's agriculture. Andrew was also a key player in delegations to China, Japan, and South America. He led a group of Arkansas farm leaders on a visit to pre-NAFTA Mexico, and to deliver rice the Farm Bureau had donated to a Central American village devastated by Hurricane Mitch. Most recently, he was among U.S. farm leaders who traveled to Cuba to see how trade with that nation might be re-established.

But Andrew's influence and tireless work ethic embrace the non-farm sector as well. His service to his local community includes county and city school boards, the local hospital board, the Board of Florida College in Tampa, Florida, the Bradley County Chamber of Commerce, and his church.

When Andrew steps down as the president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation in December, the members of that great organization will miss him greatly. He has never been one to sit still, however, and chances are that will never change. Unlike the 'Old Soldier' General Douglas MacArthur spoke of so many decades ago, Andrew Whisenhunt will certainly not "fade away." As the new century unfolds, the Farm Bureau's loss will undoubtedly be a gain somewhere else for all Arkansans.

TRIBUTE TO HARLEY EXTINE

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Veterans Day, I rise to bring to the attention of the House the extraordinary accomplishments of Harley Extine. Mr. Extine, a recipient of the Silver Star, deserves recognition for his valiant bravery on behalf of the American peo-

ple while a member of our Armed Forces. I am proud to represent Mr. Extine in Congress.

Harley Extine, now 55, was a soldier defending freedom in the Vietnam conflict. On January 30, 1966, Mr. Extine's 101st Airborne Division came under sniper fire on a rice paddy in South Vietnam. Two soldiers went down with serious wounds. Mr. Extine dashed through the field to reach the wounded friends, disregarding his own safety. In fact, though the bullets continued flying through the air, Mr. Extine would not seek shelter until the wounded had been evacuated. His bravery and valor took him into other battles, at one point seriously wounding Mr. Extine. Undeterred by the wounds, he returned to serve a second tour in Vietnam.

Mr. Harley Extine is an outstanding and inspirational individual. His bravery and courage during this operation and throughout his service to our country is admirable and should be commended.

HONORING MARGARET "PADDY" WARD

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor American veterans of all wars for the sacrifices they've made to preserve our freedom, our heritage, and our American way of life. On Thursday, November 11, 1999, we will celebrate Veterans Day across America, and we have much to be proud of in this great Nation of ours. I want to personally offer my deepest thanks to the brave soldiers who have either served or are currently serving in the Armed Services.

In addition, I would like to pay a special tribute to U.S. Airman Margaret "Paddy" Ward. As a 19-year-old Air Force enlistee, she accomplished what no woman had before. She became the first female member of the U.S. armed services to travel at twice the speed of sound and only the second woman in the world to do so. Her historic flight took place in an F-106 Delta Dart, which traveled along the Atlantic coast in March 1963. Newspaper accounts describe how calm she was, despite the still experimental nature of her flight. Truly, Airman Ward's flight is an inspiring story of personal bravery.

Mr. Speaker, I find it extremely heartening that our country can produce someone so young with such courage and enthusiasm. It is no wonder that with such people we have become the successful nation that we are.

Sadly, Airman Ward was taken away from us a mere 10 years later at the age of 29. Yet we should remember her for the example that she set. And if God has chosen that she die in youth, then we should console ourselves in remembering her as the youthful girl who climbed the heavens that historic day.

Thinking upon her unique accomplishment, I am reminded of a poem by Leonard Heath:

Yet spirit immortal, the tomb cannot bind thee,
But like thine own eagle that soars to the sun
Thou springest from bondage and leavest behind thee

A name which before thee no mortal hath won.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. Airman Margaret "Paddy" Ward was truly an American hero.

SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS ARE RAISED BY THE MERGER OF ARCO WITH BP AMOCO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, a number of questions have been raised by the proposed acquisition of ARCO by BP Amoco. Megamergers are always matters of considerable concern because of their potential economic and business impacts. In this case, however, there are serious environmental questions that need to be considered seriously. ARCO is a major participant in Alaskan oil exploration and recovery, and the merged company will have enormous influence in that region. For this reason, it is important that we consider the environmental impacts of this merger.

Mr. Speaker, the record of BP Amoco in Bolivia, for example, causes me to have very grave reservations about this merger and its impact in Alaska. Pan-American Energy, a South American subsidiary of BP Amoco, is allegedly responsible for contaminating the drinking water supply of a rural Bolivian town. The consistent failure of BP Amoco to deal with this relatively small issue in Bolivia raises serious questions in my mind about the firm's environmental sensitivity.

Mr. Speaker, these environmental concerns are serious and deserve our careful consideration. I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to an excellent op-ed by Mr. Adam Kolton, the Arctic Campaign Director of the Alaska Wilderness League, which focuses on the negative environmental implications of BP Amoco-ARCO merger. I insert the text of Mr. Kolton's article in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give it careful attention.

AS BP AMOCO AND ARCO MERGER NEARS, FUTURE OF THE ARCTIC WILDLIFE REFUGE IS ENDANGERED

(By Adam Kolton)

BP Amoco's pending acquisition of ARCO will give the newly-merged company an enormous presence in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and an opportunity to preserve that ecologically fragile coastal plain for future generations.

As the merger negotiations proceed, so should worldwide public scrutiny of BP Amoco's plans for oil exploration in the refuge. The Arctic Refuge is the only conservation area in the United States that safeguards a complete range of Arctic and sub-Arctic ecosystems. It is home to more than 200 species of wildlife, including the largest international migratory caribou herd in the world, denning polar bears, rare musk oxen, and hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. The refuge is an international treasure.

It is no secret that BP Amoco is lobbying hard to drill in the coastal plain, and it's certain