

many accomplishments, and commend the following article to my colleagues' attention:

[From the Tryon Daily Bulletin, Jan. 25, 1995]

COL. NORME FROST: STILL FLYING HIGH AT 99
(By Bob Witty)

Today is the 99th birthday of Norme Frost, a legend in his time.

Born in another century, Jan. 25, 1896, to be exact, he has left a fascinating trail behind as he made his way from Central Lake, Michigan, to his beloved bower on Wilderness Drive.

He came out of an era when everyone started to work and contribute at an early age, out of a family where hard work was the watchword. To make ends meet in their cash-poor, small village environment, his mother "took in" washing, taught school, hung wallpaper and worked the family farm. His father was a musician, carpenter, master craftsman and inventor. It wasn't until one of his inventions, a different and progressive design for a motor boat, succeeded that things looked up for the Frosts.

Norme was the quintessential "American boy." Handy with his father's tools, always obsessed with gadgets, engines and wood-working, he tried his hand at everything that Michigan in the early 1900s afforded.

His jobs included hardware store clerk, farm hand and fishing guide, running a machine in the local factory, an attendant at the Insane Asylum at Traverse City, bellhop at a hotel, and as a conductor on the Saginaw Interurban Railway.

World War I interrupted his career as a jack-of-all-trades and he buckled down as a jack private, toting a rifle and preparing to make the world safe for Democracy. That adventure was short circuited when the war ended in 1918, whereupon he returned to Michigan.

His life took a new turn when he paid an itinerant barn-stormer to take him for his first flight in a patched up "Jenny" left over from the war. That was it!

As soon as possible, he enlisted as a Flying Cadet, pawned his saxophone and arrived at Brooks Field, San Antonio, with three dollars in his pocket, prepared for flight training. A 50-year odyssey in the AirCorps/Air Force had begun.

The rickety wood and fabric flying machines of the day were mostly leftover war-planes. But it was a wondrous time for a fledgling flyer. Norme remembers with fondness his favorite: "The SE-5 was a Sopwith pursuit plane that the RAF made famous in combat. It was light as a feather on the controls and could turn on a dime. My alltime favorite."

After graduation from famed Kelly Field, he was assigned to a tactical unit, and was the 733rd officer to be rated "pilot" by the Army. His serial "733" was one number behind Hoyt Vandenberg, who was later to be Chief of Staff, USAF.

Those were the wild and woolly days of flying. Generations of pilots still thrill and marvel at Norme and his cohorts performing at air races; tiny pursuit planes dancing their mad pas de deux around the pylons on a tight course, sometimes as little as 25 feet off the ground in a vertical bank! Daring young men indeed.

In World War II, as a Colonel, he served in General Doolittle's 15th Air Force as a Deputy Wing Commander. He took part in the first B-17 strike on the sub-pens and shipping at Naples, using the smoldering Mount Vesuvius as an initial point for the run-in to target.

But all the fun came to an end, and after his 1951 retirement parade at Hickam Airfield in Hawaii, he brought "what's 'er name" back here to their Wilderness Drive woodland and built her a house—with his own

hands. There today, with bird-song at dawn and the cacophony of trilling tree-frogs at dusk, he lends his talents and energies to local activities, much as she devoted them to his flying career. He has performed so many feats of magic in lighting, photography, audio and construction for the Tryon Little Theater, The Fine Arts Center and other groups, that there is no room here to list them.

Let the words of the late Lou Perrottet as published in the Tryon Litter Theater Bulletin in 1978, speak for "Frostian" skills. "Colonel Norme Frost continues to leave his footprints on the cultural creations of this community. Not the least of accomplishments is his ability to merge technical disciplines with moments of sheer emotion and feeling."

Norme justified this accolade with his renowned production of "The Drama of Nature," and "A Place on Earth," his slide shows with music and narration.

And now, this man who saw both the automobile and airplane bow onto the world stage, has landed with both feet into the Computer Age. It would not surprise any of us if he were to become a full-fledged member of the "Fiber-Optic" journey into the future.

The 28 World War II military pilots now living in this area (the Helmet and Goggles and Scarf crowd) salute their compatriot, Colonel Norme Frost, pioneer aviator, naturalist, and gentle man. The poem which follows has become the most famous anthem to airmen ever written. It has, of course been quoted again and again, most notably by President Reagan when he addressed America at the time of the Challenger disaster. It was written by 19 year old RCAF pilot John Magee in England in 1941; he died in his Spitfire only a few weeks later:

HIGH FLIGHT

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds—and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace.
Where never lark or even eagle flew—
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

Happy Birthday Norme. Dominus
Vobiscum.

