

He joined the State police in February 1972. Following graduation he was posted at Jackson, Detroit, Flint, Northville, and finally Saginaw since April 30, 1989. Just as so many police officers do, his watchful eyes may have helped protect many of us as we traveled through Michigan during his exemplary career.

I have the pleasure and the privilege of personally knowing Captain Pearson. If any of you want to find an outstanding role model for our children, look at Robert Pearson. If you need to know what it means to be devoted to public service, look at Robert Pearson. It is no wonder that a man of his skills and purpose has served on numerous departmental boards and committees, has been sought out by colleagues and law enforcement agencies to serve on their boards and committees, and has won an award from the Michigan State Safety Commission for developing and overseeing the C.Z.A.R.—Construction Zone Accident Reduction Program.

His dedication to his profession is exceeded only by his commitment to family, including his wife Phyllis, and son Jason. Despite his very demanding schedule, he still has made the time to be a very active member of St. Luke C.M.E. Church, and a Prince hall Mason for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Captain Pearson the very best on his retirement. As he is joined by friends and colleagues who will honor him at a dinner this Saturday, let this man of distinction know that his career has earned him the gratitude of the people of Michigan that he so richly deserves.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST,  
ALASKA WINNER

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 1995*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, with pride and honor I acknowledge Walter McInnis, of Eagle River, AK, for his accomplishment of first place in the 1995 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary Voice of Democracy Broadcast Script-Writing Contest of the State of Alaska. Mr. McInnis will receive \$1,000 in scholarship funds to apply toward his collegiate education.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program was started 48 years ago with the endorsement of the U.S. Office of Education and National Association of Broadcaster, Electronic Industries Association, and State Association of Broadcasters. Over the past 35 years the number of annual national scholarships has risen to 47 totaling \$109,000 with a \$20,000 scholarship to the school of choice going to the first place winner.

Mr. McInnis, a junior at Chugiak High School, has not decided on where he would like to attend college. He plans on pursuing a career in law. His list of achievements include the American Legion's Scholastic Achievement Award and first and second year outstanding and honor cadet in the National Junior ROTC Unit.

It pleases me to enter Mr. McInnis' winning essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

"MY VISION FOR AMERICA"

(By Walter McInnis)

My vision for America.

I see a place where Constitutional rights are more than just words on paper, written long ago in an age of idealism. Foremost among these rights must be education. Quality education, which sees to it that the Nation's youth are ready to assume the responsibilities of their parents.

I see a place where certain Constitutional guarantees are unnecessary. A place where discrimination on the basis of race, sex, or religion is not only unconstitutional, but unthinkable.

I see an America whose citizens understand that "honor" and "duty" are more than just clichés that sound good; that they are what sets leaders apart from followers. I see a nation willing to pay the price of being a world leader; willing to pay for a strong national defense, and I see a nation willing to use its strength to stand up for what's honorable. Because being a leader has nothing to do with making the easy decisions, or even the popular decisions; it's being able to make choices based on nothing more than "they're the right thing to do."

I see a nation that has all but eliminated crime through the equal application of mercy and justice. A society that understands that to be merciful without justice is foolish, and to be just without mercy is tyrannous. A society that rewards sympathy only to those who are repentant, instead of those with the most excuses.

I see a nation who has come to the realization that resource management isn't such a difficult and confounding thing after all. For in the interest of development now and in the future, conservation is vital. A nation that also realizes conserving a resource is pointless if not to develop that resource for later generations.

I see a nation that readily assumes responsibility. Because personal accountability is critical to success in all areas of life; from basic person to person honesty all the way to a national, political level.

I see a people who have risen above a cynical derision of their government. I see a citizenry who have balanced their democratic duty to critique their government, with a respect for the same. After all if the voters are not responsible for their government, then who is?

I see a people who also remember to respect their children and senior citizens. Senior citizens have made the sacrifices to get the country in the leadership role it now enjoys; and the leaders of today must realize that they do not own the country, but instead are holding it in trust for the generations to come.

In conclusion, I envision America continuing its prominent role in world affairs. America must also continue to set the example for personal freedom and equality. It is crucial that the country reassume dominance in education, second best simply isn't good enough. Respect and responsibility must be the axioms which the country strives toward because a leader who does not respect other's opinions, and does not accept responsibility for his actions, does not deserve to be a leader.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE COAL MINE  
HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 1995*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act went into effect. In this era of regulatory moratoria, of

reducing Federal regulations, and of risk assessments being applied to the rulemaking process, this act stands as a shining example of the overwhelming benefits to society of Federal regulation and oversight.

