

TRIBUTE TO A FLIER

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, bustling in the skies overhead—airplanes and helicopters—satellites and spaceships—dirigibles and sometimes even UFO's—orbit the Earth in voyages of commerce, missions of mercy, and war, flights of fantasy and excursions of adventure and leisure.

For centuries our ancestors had no paths through the clouds. Once, most thought man would never fly; that only birds might soar the kingdom of clouds and rainbows. Today pilots steer passengers through the clouds and across the starry skies because dreamers and thinkers and inventors held to a faith that someday man would navigate the heavens.

Those who keep faith in their missions open new worlds and inspire us all to reach new heights.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a little bit of the story of one of our Nation's first black commercial airline pilots. Perry Jones is one of those faithful whose hard work, spirit, and dedication chartered a new course to the future. He is a model for young people who are pursuing dreams of flying and he is a model for older people who are searching out new rainbows when they retire from their life's work. Mr. Speaker, Capt. M. Perry Jones is one of our Nation's high flying heroes.

LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT FOR CAPT. M. PERRY JONES

On 16 December 94, Perry retired from Delta Airlines. Perry flew with Pan American World Airways for 26 years and Delta Air Lines for three. Not only was Perry Pan Am's first Black pilot and Captain, he was captain of the last Pan Am flight to depart London.

Perry has been a member of OBAP since 1977 and has served as NE regional Vice President, President, and presently as Chairman of the Board.

Perry's aviation career started in October, 1959. He served until December, 1965 in the USAF, first as a navigator and then as a pilot. He achieved the rank of Captain, flew over 100 missions over Vietnam, and received the air medal for valor. He has received many recognitions and awards including "Outstanding Service" awards from Delta Air Lines, the National Naval Officers Association (Pensacola, Florida), and Berlin American High School (Berlin, Germany).

Perry has served as an "Expert in Residence," keynote speaker, panelist, workshop presenter, university lecturer and presented testimony to the U.S. Congress.

Topics have included: Flying Safety; The Air War in Vietnam; The Responsibilities of Being an American; Race in America; What's Wrong with America?

Your Triple "A" Plan to Success; Wines; The Rise and Fall of Pan Am; Civilian Aviation and Training Programs; Minorities in Aviation; The Red Cross in Vietnam; Bessie Coleman, An American Heroine; and Willa Brown-Aviatrix.

Perry's advice to those retiring is "just enjoy every minute." His retirement plans include some consultant work and skiing. However, Perry is as busy as ever flying again with Delta as flight engineer. Congratulations and Best Wishes to Captain M. Perry Jones. Enjoy your retirement. OBAP appreciates your hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO KEN MOFFETT

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a product of K-through-12 public schooling in Los Angeles, I can testify it works. It certainly did for me.

But virtually every school in the Los Angeles Unified School System—including those I attended—could work better. And they must, if every kid is to get every chance to succeed.

An extraordinary public school administrator who transformed Lennox schools into safe, attractive, graffiti-free havens for some of Los Angeles County's poorest children has just retired. I would like to share with my colleagues an excellent article about a visionary educator and friend, Ken Moffett, whose leadership will be sorely missed:

[From the Daily Breeze, July 28, 1996]

TO SIR, WITH LOVE—LENNOX SCHOOLS SAY GOODBYE TO SUPERINTENDENT

(By Marie Montgomery)

The Ken Moffett era in the Lennox School District is drawing to a close this week.

Not too many school superintendents qualify to have an era named after them. Then again, not too many have a school named after them while they're still alive, and it's unusual to find one who has worked in the same district for almost 20 years.

Moffett, 61, has done all that and more since coming to Lennox in 1976.

On Wednesday night, the Manhattan Beach resident will walk out the door of his district headquarters and leave his superintendent title behind him. He is retiring to become an education professor at Pepperdine University this fall. He'll also head the university's administrative training program.

Bruce McDaniel, the district's assistant superintendent for business who has worked with Moffett for more than 10 years, will take over the Lennox superintendent post this week.

"I wanted to leave on a positive note, and I'm doing that," Moffett said, "I'd like to leave without people's hands pushing in the middle of my back."

That was hardly likely given that Moffett was named National Superintendent of the Year in 1994. But retiring now gives him a chance to pursue a second career in academia—one which may help create many more "Moffett trainees" to go out and run California's schools.

"Ken, for us exemplifies the outstanding qualities needed by a leader to take schools into the 21st century. . . . We're very fortunate to get him," said Terrence Cannings, associate dean for education at Pepperdine. "He brings such a wealth of experience to anyone in today's tumultuous educational environment, and he has the ability to communicate that background to prospective teachers and administrators."

Among Moffett's accomplishments at Lennox:

He transformed district campuses into safe, attractive, graffiti-free havens for some of Los Angeles County's poorest children.