HONORING THE NORTH MIAMI FOUNDATION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS' SERVICES, INC.

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 26, 1995, the North Miami Foundation for Senior Citizens' Services, Inc. will be recognizing the volunteers who have provided assistance to the area's elderly for 21 years.

In 1994, these volunteers donated 25,499 hours of chore services; 43,370 hours of com-

panionship visits; and 60,789 telephone reassurance calls. In addition, 9,931 hours of special projects were completed in conjunction with local organizations and schools. Truly demonstrative of community partnership, these volunteer hours are equivalent to 42 full-time paid positions.

As the entire Nation recognizes National Volunteer Week from April 23–29, I am sure that my colleagues will join me in thanking the North Miami Foundation and its volunteers. Theirs is an exemplary crusade that is of tremendous value to our community.

RULE REGARDING THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, A couple of days ago I voted against the rule on welfare reform. The rule before us will preclude any debate on the effect of drastically altering our current welfare system on some of this country's neediest and most underserved individuals, its 1.2 million native Americans.

So much for bipartisanship. Recognizing the special government to government relationship that the U.S. Government has with the country's 533 federally recognized tribes, individuals from both sides of the aisle attempted to craft an amendment that would respect this special relationship and the tribes' treaty rights by providing native Americans direct access to the block-granting process. This rule precludes debate on the merits of this amendment.

This action signals a sad departure from the national trend toward native American self-determination and independence which was initially recognized by a Republican President, Richard Nixon. In his special message to Congress on July 8, 1970, then President Nixon articulated the right of Indian tribes to take over control or operation of federally funded and administered programs. Adoption of this rule throws self-determination out the door and signals a return to the failed paternalistic policies which have ill-served America's Indian peoples.

This rule silences the voice of the first Americans, native peoples.

THE INSURANCE STATE'S AND CONSUMERS' RIGHTS CLARIFICATION AND FAIR COMPETITION ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join with the distinguished chairman of the Commerce Committee as an original cosponsor of the Insurance State's and Consumers' Rights Clarification and Fair Competition Act. This is important consumer protection and competitiveness legislation that deserves strong bipartisan support.

This legislation requires that anyone who sells, underwrites, or solicits the purchase of

insurance will have to comply with all applicable State insurance regulatory requirements. This will ensure a level competitive playing field and consistent consumer protection.

On September 22, 1994, Congresswoman COLLINS of Michigan, joined me in introducing a substantially similar bill, H.R. 5075, the Insurance Sales and Underwriting Consumer Protection Act of 1994. I commend the gentleman from Virginia for expanding upon those efforts.

While some of you may wonder at the necessity of having a Federal law saying that people in the insurance business must comply with State insurance laws, I assure my colleagues that it is very necessary indeed. The hearing record in past Congresses in the Energy and Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee and its Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Competitiveness Subcommittee, as well as recent actions by the Comptroller of the Currency and the courts, demonstrate the urgent need for this bill.

First, during our oversight hearings on the problems faced by financial services providers as a result of savings and loan failures, we discovered that a number of failed savings and loans had sold insurance products to their customers, and that they had done so without disclosing to these customers that the insurance products were not insured by the Federal Government. When the savings and loans failed—and the insurance company that had underwritten many of these policies also failed—customers were stunned to discover that the FDIC did not cover their insurance. As a result, they suffered both significant emotional and financial losses.

A second example can be found in the aftermath of the Los Angeles riots following the Rodney King trial. Many of the small business people devastated by the riots filed claims with their insurance companies, only to find out that these companies had violated California law by selling insurance in California without authorization. Many of these companies would not, or could not, pay these valid claims. Many of these businesses were forced to close and others suffered extreme financial difficulties because the insurance they purchased was no insurance at all.

Finally, there is the so-called retirement CD. This is a product, originally offered by the Blackfeet National Bank, that is designed to obtain FDIC insurance protection for an annuity, that is, insurance, product. The promoters of this product have described it as free from taxes on inside buildup, as is true of life insurance; as insured by the FDIC; and as free from all State insurance regulation, whether these regulations apply to underwriting financial requirements to protect the safety and soundness of the bank or to consumer protection requirements. In May 1994, the Comptroller of the Currency approved this product for bank sales subject to certain conditions, in apparent agreement with the proposition that Federal banking laws preempt State insurance laws, and that banks may provide insurance. Not only is it absolutely clear that Congress has never preempted State insurance laws as to banks providing insurance, it is also a clear misreading of the laws Congress has passed. The National Bank Act has been interpreted to prohibit national banks from engaging in the business of insurance. In addition, the Glass-

Steagall Act prohibits banks from engaging in commerce.