During November 1968, 78 coal miners lie trapped deep beneath the Earth in a mine near Farmington, WV. For the first time the average American witnessed a coal mine disaster as television coverage beamed this devastating incident across the Nation. They saw the horror, the sheer terror, on the faces of the wives and children, and of the fellow workers, of those coal miners. The reaction of the American people was swift, and it was clearly stated. Within 1 year Congress enacted the landmark Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, for the first time applying a Federal occupational safety law to a specific industry.

More than 250 coal miners on average perished annually while on the job during the 3-year period prior to passage of the 1969 act. Over the last 3 years, the average number of coal miner fatalities has totaled fewer than 50. This achievement was made without a loss of industry productivity, or for that matter, profit.

Mary 'Mother' Jones, the union activist, after seeing the plight of coal miners in West Virginia during the earlier part of this century once exclaimed: "When I get to Heaven I am going to tell God Almighty about West Virginia!" The good Lord must have listened. Entering this century as the most dangerous industry in the Nation, the coal industry is ending it as one of the most improved, and again, without sacrificing productivity.

But much more remains to be done. The improvements made since 1969 offers little solace to the families of the 44 coal miners who perished in 1994. They offer little consolidation to the many coal miners who today suffer from the crippling affects of black lung disease.

And so I say to my colleagues, take care in what we do when considering changes to our Nation's safety laws. Take care that what we wrought today, does not come back to haunt us in the future.

UNJUSTIFIED GIVEAWAY TO THE  
OIL INDUSTRY

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 1995*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just when you might have thought you had heard it all about the limitless greed of the special interests for more subsidies and favors, along comes the oil and gas industry, belying up to the bar for a few more billion from taxpayers.

This time, it's called a royalty holiday: For-giving oil companies from paying royalties to taxpayers—who own the oil and gas—in cases where the lease is in deep water.

Now, you would logically assume that, absent some enticement or tax break, industry would be unwilling to sink an offshore well in deep water, thereby necessitating the royalty holiday to encourage exploration in otherwise unattractive areas. But you would be wrong. Indeed, the industry press is replete with reports of growing interest and activity by industry in deep water areas.

According to a March 13, 1995, article in the "Oil and Gas Journal," written by senior editor A.D. Koen, "Improved economics, better technology, and growing experience are converging in the Gulf of Mexico's ultradeep water areas to fuel a new era of U.S. offshore development." The author describes the factors contributing to this surge in Outer Continental Shelf [OCS] development: "Companies taking the plunge into deeper water credit better economics with providing the impetus to begin exploiting discoveries. Lower finding, development, and production costs make some of the gulf's larger reservoirs in very deep water competitive with many other offshore prospects, United States or non-United States in any water depth."

Deep water reserves in the gulf are providing to be larger and more profitable than originally projected. According to a December 7, 1994, New York Times article, deep water reserves are thought to hold 50 percent more oil than the giant Prudhoe Bay fields in Alaska, as much as 15 billion barrels.

In the November 21, 1994, issue of Forbes magazine, Shell and British Petroleum officials stated that they could develop the first 500 million barrels from the 2,933-foot deep MARS field in the gulf at a cost of only \$3 per barrel. Thus, even though the deep water fields are expensive, they are large enough that the per barrel production cost is exceedingly low, generating plenty of profit and reducing any justification for royalty relief or tax breaks.

Moreover, the technology is constantly improving, as noted in the Wall Street Journal on January 25, 1995: "Industry executives believe tension leg-platforms can be affordable in water as deep as 6,000 feet."

As a result of these disclosures, it was with some consternation that I read in the March 24, 1995, edition of The Energy Daily that some congressional leaders and some officials in the administration are supporting a proposal to reduce substantially royalties owed on deep water oil and gas leases on public lands in the Gulf of Mexico.

The new legislative proposal, S. 158, would provide a royalty holiday for producers that drill in deep waters in order to "revitalize the domestic oil and gas industry." Under this ill-conceived scheme, the U.S. Department of the Interior would forgive all royalty payments owed to the Federal taxpayer until all drilling expenses have been recovered.

This royalty relief, in addition to the extremely favorable tax treatment the oil and gas industry already enjoys, would make for a very generous gift during a time of fiscal constraint. According to a Congressional Research Service analysis provided to the Natural Resources Committee last year, the current effective tax rate for oil and gas companies is 17 percent, and independent oil and gas producers are estimated to enjoy an effective tax rate of zero, due to the benefits of depreciation, depletion allowance, alternative minimum tax, and other tax credits which the industry is allowed under current law.

