

from ever being repeated in the next. The legacy of the survivors of the Holocaust and of those who perished will only live on if we educate people about this history.

It was only last month that British Courts exonerated historian Deborah Lipstadt of the libel charges brought by a Holocaust denier. Although the decision reaffirmed that Holocaust denial is false history and Nazi sympathy, it is unfortunate that such attempts to distort and trivialize the Holocaust abound. The release of the Eichmann diaries as evidence used in the trial only further establishes the reality of the Holocaust and the dangers of those who seek to deny it.

Today is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to stand against anti-Semitism, discrimination, and intolerance in all forms, at home and abroad. We reflect upon the murder of 6 million innocent Jewish men, women and children, and the systematic destruction of families and vibrant communities. We reestablish our determination to confront the past, and our dedication to perpetuating the memory of those who suffered.

GREEN UP DAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute the citizens of Vermont who are celebrating the 30th anniversary of Green Up Day.

In the 1960s and 70s, Vermont was on the cutting edge in environmental sensitivity. As U.S. Senator George Aiken's remarks revealed in the May 5, 1971 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

"Mr. President, several times recently, I have advised the Senate of things going on in Vermont which have lent and can lend encouragement and inspiration to the other States. I now have to report another event which could have far-reaching results. Last Saturday, May 1, a successful demonstration occurred in my State. This demonstration—called Green Up Day—was put on largely by our young people and extended into every community throughout the length and breadth of Vermont. About 75,000 people collected virtually every glass bottle, every metal can, every scrap of paper which had been cast onto the roadsides by careless and unthinking people. The result was that by Saturday evening, Vermont was undoubtedly the cleanest State in the Nation."

Mr. Speaker, this May Day ritual continues to be an expression in the finest American tradition. People—young, old and in between—businessmen, farmers, workers, students, families, all working together to clean up the state. Vermont's clean up, the Vermont way, continues to inspire others, and it should serve as a model for dealing with litter nationwide.

Though all other states address litter with "Adopt-A-Highway," and 21 states now designate a day for statewide cleaning, none matches Vermont's long-standing Green Up Day community tradition. I salute the citizens of Vermont for their commitment to the environment, to our state and to the tradition. Happy 30th anniversary Green Up Vermont.

A TRIBUTE TO WAYNE REED

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Wayne Reed of Harrisburg, Illinois on his 80th birthday. Wayne's birthday was two weeks ago on April 23, 2000. He has born to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Reed in Harrisburg, and has lived there all of his life. He has three sisters and two brothers still living. Wayne and his wife Jeanne, who sadly passed away last year, raised three wonderful sons: Ray, a firefighter in Dallas, Texas; Ron, a letter carrier and ordained minister who resides in Harrisburg; and Randy, a mortician and owner of Reed Funeral Chapel in Harrisburg.

The Reed family has a long tradition of military service. Wayne is a United States Army veteran of World War Two. Two of his brothers are also veterans of the United States Army and his son Ray is a Vietnam-era veteran. His grandfather, Lewis Reed of Hardin County, Illinois was a Civil War veteran. Wayne was also a volunteer fire fighter with the Harrisburg Fire Department for over thirty years. He is a carpenter by occupation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage all of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to congratulate Wayne Reed on a happy eightieth birthday. I do not know Wayne personally, but I have met with his son Ray, and from his biography I can tell that Wayne is a proud American and a good father to his family. I hope he enjoys his birthday and I wish him God's Speed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather and the inability to arrive in Washington DC yesterday, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 131—Yes; rollcall No. 132—Yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I apologize for my absence from the House of Representatives on May 2, 2000. I was unavoidably detained in Indiana for my Primary election, and unfortunately missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" for both Rollcall votes 131 and 132.

LETTER CARRIERS WORK TO STAMP OUT HUNGER—A NATION-WIDE FOOD DRIVE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 13, 2000, the largest one-day food drive in the country will take place. Letter carriers from across the country will be collecting non-perishable food items from their customers and the food will then be taken to local food pantries for distribution. In Milwaukee, the Hunger Task Force feeds approximately 35,000 individuals each month through a network of more than 80 food pantries.