In 1990, the Comptroller ruled that national banks could sell annuities. The Comptroller further concluded that annuities should be classified as investments, rather than as insurance. The Comptroller's ruling was challenged in Federal court by Variable Annuity Life Insurance Co., a unit of Houston-based American General. In January of this year, the Supreme Court ruled that national banks may sell annuities. Last month, a Federal judge in New Mexico ruled that the State insurance commissioner could not prevent First National Bank of Santa Fe from selling the retirement CD.

The impact of these decisions on consumers is troublesome and significant as pointed out by Jane Bryant Quinn this past Sunday, "Think Twice About New Retirement CDs." Washington Post, Sunday, March 12, 1995, at H2:

The rates are lower than you would get on the open market. That's the price you pay for the tax deferral and the deposit insurance. But the banks can't pay you less than 3 percent. You face serious penalties for early withdrawal except in the case of death, disability or, at the Santa Fe bank, lengthy hospitalization.

At maturity, you must turn at least one-third of your savings into a lifetime income from the same bank—so you shouldn't buy this CD unless you intend to keep it. You can't even switch banks without creating tax obligations on the money.

Bottom line: There's no escape from a retirement CD except at considerable cost. With an insurance company annuity, you can switch to a new insurer, tax free, if the new one pays a better rate. But with a bank, you're stuck. The banks know you're trapped, which may tempt them to pay low yields every time you renew your CD.

Even now, the bank's return is poor. Given a \$51,000 accumulation, for a 65-year-old woman, the retirement CD would pay \$229 to \$279 a month for life at the banks now offering the product. By contrast, the top 10 insurance company annuities are paying an average of \$386, according to Annuity Shopper magazine in Englishtown, N.J. That's a lot of money to give up for deposit insurance. I think the banks should try again.

It is no secret that the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee has had many hearings on the inadequacy of the current State insurance regulatory system, and that I believe that there should be Federal regulation of this interstate and international industry. I still hold that belief. However, the State insurance regulatory system is all that currently exists to protect insurance consumers and to ensure the financial stability and safe operation of insurance providers. It is imperative, for the protection of consumers, and to ensure the financial soundness of insurance products, that, at the very least, existing State insurance standards and protections are met by everyone selling or underwriting insurance, whether they are a bank, foreign company, or insurance company.

The bill I am cosponsoring today, does not impose any new substantive requirements on anyone who provides insurance. It simply says that if you provide insurance in interstate commerce, regardless of who you are, you must comply with the insurance sales, licensing, and financial requirements of the State in which you are providing the insurance.

I urge my colleagues to support this sensible and fair legislation when it comes to the House floor.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending, and reduce welfare dependence:

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, throughout the debate on welfare reform, I have stated that real welfare reform must meet three important tests: Does the proposed plan promote work? Does it provide States with adequate resources? Does it protect children? Although the bill offered by Representative DEAL as a Democratic substitute is not perfect, I believe that it meets these three tests.

Individual responsibility is at the heart of this bill. On the first day an individual applies for welfare benefits, that individual will be required to sign a comprehensive individualized responsibility plan detailing what the individual is expected to do to find a job and what the State is expected to do to assist them in achieving this goal. If an individual refuses to sign such a plan, that individual will not be eligible for AFDC benefits. In contrast, the Republican bill does not require that an individual actively look for a job for 2 years. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] has stated in its analysis of the Republican bill that all 50 States will fail to meet the job requirements of the bill.

In addition, whereas the Republican bill simply requires States to move a growing percentage of their welfare caseload off of the welfare rolls, the Democratic bill requires States to move a growing percentage of their welfare caseload off of the welfare rolls and into jobs.

The substitute also removes traditional barriers to employment by recognizing the reality of our changing work force. If welfare reform is successful and truly about work, the demand for child care will increase as individuals move from welfare to work. The substitute guarantees that child care assistance will be provided to any parent on AFDC who needs child care assistance to accept and keep a job or participate in a work program. In recognition of this accepted increase in demand, the substitute increases child care assistance for the working poor by \$424 million over 5 years above current projections. Under our current system, States are often forced to choose between providing child care assistance to individuals on welfare and the working poor.

The Deal bill recognizes that real welfare reform is not cheap, and it provides States with the resources needed to move recipients from welfare to work. The bill provides \$9 billion to assist States in establishing programs to move people into the work force.

The Democratic substitute also maintains the current structure of successful child nutrition programs. In contrast, the Contract With