

the crowd. His name is James Madison. And he is presenting the Virginia Plan to his fellow delegates. They will soon refer to the plan as a "political masterstroke," and in the next 5 months, it will serve as the foundation for our Constitution. By 1789, all the states had ratified and approved this new form of government. This unusual document was the first written, national constitutional since ancient times. It was also the first to set up what was called the federal system. Under this system, sovereign power comes from the people, for the good of the people.

The Founders attempted to create a form of government that would be stable, but would also allow for change. You see, in a sense, the Founding Fathers were time travelers too; they were looking to the future, planning ahead, and forming a basic framework to endure for all time. It is a document written for "we the people" and that means that "we the people" have a job to do!

Fast forward to April 1999. An issue of the USA Today Newsview, states that one of the first things that come to mind when Americans are asked what they think about the United States and its government is "freedom." Yet according to current public opinion research fewer than 15% of Americans can name the freedom of the press as one of the rights protected under the First Amendment. And little more than half of Americans know that there are three forms of government. You see, time travelers, with freedom also comes responsibility—the responsibility to understand and defend the Constitution.

James Madison once said, "The people who are the authors of this blessing must also be guardians." Today more than ever before we witness people and organizations testing the bounds of their Constitutional rights. From tabloids that slander high profile figures, to hate groups who use their misunderstanding of free to infringe upon other's inalienable rights, we are constantly called upon to defend and uphold our constitution. Clearly, these types of situations challenge our support and understanding of the constitution, but in the end, they serve only to reinforce our Founding Fathers' cry for responsible citizenry. As such, we must be able to use our privileges responsibly. In the words of Benjamin Franklin, "we have a Republic, only if we can keep it!"

And now, as we make our way back to the 21st century, I will remind you that this flight is interactive—meaning it is not enough to simply understand our constitution and to use our rights responsibly. Clearly, this travel back in time has taught us that our duties as citizens also carry the obligation to participate in our government.

Long after our Founding Fathers penned the last words of the Constitution, the amendment process ensured their continued involvement. You will see what I mean, by looking out the windows on the right side of the aircraft: here we see that The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in 1791. In 1865 the 13th amendment abolished slavery and in 1868 the 14th amendment outlined the rights of all citizens. Meeting the changing needs of a growing country, however, had been known to cause slight turbulence in our return flight. Therefore, in the event that we experience any threat to ourselves and our posterity any one of the 26 amendments, will drop from the overhead compartments to ensure our domestic tranquility.

The amendment process is not the only way we as citizens can participate in our government. What we have witnessed today should force us out of complacency and self-centeredness and put us in touch with a bigger reality. Robert Kennedy made it popular, but George Bernard Shaw said it long ago: "Some people see things as they are and ask

'Why?' I prefer to see things as they might be, and ask 'Why not?'" That is what the framers of our constitution had in mind so long ago. Our participation in that process in the 21st Century is essential to ensure that the Constitution continues to withstand the many and varied assaults from those who criticize it, misinterpret it, or challenge it.

We can begin participating in small ways such as reading a daily newspaper or weekly newsmagazine. What we will begin to notice is that it will become a habit, and we will start participating in bigger things as writing letters to public officials, investigating the qualifications of political candidates, exercising our right to vote, and attending meetings where important local, regional, and national issues are being discussed and deliberated. So you see, even in little ways, we must take a more active role in the government—that, time travelers, is the real journey!

Our Founding Fathers, in the words of Justice Hugo Black, "... dreamed of a country where the mind and spirit of man would be free; where there would be no limits to inquiry; where men would be free to explore the unknown and to challenge the most deeply rooted beliefs and principles..."

Today, on flight U.S. 1-7-8-7, we have traveled back in time to the formation of The Constitution of the United States. Our itinerary included a basic knowledge and understanding of the constitution; an appeal to engage in our constitutional rights responsibly; and finally, a call to participate in our government.

Here in the 21st Century, the flight crew tells me that we have been cleared for landing. We have people on hand waiting to assist you in your efforts to continue the good work of our Founding Fathers. Remember what you have experienced today is much more than a fantastic journey in to the past, it is a reminder of your responsibility for the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO JANET C. WOLF

##### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Janet C. Wolf, who retires on June 1, 2002 after serving as Project Director of the National Park Service's New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route since its inception in 1988.

A new idea for the National Park Service, instead of using traditional ownership, the Trail supports resource protection and awareness by linking destinations owned and managed by others through a series of interpretive theme trails: Maritime History, Coastal Habitats, Wildlife Migration, Historic Settlements, and Relaxation and Inspiration. Ms. Wolf shepherded this historic project from concept to reality.