Sponsors of this worthwhile project are the National Association of Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the United States Postal Service, the AFL-CIO, United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to ask that my colleagues lend their support to the letter carriers' food drives in their hometowns and districts. To my fellow residents in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, in order to meet the high demand for food over the summer, I ask that you consider buying a few extra canned goods and nonperishable items while doing the weekly grocery shopping. Let's make this year's food drive better than ever.

Our food pantries are counting on drives like this to help keep their shelves filled. Let's all try to do our part to stamp out hunger.

RECOGNIZING GUS McLEOD

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous explorer. On Monday, April 17, Gus McLeod, a former CIA agent, successfully flew his 1939 Boeing Stearman Biplane over the North Pole. Completing this journey, he became the first person to fly over the North Pole in an open-cockpit aircraft.

Mr. McLeod undertook this expedition for the sake of adventure. He wanted to help people truly appreciate the challenges that the earliest pioneers of aviation faced. And what challenges he faced!

Leaving Montgomery County Air Park in my district on April 5, Mr. McLeod flew his 60 year old aircraft, which has most recently been used as a crop duster, through freezing cold temperatures as low as 34 degrees below zero and winds as harsh as 100 miles per hour. At 6-foot-1, and 285 pounds, he had very little mobility in the cockpit of his old Army training plane. He wore a special electric suit to keep his body warm which left a burn the size of a silver dollar on his stomach which he didn't even notice at the time. He faced "white-outs" as he flew through snowy weather in Canada. At one point during the journey, the extreme cold caused the plastic engine gaskets to burst, causing his aircraft to leak oil and forcing a delay in his journey. But circling three times at the very top of the globe made him forget the cold and left only the feeling that all the hardships and challenges he endured were worthwhile.

This latest feat of the human spirit harkens to the accomplishments of the very earliest heroes of flight. Charles Lindberg crossing the Atlantic. Amelia Earhart crossing the Atlantic, the Pacific, and attempting to circumnavigate the globe at the equator. Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett making the first flight over the North Pole. And Gus McLeod repeating their journey in an open-cockpit bi-plane.

LUBBOCK AVALANCHE JOURNAL
CELEBRATES 100 YEARS IN PRINT

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal newspaper in Lubbock, Texas in celebration of their 100 year anniversary of publication on the South Plains. The A-J has served the people of the South Plains for an entire century, longer even than the official town of Lubbock itself, which was incorporated in 1909.

Over the years, like its home, the paper has grown tremendously. The A-J now boasts an impressive number of over 64,000 subscriptions in Lubbock and the surrounding area. Without fail, the A-J has printed the latest news every day and has been instrumental in helping our town grow from a rural, rustic town into the thriving city it is today. The A-J has also helped shape the history on the South Plains by providing essential information to our community.

With the advent of the Internet and the World Wide Web, the A-J online is now able to connect people from all over the world. Current, former and future Lubbockites are just a mouse-click away from getting the latest information on what's happening on the South Plains.

The A-J has helped build a bridge of communication on the South Plains and has made a century's worth of friendships. I extend my gratitude to all involved in its successful production—from the publisher and editors to the printing press operators and paper couriers. Your hard work and dedication has made a significant contribution to our community. Best wishes for at least another century of continued and devoted services.

HONORING RICHARD A. WATSON,
FROM THE 20TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as a former high school teacher, today I commend a retiring teacher from the 20th District of Illinois, Mr. Richard A. Watson. For 31 years, Mr. Watson taught agricultural education and served as the FFA advisor at Lincolnwood High School in Raymond, IL.

Some teachers think that education is a 9 to 5 job, but not Mr. Watson. Besides teaching in the classroom, he spent countless hours coaching judging teams, public speakers, and parliamentary procedure teams. Mr. Watson

spent time after school assisting students with their Supervised Agricultural Experiences and other various community activities that the FFA Chapter set out to do.