He helped convince the state in 1985 to give his district \$8.2 million to buy Lennox High School from the Centinela Valley Union High School District, refurbish it for \$2.7 million provided by the state, and convert it to Lennox Middle School.

He fought state and federal governments in the 1970s and 1980s for the right to build a new elementary school on land the district

owned directly in the flight path of Los Angeles International Airport, and then got the state to kick in money to build the school underground and soundproof it. Kenneth Moffett Elementary School opened in 1990.

The same year he won the national superintendent's title—a first for a California superintendent—he also was given the Marcus Foster Award, named for the Oakland schools chief assassinated by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

Lennox School District was one of the first in the South Bay to join the computer revolution, with the district schools already wired for classroom use of the Internet.

Teacher salaries in Lennox are the highest in the county, so the district can attract and keep qualified employees.

Glowing accolades are about all anyone will hear about Moffett.

His employees praise his enthusiasm and hard work. Colleagues in other South Bay districts stand in awe of his ability to communicate with everyone in the Lennox community, even gang members. And the direct beneficiaries of his work—Lennox students—know their superintendent by name a rarity in most other districts.

"He's Mr. Lennox to me," said school board member Mary Davis who has worked with Moffett for 10 years. "Before I got on the board, I said to myself, 'Who is this man? They think of him like God.' Then when I got to know him, I realized he can talk to anybody and associate wit anybody. Children come first for him. I can't say anything bad about this man."

El Segundo Unified School District Superintendent Bill Manahan said Moffett has always been generous with a sympathetic ear and advice for other administrators.

"If there is anyone I could emulate, it would be Ken Moffett," Manahan said. "He just has such a sense of love for the community, for the kids. It goes beyond the kids—he cares about the families, too."

Moffett made a point of visiting every classroom in his district, every year. He expected all his teachers and administrators to help give extra treats and incentives to students such as trips to a Dodgers game or a restaurant, and he pitched in with those duties too.

About the only time in Moffett's superintendent career that wasn't rosy was when he resigned briefly in 1986 to take the top job at the ABC Unified School District in east Los Angeles County.

He had a frustrating 15 months, caught in the middle of district politics. When he decided to apply to return to Lennox because the school board still hadn't filled his old post, he was criticized by some for missing the application deadline and getting rehired anyway.

But Hector Carrio, a board member who initially voted against rehiring Moffett, is now one of his big fans.

"I feel he is one of the most outstanding human beings," said Carrio, who worked with Moffett in 1970 at Monroe Junior High School in Inglewood when Moffett was a principal and Carrio was a teacher. "Under his leadership, we have only one concern—the students. It's our main concern and the rest doesn't count for us."

Moffett came to Inglewood from Western Washington State College in 1957, originally intending to teach for one year and then attend law school.

He never made it. After teaching English and physical education at Crozier Junior High School and working at a school for children of the U.S. military in Germany, he became an Inglewood administrator and then was hired by Lennox.

Situated in one of the poorest inner-city areas in California, the Lennox district

houses 6,000 mainly Latino students. The vast majority speak a language other than English at home. But the district is renowned because of its success in creating English-fluent students.

"The thing I'm most proud of is that we created an attitude that all kids could learn, that they all could get along," Moffett said. "We created a model where we showed it could happen."

Moffett now hopes to spend more time with his wife, who teaches in Torrance, and with his two grown children—one at West Point and the other in Idaho, training in the "family business" to become a teacher.

And he wants to take a few more vacations and travel—although his idea of a relaxing vacation is building a redwood deck on his cabin in the mountains.

"I like to be busy, and I'm going to stay busy," he said. "But I won't be gone for home six nights a week."

KOVATCH GROUP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my close personal friends, Mr. John J. "Sonny" Kovatch and his brother, Joseph. This month, their success as business leaders will be celebrated along with the 50th anniversary of their company, the Kovatch Group. A 3-day celebration of the Kovatch Group will begin tomorrow, and I am proud to be able to participate in these festivities.

In 1946, Sonny and Joseph began a small business dedicated to providing first-rate specialty motor vehicles. Fifty years later, the Kovatch Group has grown into a network of 13 different companies which work together to manufacture and service specialty vehicles used all around the world.

It is with great pride that I say that the international headquarters for the Kovatch Group is located in Nesquehoning, PA, in my congressional district. The complex sprawls over 65 acres and has over one-half million square feet under roof. More than 700 employees utilize a state-of-the-art computerized and automated assembly line to manufacture specialized vehicles designed to meet very specific needs of the Federal Government, military organizations, search and rescue crews, and heavy industry.

Having established a reputation for first-rate vehicles of the highest caliber, the Kovatch business organization grew dramatically since its establishment 50 years ago. In the mid-1980's, Kovatch was selected to construct highly specialized vehicles for the U.S. military. When Kovatch completed the contract nearly 1 year ahead of schedule, the company became known worldwide, and orders for vehicles were regularly submitted to the company from every division of the U.S. military, numerous foreign governments, and private businesses from around the world. Today, Kovatch is considered the manufacturer of choice for military refueling trucks and firefighting apparatus.

