dedication to fire prevention was acknowledged when he was recognized as "Firemen of the Year" in 1969.

Julia Mast has also played a critical role in keeping our communities safe through her work in the Ladies Auxiliary of the DVFA. Julia has served as a member since 1959, a tribute to her devotion and commitment. She is a charter member and also served as President of the Clayton Ladies Auxiliary on several different occasions, which is a testimony to her exceptional leadership qualities and hard work. Julia has also shined as an active and enthusiastic member in her local church. Fire service is a long standing tradition in her family and Julia Mast has done a praiseworthy job of keeping this tradition going.

James L. Cubbage, Jr. and Julia Mast are both exemplary models of commitment and excellence and valuable members of the Delaware community. I salute James L. Cubbage, Jr. and Julia Mast for their efforts to keep the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association and Ladies Auxiliary a strong and vital part of Delaware.

THE HORRIFIC ACTIONS OF TERRORISTS

HON. JOHN LINDER
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, when the prayers are said; when the tears are dried; when the bodies are buried—we must go on remembering. Always.

The war against terrorism has been casually engaged for nearly thirty years. Now we must get serious and win it.

There are only two sides in this war, ours and the enemy's. To those who believe that there is a neutral ground we must say that you are on the side of the enemy and we will punish you. To those who believe that they can quietly harbor and help the terrorists we must say that you are the enemy and our military will bring you to your knees. To those who commit these acts we must say that we will find you and kill you.

America has been changed forever through this tragedy. It falls upon us to rebuild the confidence in our society that great nations will not cower, that you will be safe again, that freedom works.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

September 11, 2001

HON. ROY BLUNT
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, all too often in the news, the only young people we hear about are those who are in trouble for one reason or another. It is an honor today to rise and share with my Colleagues information about an outstanding young man in my district who demonstrates exemplary character and leadership skills in her Southwest Missouri school and community.

This exceptional young leader is Roberta Rader, or "Robbie" as everyone in Mount Vernon, Missouri knows her. In many ways she is just a typical teenager in her senior year at Mount Vernon High School. But at the same time, this typical teen is doing extraordinary things. Robbie is active in Student Council where she serves as the Community Service Chair. Because of her personal commitment she has helped build houses through Habitat for Humanity and has volunteered at various shelters for the underprivileged in the community. Robbie also serves as President of her school's National Honor Society and was on the three-person team from Mt. Vernon that captured the state Future Farmers of America forestry championship this year. To further demonstrate that she is a well rounded person, Robbie has lettered for two years on the school's track team, is a district champion in hurdles and will be co-vedalior of her Senior class next spring. Such a rich menu of accomplishments has not gone unnoticed at the national level. Robbie was just chosen to be the Co-Chair of the Executive Board of the National Association of Student Councils, a position in which she represents seven states. As a member of the national board, she also participates in setting national goals for student councils and directing those activities as co-chair.

It is clear that this young lady is motivated and focused. Part of her commitment is seen in a personal habit of keeping a list of her goals with her everywhere she goes. Robbie has to update the list every six months! Our country would benefit if more could achieve their goals as quickly and stay as committed and focused as Miss Rader.

Robbie has benefitted from a supportive family and caring teachers who have encouraged and guided her along the path of learning and achievement. Robbie continues to work relentlessly toward her goals, earning the respect of classmates and teachers. It is a testament to the strength of her character that despite all of her accomplishments, her teachers still praise her as "humble."

Robbie Rader is leadership in action. It is a comfort to know that young people such as Robbie are preparing themselves today to our future leaders. I know that my Colleagues join me in commending Robbie for her national office and her commitment to excellence in her personal life.

ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
of Wisconsin

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a date that will forever be etched in our memories as a day our very way of life was attacked. These acts of cowardice took the lives of innocent souls away from their families and friends. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families who lost loved ones and my thanks go out to all of the emergency personnel who risked their lives to save others.

The perpetrators believe that our weakness is our freedom. They are so wrong. This will unite our country and they will soon know that freedom is our greatest strength. We should support President Bush and we should expediently make available all necessary means so that justice can be carried out. God Bless America.

TRIBUTE TO WEST HERNANDO MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to the remarkable students and faculty of West Hernando Middle School. West Hernando Middle is located in Hernando County, Florida which is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. The faculty at West Hernando Middle works extremely hard to serve students with highly diverse educational needs, with 23% of its students receiving Exceptional Student Education services ranging from Educational Alternative Treatment classes to classes for gifted students.

In 1995, West Hernando resembled many other middle schools in the district. It was hindered with problems such as overcrowding and poor socioeconomic conditions and it became evident that change was needed. In that same year, Ken Pritz was appointed the new principal of the school. Along with their new principal, students at West Hernando Middle received a new approach to learning. This new approach was founded on the shared vision of the staff that, "We at West Hernando Middle believe that all students can and will learn."

Building on this vision, Ann Bristol, the graphic arts instructor at the school, came up with the theme known as "Dream Extreme." Ms. Bristol, a teacher known for her infectious enthusiasm and ability to motivate, encouraged her students to learn by creating many different exciting activities. Her unique teaching methods soon spread throughout the school, consuming the faculty and students.

"Dream Extreme" became reality when in the 1998–99 school year the sixth-grade Gemini Team accepted a challenge to build an 87-foot wooden foot bridge over a water retention area adjacent to the school. Students began using the Internet as well as cable television technology to research and implement the design and construction of the bridge. The project, known as "Bridging the Gap in Education," was a huge success and the bridge was honored as the cover story for the March 2000 issue of Cable in the Classroom. The entire project was evidence that the transformation of abstract knowledge to an actual application and concrete learning process had indeed "bridged the gap in education."