Last week, many of us in this House were shocked when we heard Republican Members use animal analogies to justify cutting off aid to poor- and middle-class families. Not only were these arguments offensive, they highlight the hypocrisy in the Republican approach to Government.

If the majority truly want to end the cycle of dependence, why not do so for the richest in our society, not just for the poorest? Why, at a time when working people are increasingly living on the economic edge, do we need to give multibillion dollar tax breaks to multinational energy conglomerates to do what they are already doing: drilling for oil?

And, never satisfied with a limited corporate tax break when a bigger one will do, some in Congress now are planning to expand the unneeded royalty relief to environmentally important waters in Alaska.

The American people are not interested in cutting social welfare programs in order to pay for corporate welfare. They are justifiably tiring of high-priced lobbyists securing lucrative tax breaks and special treatment from the Republican leadership while those too young, too poor, or too weak are told they must sacrifice more.

The oil industry is already proceeding with and profiting from deep water development without additional royalty relief. We shouldn't be bribing them to do what they are doing already.

The royalty holiday is a paid vacation for the oil industry, and a bad deal for the taxpayer.

TRIBUTE TO COL. HENRY E.  
STRICKLAND

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to Col. Henry E. Strickland, a distinguished gentleman from Fairfax County in Virginia's 11th Congressional District. He will be honored by the Fairfax County Planning Commission on April 1, 1995. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Hank moved to Fairfax County after a distinguished career in the U.S. Army.

Hank Strickland recently retired from the Fairfax County Planning Commission after service since April 1989. Under his tenure the county planning commission replanned much of Fairfax County's high growth corridors, including the Route 28 corridor, Tyson's Corner, and Reston Town Center.

More importantly, as the Mason district member of the planning commission, Hank helped in the revitalization of the Baileys Crossroads area, and worked with numerous civic associations to prevent commercial encroachment into the long established residential neighborhoods. Neighborhoods from Sleepy Hollow to Glen Forest have worked with Hank in their efforts to balance the need for an expanded commercial base with their needs to preserve their residential quality of life.

In addition to serving on the planning commission Hank served as chairman of the Mason District Council, president of the Sleepy Hollow Civic Association, and former chairman of the Mason District Land Use Task

Force. His wife Muriel, is also active in civic affairs, and has been a strong influence and source of support for Hank.

As well as a civic leader, Hank is a respected public servant who works well with all sides on an issue to build consensus where possible, and insuring that both sides are heard prior to a decision. His leadership, knowledge, and experience will be missed, but I know my colleagues join me in encouraging Hank to continue his civic involvement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. APRIL  
GENTES

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations on behalf of the U.S. Congress to Ms. April Gentes, a resident of Rumford, RI who is a senior at Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro, MA.

Ms. Gentes has been named a national winner in the 1995 Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of a National Veterans of Foreign Wars Scholarship Award. This distinguished program began 48 years ago and, this year, had 125,000 participants competing for 47 annual scholarships nationwide with the submission of an essay on the subject of "My Vision for America."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to present Ms. Gentes essay for the RECORD.

"MY VISION FOR AMERICA"

(By April Gentes)

A world without prejudice and bigotry anywhere. A place where the word hatred does not exist. Somewhere where people will help one another and not think of their own needs first. A place where children can run and play and moms and dads won't have to worry about their safety. A land filled with people who are not poor, hungry, or homeless. A place where all who are there feel loved and accepted. Somewhere where no man or woman, boy or girl, feels they are worthless or can not make a difference in someone else's life. A place where forgiveness and trust go hand in hand. A land with no disease, war or killing. This is my vision for America.

I believe that every single person in this world is here for a reason. I have a story I'm sure you've heard before but it ties in well about how my vision of America would be. It goes like this: One day a girl was walking along a beach where thousands of star fish were washed up along the shore. The girl started picking the star fish up, one by one, and throwing them back into the ocean. As she was doing this a man walking noticed her. He walked up to her and asked "little girl, don't you see there are thousands of star fish here all washed up on the sand. You can't possibly save them all, so why are you trying too?" The little girl looked up at the man and, hurt by his question, thought for a moment. Then she replied "No, you're right. I can't possibly save them all, but I can save this one (and she picked up a star fish and threw it back into the ocean.) and I can help this one", and she picked up another one and did the same. She continued on walking and throwing the star fish back into the water feeling happy with what she could do to help.

This story has so much meaning behind it. Instead of the girl being intimidated by the