

twirl over the Washington region with Walt Starling, the premier flying traffic reporter of the late 1970s.

"I know you take folks along for a ride with you. I wonder if I might do that with you sometime," Marbourg recalled asking Starling at a street fair in College Park.

Sure, Starling said. Before long, Marbourg was by Starling's side in his signature Cessna 172. Marbourg took some pictures that Starling liked, and Marbourg was asked to come back again. And again and again. One Memorial Day weekend, Starling suggested to his station manager that Marbourg fill in while he was away and, poof, a radio traffic reporter's career was born.

That was the kind of guy Starling was, Marbourg said last week, days after the legend died Jan. 4 at 52 of colon cancer.

"Walt Starling was a radio personality," Marbourg said, between his broadcasts at WTOP (1500 AM), a job that Starling helped him get. "But he was also a man who touched many people in many generous and caring ways."

Starling was a pioneer in the world of traffic reports and traffic reporters. He was one of the first in the area to become a radio personality, jabbering with his studio counterparts during live reports. Starling also flew in his own way, in a fixed-wing plane when everyone else was circling in helicopters.

Starling's fixed-wing idea is now legendary. He dreamed it up for a student project, figuring that a plane would be less expensive to operate than a helicopter. A teacher at the University of Maryland told him the idea was "about the dumbest thing I've ever read." Starling told *The Washington Post* in 1994.

Starling would later say that was just the kind of comment that would get him started. He quit school, refined the idea a little and sold it to WAVA (105.1 FM). On March 4, 1974, he flew the first of an estimated 2.2 million air miles.

After WAVA, Starling worked for FM News Radio, WASH (97.1 FM), WPGC (95.5 FM) and WLIT/WARW-FM before hopping over to television at WRC-TV (Channel 4) in the District in the mid-1990s. Starling served as an assignment editor for the station before becoming ill last year.

Aside from the type of craft he used, Starling did something else that most other traffic reporters didn't do: He piloted his plane. At least that's what he did when he hadn't turned over the controls to Marbourg so that Starling could check one of his trusty maps.

"We were out over Rock Creek Park, just over Walter Reed one day," Marbourg said, "and we were flying in a circle while he was trying to find an address. Walter looked up from his map book and all he could see were trees."

"Bob, where have you taken us?" Starling asked, incredulously, before resuming control.

Lon Anderson, a spokesman for AAA Mid-Atlantic who knew Starling's voice as a Washington area resident and knew his professionalism later when they worked together on projects, said that Starling paved the way for all the local radio traffic reporters who followed.

"He was then what Bob Marbourg really is now, the dean of traffic reporters," Anderson said. "He sounded just as professional and knowledgeable and no different" from today's traffic reporters. "The difference was he was there ahead of everybody doing this, and everyone followed him. He clearly set the tenor to a large extent that is followed today."

Bruce Allen, the midday news anchor at WTOP, met Starling when he was working as a traffic reporter in 1980. Allen, who worked for Metro Traffic, said the company was contractually obligated to give Starling all the traffic information it had. Starling was under no such obligation but passed along what he knew anyway.

"It was the personal relationship that made it a two-way flow," Allen said. "I'm one of the zillions who liked the guy and felt good about him. He was a good man."

ELECTION REFORM

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of overall election reform. What we are doing today is not—contrary to what some would have you believe—trying to change the past, although as long as we are considering the past, I would suggest that today's proceedings are taking place 4 years too late. In any case, today's activity is not an attempt to overturn the results of the 2004 Presidential Election. Rather, we are here today to draw attention to the multitude of people who were unable to fulfill their fundamental, constitutional right to vote in this election, for a variety of reasons. This is about securing our system of democracy—not about "sour grapes." It is unacceptable for any American citizen to be disenfranchised, either by intimidation or a misleading ballot. Every person who is legally registered to vote should be allowed to exercise this essential right and duty of citizenship. Members of Congress should be disturbed by the evidence that tens of thousands of voters, predominantly from minority and Democratic precincts, had to wait hours or were disenfranchised altogether due to unprecedented long lines, expected challenges, get-out-the-vote disinformation, electronic voting irregularities and questionable practices in tallying provisional ballots and completing the recount. This must spur us to action, to accomplish effective, bipartisan electoral reform—the kind we should already have implemented following the 2000 Presidential Election.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of the ongoing GAO investigation into the reported irregularities in our latest Presidential Election, including possible voter intimidation and fraud. We must continue our legislative efforts, following in the footsteps of The Help America Vote Act, which became law in October 2002, to fulfill our responsibility as elected officials to ensure the right of every individual citizen to have their vote counted. We must support the Election Assistance Commission as it responds quickly to reports of irregularities and possible fraud in the 2004 Presidential Election by holding hearings on voting systems standards, registration databases, and provisional balloting. We also must address allegations of inaccurate results from electronic voting machines by supporting legislation to require such machines to produce a paper trail that can be used in the event of a recount. We must continue to act this session to ensure an

election process that, in 2008, will maintain integrity as well as the public's confidence.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOUISVILLE BOARD OF INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Louisville Board of Independent Insurance Agents.

The story of the Louisville Board began on February 15, 1854 when a dozen of the city's leading insurance officials met to organize the Board of Underwriters. The organization's first constitution stated that it was formed

in view of the benefits resulting from uniformity in the rates of insurance, in the conditions under which insurances should be made, in the principles and practices of adjusting losses, and in view also of elevating the character of insurance transactions. . . .

In 1858, the Louisville Board presented the city of Louisville with its first steam-powered fire engine. At a cost of \$5,000, the money to purchase the fire engine was donated from insurance companies and local merchants.

In 1896, Louisville Board members played a prominent role in the creation of a state insurance association within Kentucky. This organization still operates today as the Independent Insurance Agents of Kentucky. Additionally, Louisville Board members played an instrumental role in the creation of a national agents' association.

In 1951, the Louisville Board inaugurated a series of monthly luncheon forums, which continue to this day.

Mr. Speaker, the Louisville Board has been a valued partner in our community for the past 150 years. I congratulate them on a historic anniversary and wish them continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE ON RECENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating the people of Ukraine on their free and fair election that elevated Victor Yushchenko to the office of President. I have joined my colleagues in extending an invitation to President Yushchenko to address the Congress.

Just days before the elections, I traveled to Ukraine for the ninth time. On November 21, Ukraine held a run-off election for the office of President between Victor Yushchenko and Victor Yanukovich. International observers immediately found widespread fraud and declared the election invalid. Immediately following these events, supporters of the opposition party took to the streets to demand a recount or a new vote in what has been dubbed