During the 1999–2000 academic year, the Gemini Team embarked on a second project, equally as interesting, just as difficult and even more ambitious than the first. Working alongside the Southwest Florida Water Management District, students began researching the process of xeriscaping (a form of landscaping involving drought resistant vegetation) as well
as the compatibility of various species of plants and animals for the construction of a 60x40x30-foot aviary to be placed in the cen-
ter of the school grounds. Students then se-
lected the plants and birds and grounds
cover native to the region in order to recrea-
te a natural habitat for tropical birds which would live in the aviary. By actively involving the stu-
dents, the faculty at West Hernando Middle
School provided their students with a better understanding of environmental concepts. The
students have enjoyed the hard work involved
with building and maintaining the aviary. In
fact, they are so proud of their accomplish-
ment that they provide tours. West Hernando
sixth graders contact elementary schools, set
up dates and times, conduct tours, and actu-
ally teach younger students about the impor-
tance of the environment in our lives.

The imagination and determination of West
Hernando Middle School has not stopped
there. Students and faculty are currently work-
ing on a "Birds and Butterflies" unit which
involves students in plant and bird care as well
as developing a market for the sale of young
birds raised in the aviary. The project also
meant to serve as an adoption agency for un-
wanted birds. Other projects undertaken by
the Gemini Team included an iguana habitat
and a prairie dog encounter.

The success of the Gemini Team has in-
spired other teams such as the Saturn Team
and the seventh grade Navigator Team to un-
dertake such projects as a butterfly garden en-
circling a 2,500 gallon koi fish pond. That
project increases student knowledge of
drought tolerant plants and water consump-
tion. The garden has been dedicated to the
memory of a former West Hernando student
whose life was taken by a drunk driver. A new
hoop greenhouse supplies plants and bushes
used to landscape the campus and there are
plans to implement a working nursery to teach
entrepreneurship and economics. Through
other projects, students can learn about hydro-
ponic gardening and aqua farming. A group of
seventh graders is constructing a live coral
reef and students brought Rempel into the Prak-
tunes for un-educated individuals to learn
about the impact of the environment in our lives.

This innovative approach to teaching has
carried over from academics to the physical
education department as well. The department
now offers alternative activities, such as the
design and construction of a 25x100-foot
climbing wall, a mountain bike trail and a
kayaking program.

Ken Fultz, along with his assistant principals,
Mary Kugel and Joseph Clifford, under the lead-
ship of the faculty at West Hernando Middle
School, firmly believe that the instructional
changes which they have implemented have had
a profound influence on the students.

They have witnessed an increase in knowl-
dge and achievement that could not have been
imagined at the outset of "Dream Ex-
treme." The results are evident. West
Hernando Middle School students have shown
a lower failure rate, lower retention rate and
fewer disciplinary problems as a result of inno-

As early members of a group of aviation
enthusiasts called the Colorado Flying
Farmers, they sat side by side in the cockpit
for more than half a century before a succes-
sion of strokes finally took her in June at age
97.

"It just indicates that plane was their
baby," says Warren Rempel, who has known
the couple for 40 years. "They were in the
flying game together. Then came the day she
couldn't get out anymore. And he said if she
couldn't go, then he wouldn't be doing a lot of
it either.

Mildred never was certified, but took
enough lessons to know how to put the plane
down safely if anything happened. It was her
husband in mid-flight. In the last year and a
half, though, her health declined to the point
where she could no longer take her accus-
sories.

"She told him on many occasions, 'Don't
you sell that plane until I'm gone,'" Rempel
says. "I heard her say it. And he didn't sell
it.

The transaction happened almost by
chance, when local veterinarian Lynn Fer-
guson, whose grandparents had flown with
the Kugels, called to talk. Ferguson had
offered to buy the plane three years ear-
lier, but Kugel, citing his wife's admonition,
declined.

But May, as Mildred's health failed in a
nursing home—and Kugel would go nowhere
without his flying partner—Ferguson found
that things had changed.

"He said, 'Maybe we ought to take it up
to see if you like it.'" Ferguson says. They
struck a deal just days before Mildred died.

Kugel has tried not to dwell too much on
the sale of the Cesna and the larger love that
accompanied it. But he takes some sol-
ace in the fact that the plane will remain
nearby, where he can still go see it.

And a stipulation in the sale agreement
provides that he be allowed to take it up
next March 14—"if I'm still here"—on his
100th birthday.

The FAA requires a medical exam every
two years for medical certification, so a
third-class pilot's license, and some minor
vision trouble with one eye gives Kugel
pause, although he doesn't think that
would necessarily keep him from flying.

"But as old as I am, maybe I ought not to
be flying anyway," he says. "I feel comp-
petent, but as you get older, everything
about you gets out of order and happened
down. And a plane is an expensive item to have
sitting around and not use it.

If he doesn't get recertified, he said, he'll
still take his century flight with Ferguson.
Kugel embraced aviation as a young man for
the most prosaic of reasons: "Because I
wanted to go somewhere."

In 1943, Kugel and his wife left their Okla-
homa farm to farm cheap land near Longmont.
He remained a farmer most of his life,
resuming the flights of fancy that had
accompanied him during the Depression. He bought
his first plane in 1946, 17 years after he
learned to fly in an open-cockpit biplane.
Over the years, he owned six before selling
his last plane on December 15 last year.

"I never busted one up," Kugel says. "I
miss it, but maybe it's better.

Rempel tries to put it in perspective.

"When a guy goes to 99 before he sells his
plane, there's still a lot of flying to be
accomplished. He's done pretty well," he says. "At
this point, I'd have to say Cole represents the
goal we'd all like to attain in terms of longevity
and mental acuity. He's alone at the
top."