New Jersey's Coastal Heritage Trail includes portions of eight counties and six congressional districts. Almost 70 destinations, welcome centers and local information centers have been designated to date, with two additional themes under development. Janet's experience, determination and creativity enabled the partnerships to prosper. She also worked on developments for the Pinelands National Reserve and two Wild and Scenic Rivers in southern New Jersey.

After 34 years of service with the National Park Service, half of which has been devoted

to the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, Janet retires with the gratitude of the community for her commitment to the implementation of one of our state's most treasured resources, our Coastal Heritage Trail.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY KONRAD

##### HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Mary Konrad for her philanthropic deeds to this country and to her community.

Mary was one of the first women in her era to leave home to attend college. While enrolled at University of Illinois, she worked for a local doctor to pay her way through school. When World War II started, Mary decided she would help the war effort by working in a defense plant making bombs. Her work entailed lifting shells several hours a day. She finished college and graduated with a degree in sociology.

Following graduation, Mary moved out west and settled in California, becoming a social worker for the Red Cross. Her successful job ethics and determination earned her the "Red Cross Social Worker of the Year" award. After moving back to Chicago, she continued devoting her time to the Red Cross on weekends.

After raising two fine children, she and her husband moved to my district in Clearwater, Florida where she became active in a number of philanthropic ventures. She helped fund and start the program "Children in the 'D'Zone" for diabetic children at Morton Plant Hospital. She knew first-hand the trials and tribulations of raising a diabetic child and wanted to help others. In addition to this venture, she has supported many other programs at Morton Plant Hospital.

At Christmas, Mary helps fund the City of Clearwater's "Christmas Cheer Program" by providing all of the bicycles, helmets and locks for the needy children in the inner-city core. Supporting the arts and introducing children to the joys of the theater is another way she shows her love for those most vulnerable. Each year, Mary provides several scholarships to gifted students. Her support gives needy students an opportunity to attend performances during the year and summer programs at the Performing Arts Center at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Finally, Mary's newest love is the Clearwater AHEPA Home for which she and her husband are dedicating a Hellenic Cultural Library.

It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her today for her long and distinguished record in community service and for her tireless efforts to improve the lives of so many children.

#### HONORING EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

##### HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that "everyone can be great because anyone can serve."

I am pleased to rise today to honor six heroic and dedicated men and women who responded to this call of greatness. These six individuals have dedicated their lives to helping others in need by working in the emergency medical and ambulance services profession.

Whenever we face a medical emergency, whether it is a family member, a friend or co-worker, the first thing we do is call for an ambulance. According to some estimates, there are almost 960 million ambulance trips made each year in the United States.

And the first people to respond to these emergencies are the millions of emergency medical professionals whose skills and training significantly improve the survival of the patient. As a result of their selfless acts, these courageous and devoted men and women save the lives of thousands of Americans each year. While these professionals do not expect to receive recognition for their work, they deserve our sincere gratitude.

I am fortunate to have met with a number of medics from Oregon and have heard firsthand accounts of their tireless efforts to serve their communities on a daily basis. They are truly America's health care safety net.

For the past nine years, the American Ambulance Association (AAA) has recognized those emergency, medical and ambulance service professionals who exemplify what is best about their field, and bestow upon them the Stars of Life award. These appropriately designated Stars of Life have been selected by their peers to represent them in Washington, DC as part of pre-National EMS Week activities. The highlight of their visit to our Nation's capital is an awards banquet where they are presented with this prestigious award. The American Ambulance Association is honoring 113 Stars of Life this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that, of these 113 Stars of Life, 6 are from my congressional district in Oregon.

They are: Victor Hoffer, Randy Johnson, Dawn Poetter, Candy Schneider, Frank Wallender, and Bill Wildman.

Our Nation is blessed by people like Victor, Dawn, Randy, Candy, Frank, and Bill who made a decision to devote their lives to helping other people and serving their communities.

I am immensely proud of all of their accomplishments. I hope that they are also beaming with pride in what they have achieved. Oregon is privileged to be protected by such devoted and courageous men and women.

Dr. King reminded us that everyone can be great. These six individuals have lived it.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today to once again pay tribute to Bronx Community College, which will hold its 24th Anniversary Hall of Fame 10K Run on Saturday, May 11, 2002. This year the theme of the race will be "Running Against Asthma."