Because of Mr. Watson's hard work, he was able to watch his students achieve their goals. Whether it was a State FFA Degree, Foundation Award or State FFA Office, he was an advocate and a motivator. More importantly, Mr. Watson was known for his famous phrase, "Keep your chin up," when things didn't go so well.

Mr. Watson has contributed to the betterment of the 20th District because he taught high school agricultural education to the person who advises me today on agricultural issues, Amy Matthews. I thank him for his 31 years of service and congratulate him for his outstanding teaching career.

But I also want to remind him, that our area won't let him slip away. Good teachers, good people are always needed and always welcome in our communities. While his official service may be ending, I know we can count on him to continue to make a difference in the lives of our children and therefore our collective futures.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FURNITURE FIRE SAFETY ACT OF 2000

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my colleagues, Representative ROB ANDREWS and Representative CURT WELDON, to introduce legislation that is long overdue. The United States has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world. In the vast majority of home fire deaths, the killer is upholstered furniture, which is one of the most flammable items in the American home. Because of the seriousness of this problem, and the devastation it has caused countless American families (including those of Fire Fighters killed in the line of duty fighting home fires), we have introduced the Furniture Fire Safety Act of 2000.

This legislation would amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to immediately establish a performance standard that is equal to the successful California state standard—the only one of its kind in the nation. California Technical Bulletin 117 (TB 117) is a mandatory standard for all residential upholstered furniture for sale in California that has been in effect since 1975. It is both an open flame test and a smoldering cigarette test for the component materials that make up the upholstered furniture. While the fire death rates for furniture fires have dropped for both California and the entire nation, death rates in California have dropped by a larger percentage than the nation as a whole. In 1994, for example, the theoretical number of California fire deaths due to upholstered furniture based on actual national figures, would be 65.2. However, the actual number of furniture fire deaths in California in that year was 10.

Mr. Speaker, two people die each day as a result of residential furniture fires. CPSC data report that, on average, 55 people die per

month in fires where upholstered furniture is the first item ignited. Most of these fires are caused by cigarette ignitions, while a significant portion is caused by open-flames such as matches, lighters, and candles.

Upholstered furniture is one of the most flammable items in the American home. In just four short minutes, a sofa fire can engulf an entire living room in flames, filling the entire home with thick, dark smoke and toxic gases. Temperatures can exceed 1,400 degrees Fahrenheit in this short period of time, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Since 1994, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and many other fire safety and consumer groups have urged the CPSC to develop national standards to deter residential furniture fires. To date, there has been no significant progress on the part of CPSC. In lieu of national standards, the upholstered furniture industry is being asked to adhere on a voluntary basis to lax safety standards for home furniture sold in all states except California. The result has been that approximately 4,500 Americans have lost their lives in residential furniture fires since 1994.

What is even more disturbing is the simple fact that for a small 3–5% add-on cost to the manufacturers for flame-retardant measures (on average, the cost of three pizzas, \$20–\$30) a sofa can be made safe and potentially save lives. Even more telling is the fact that price studies have revealed that flame-resistant sofas purchased at retail outlets in California were priced equal to, or in some cases less, than identical, non-flame-resistant products purchased from that same furniture retailer at a location outside of California.

This legislation would save lives. The time has come to take action. We can not allow one more person to die unnecessarily from an upholstered furniture fire. I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

RETIREMENT OF McEACHERN
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL RALPH
WILLIAMS

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration—and some sadness—that I honor Principal Ralph Williams, as he plans for his announced retirement from the Cobb County School system and McEachern High School. Principal Ralph Williams came to Cobb County from Tennessee in 1972, to serve as administrative assistant for Pebblebrook High School. He later served as an administrator for Pebblebrook, Wheeler and North Cobb, before accepting his current position as principal of McEachern High School in 1982. For the past 18 years he has served the students of McEachern with honor and integrity; tirelessly devoting himself to the west Cobb community and this outstanding school.

McEachern High School has an extensive history in the community. It was founded in 1908 as an Agricultural and Mechanical School, with financial support and donated land from John Newton McEachern, co-founder of the Life of Georgia Insurance Company. In 1933, when A & M schools were abandoned, the community opened the Macland