Whether we realize it or not, most of us have seen the vehicles produced by the Kovatch Co. Chances are the brave men and women responding to local emergencies utilize

the rescue trucks, ambulances, pumpers, tankers, and aerial ladder trucks manufactured by Kovatch employees. The company can boast of having provided specialized vehicles to government agencies, volunteer fire and rescue teams, and private businesses from Eastport, ME, to Fairbanks, AK.

During the last decade, the Kovatch organization has experienced tremendous success because it has sought to integrate qualified workers with innovative engineering and modern manufacturing techniques. Together, Sonny and Joe have shown me that there really is no substitute for quality products designed and manufactured by American workers.

Mr. Speaker, I am not alone in recognizing the leadership of Kovatch Group for its success. Last year, Sonny was selected as the 1995 Master Entrepreneur of the Year for central Pennsylvania by a consortium of leading businesses including Ernst and Young, Sprint, and Merrill Lynch. Sonny was chosen for this award based on his ability to ensure continued success for the Kovatch Group over an extended period of time. Given that Sonny has been at the helm of the Kovatch Group since its founding 50 years ago, and has guided the company through both good and bad economic times, he is truly deserving of this award and recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to highlight the accomplishments of my good friends, Sonny and Joe Kovatch. The work of these business leaders is an example of the true entrepreneurial spirit that has made our country the greatest Nation in the world. Sonny and Joe have proven that hard work and ingenuity are the key ingredients of success. I am proud to join with their families, friends, and the community in congratulating the Kovatch brothers on their many successes.

IN HONOR OF LIAM BENSON: MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Mr. Liam Benson, who has distinguished himself through uncommon dedication to the children of Northern Ireland. Mr. Benson, along with his wife Margaret, are again donating their services to the annual luncheon I will be hosting for the adopted families of Project Children. Their restaurant, O'Donoghues, is located at 205 First Street, Hoboken, NJ.

The word "tradition" comes to mind when speaking of this truly dedicated person. For the past 3 years, Mr. Benson has graciously afforded the children who come to the United States from Northern Ireland, along with their host families, an opportunity to meet and share their experiences in the United States. While in our country, the children have the possibility to sample a life without the threat of violence prevalent in their homeland. Mr. Benson, through his Irish heritage, has an unique understanding of the true value of peace and freedom.

Mr. Benson's journey to become a community member of my district began with his birth

in County Mayo, Ireland. This son of the Emerald Isle traveled across the Atlantic Ocean 12 years ago in search of new horizons to explore. Mr. Benson arrived on our shores in New York City where he went to work in a neighborhood bar. Two years later, Mr. Benson's journey led him to Hoboken and the establishment of his own place of business, O'Donoghue's Bar and Restaurant. A genuinely modest gentleman, Mr. Benson chose to name his new establishment after a famous bar with the same name located in Dublin, Ireland.

Major themes that have resonated in the life of Mr. Benson have been community and family. For the residents of Hoboken, O'Donoghue's has become a friendly oasis in the life of this bustling urban center. The sense of community experienced by visitors who enter this local institution makes everyone feel like they are members of the Benson family. When it came time to think about starting a family, Mr. Benson married a woman named Margaret who became his partner in life. In 1995, their joyful union produced a son, also named Liam, who will undoubtedly one day carry on the tradition of community service.

It is an honor to have such an extraordinarily considerate individual operating a business in my district. Mr. Liam Benson exemplifies the tremendously positive influence one person can have on the lives of others. I am certain my colleagues will rise with me and honor this remarkable gentleman.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE CENTENNIAL

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this year is the Centennial of automobile production in America.

At a gala held on June 22, 1996, the Mayor of Detroit, Dennis Archer, spoke eloquently about the impact of the automotive industry, of the role of management and labor in its development, and of the place it carved out for Detroit in this Nation's and the global economy.

It is my pleasure to insert his prepared remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE CENTENNIAL GALA,
SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1996

Thank you very much, distinguished head table guests, ladies and gentleman. I want to thank Keith Crain, who shortly after I became mayor, came by the office and said, "In about two years, we're going to be celebrating 100 magnificent years of the automobile, and I think we ought to do something about it."

I said, "Keith, you're absolutely right. Thanks for being my next dollar-a-year guy. Would you please take charge of it, and by the way, I want you to work with my point person, Maud Lyon, who is the city's director of the Historical Museum."

Keith, you and Maud came together with everybody to make this happen. It wasn't just you that could create this beautiful room with all of these magnificent people who are here, but the sponsors—those of you who gave and contributed generously, and to the committee, I want to say thank you very much.

Second, I am pleased to bring a message from a friend that I was with earlier today in