The Hall of Fame 10K Run was founded in 1978 by Bronx Community College's third president, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown and today

continues to be an event of great significance. This year, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr. proudly proclaimed May 11, 2002 as "Bronx Community College Hall of Fame 10K Race Day." Each year, amateur and professional runners alike from all five of New York's boroughs and the entire tri-state area come together to run the Bronx. Participants include teams from municipal agencies along with faculty, staff and students of Bronx Community College and other nearby schools.

It is indeed one of the Bronx's most anticipated yearly events and has contributed to a strong sense of community within the Bronx. The race also places an emphasis of physical fitness and achieving athletic goals. Historically, its mission has been to highlight the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, a national institution dedicated to those who have helped make America great. This year, along with upholding that mission, the race will take on another important function. The 2002 race's theme, "Running Against Asthma" is particularly important to South Bronx residents where the rate of asthma among children is twice the national average. It is wonderful that Bronx Community College is focusing on this important issue and raising awareness.

The 10K race tradition continues under the stewardship of Dr. Carolyn G. Williams. Dr. Williams has endorsed the race since her inauguration and has not only continued the tradition started by Dr. Brown to promote physical fitness and highlight higher education, but has added the raising of awareness of important community issues.

I can recall the high level of energy and community involvement when I ran the Hall of Fame 10K race. The race has attracted well over 400 runners each year and I'm sure this year will see an even larger number of participants. People of all ages and physical ability will be able to take part in the Bronx Community College events on May 11, 2002. Along with the 10K race, there will be a Hall of Fame Excalibur One Mile Boys and Girls Youth Challenge and a 2 Mile Fitness Walk.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Bronx Community College's 24th Annual Hall of Fame 10K run possible.

#### HONORING HERRMANN SPETZLER, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Herrmann Spetzler, Executive Director of Open Door Community Health Centers in Arcata, California, and honor him for his 25 years of service to the health care needs of the people of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Herrmann Spetzler has provided extraordinary leadership in directing the growth of Open Door Community Health Centers. The clinic has grown from a part time clinic staffed by volunteers to a system of eight licensed facilities and medical mobile programs serving more than 35,000 individuals throughout the two counties and specifically in the communities of Crescent City, Smith River, McKinleyville, Arcata and Eureka.

Mr. Spetzler also has provided vision and leadership in the development of collaborations that support the health of rural communities at the local, state and national levels, including the California State Rural Health Association, Community Health Alliance, California Primary Care Association and North Coast Clinics Network.

Mr. Spetzler has earned distinction as President of the Humboldt Child Care Council and founder of the Northern California Rural Round Table for Health Care Providers. He is highly esteemed for his successful efforts to develop high quality facilities to meet community health care needs with a focus on health education, access to care and prevention.

Mr. Spetzler has also served the people of California as Statewide Chair of the Expanded Access to Primary Care Committee. He is a member of the Statewide Primary Care Advisory Group to the State Health Director and a member of the Rural Health Care Forum Advisory Group to the Office of Statewide Health Planning. He is a member of the Advisory Task Force for State Facilities Financing Authority and a Board Member of the California Human Service Organization. Mr. Spetzler is esteemed by his colleagues as a leader and innovator in the field of health care.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Herrmann Spetzler for his vision, leadership and commitment to healthier communities and for his extraordinary record of public service to the people of the North Coast of California.

#### BBC EXPOSES MILITANT HINDU VHP

#### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the British Broadcasting Company recently ran an expose of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), a fundamentalist, militant Hindu nationalist organization. The VHP is an organization, which operates under the umbrella of the pro-Facit Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS). The RSS is the parent organization of the ruling BJP.

The BBC notes that the VHP has promoted Hindu supremacy and has engaged in violent acts against minorities. These acts include the murder of missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons while they slept in their jeep.

The report states that the VHP, which it identifies as "a hardline Hindu outfit," rarely makes a "distinction between fellow (Muslim) citizens of the present and (Muslim 'marauders' of the past." It further reports that "the ambition of establishing a resurgent Hinduism by inculcating what some historians call a carefully constructed common 'Hindu spirit' is very much central to the VHP." Moreover, it exposes the VHP's support for a militant Hindus' project to build a Hindu temple on the site of the most revered mosque in India, which was destroyed by the BJP.

Since the BJP is also part of the RSS umbrella, it is critical to help ensure the rights of minorities in India. Tens of thousands of Sikhs and other minorities have been held in illegal custody as political prisoners for many years. Tens of thousands of minorities have been