

His efforts produced the seeds of what would become the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), the first national Hispanic legal advocacy program, which Mr. Tijerina founded in 1968. Over the past 35 years, MALDEF has grown and to this day leads us on the path towards legal equality for Hispanics in areas like education, employment, and political access.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of pioneers like Mr. Tijerina and his vision for a brighter future for all Hispanics that many of us have had the opportunity we enjoy. He helped clear the way for generations of Hispanics, so that they would not feel the burden of oppression or fear to speak out against injustice. He sought change through our judicial system, using our courts as agents of justice.

It is with our heads bowed and grief in our hearts that we say thank you to this pioneer. We can only hope to continue along the path he began.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 276, 277, and 278.

FLIGHT 100—CENTURY OF AVIATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2115) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Chairman, it is important that in determining the EAS eligibility for a small airport the Secretary define a consistent standard for identifying the commonly used route.

It is my hope that the Secretary would use the most reliable mapping capability to determine this route, such as the Rand McNally mapping system.

Further, to ensure that small airports receive a fair shake in the EAS eligibility process, my amendment requires that the Secretary consult with the Governor of the State or the Governor's designee.

In appointing a designee if the Governor so chooses, the Governor should consider designating a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to submit a plan for the most commonly used route. An MPO knows the routes that people take from one point to another in a particular region.

My amendment was drafted to ensure that, while the Secretary of Transportation has discretion, the local community should not be shut out of the process.

COMMEMORATING 80 YEARS OF AVIATION SERVICE AT SHEPHERD AIRFIELD

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate 80 years of aviation service at Shepherd Airfield in Martinsburg, WV by the Berkeley County Airport Authority and the Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 1071.

On June 17, 1923, Captain St. Clair Streett, accompanied by flight mechanic Sergeant Roy Hooe, landed their U.S. Army D.H. 4 at Shepherd Field in Martinsburg, WV. This event was the result of many years of dedicated effort by aviation enthusiasts in Berkeley County to bring Shepherd Field into the mainstream of modern aviation. This historic landing 80 years ago today spurred many important developments at Shepherd Field, including the establishment of the 167th Air National Guard Unit and the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport. With a major expansion planned for the 167th and the construction of a new commercial terminal at the Regional Airport, the airport in Berkeley County will continue its role in protecting our national security while also improving economic opportunity for all of West Virginia.

In honor of 80 years of aviation service at Shepherd Airfield, I ask my friends in West Virginia and my colleagues here in Congress to join me in recognizing June 17, 2003 as a day to celebrate the history of aviation in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. Thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 16, 2003, I missed rollcall votes 276–278. Had I been present on this date, I would have voted "aye" on all rollcall Nos. 276, 277, 278. On this date, my flight coming back to Washington, DC, was canceled due to inclement weather and I was not able to get back to town in time for these votes.

HONORING THE VIETNAM VETERANS GATHERING

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mrs. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vietnam Veterans Gathering. They have developed rich friendships and camaraderie between themselves that years and distance cannot weaken.

On Saturday, June 14, I was honored to attend the 6th Annual Vietnam Veterans Gathering at South Levy Recreation Park. This park has a rich history. After fighting in the jungles of Vietnam, veterans gathered at this

scenic location to share their stories, to heal old wounds, and to enjoy the company of others who knew what it meant to be a soldier.

As part of this commemorative event, The Moving Wall, a tribute to the more than 58,000 Americans that gave their lives during the war, was on display.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Vietnam Veterans Gathering for the great service they have given to our Nation. I recognize the sacrifices that they have made. These men are truly great Americans, and I am proud to call them my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on June 12, 2003, I was unable to vote on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act (H.R. 1308). Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" (rollcall 275).

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF STANTON COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN JACKSONVILLE, FL

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the school administrators, teachers, and students at Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville, FL, for their outstanding achievement in providing, guiding, and demonstrating a quality education.

Stanton College Preparatory School was recently highlighted by Newsweek magazine (The Best 100 High Schools in America, May 26, 2003), as the second best school in the nation, as measured by the Challenge Index. This index takes the number of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests taken by all of the students at a school in 2002 and divides them by the number of graduating seniors.

The editors of Newsweek said they used participation in the Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests as benchmarks because "these tests are more likely to stretch young minds—which should be the fundamental purpose of education."

Stanton College Preparatory School is clearly providing the curricula, support, and leadership in learning that is so very important to our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in applauding Stanton College Preparatory School and all of those schools that strive to prepare their students for higher education and thusly, a higher quality of life. Moreover, I would like to commend the school administrators, superintendents, teachers, and all of the students who have committed themselves to a quality education. As John F. Kennedy once stated, leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

It is my privilege to recognize Stanton College Preparatory School for its outstanding achievements.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH GALANTER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Ruth Galanter, on the occasion of her retirement from the Los Angeles City Council. Ruth is an amazing, passionate and intelligent person who has accomplished so much in her political career without ever compromising her impeccable integrity or diminishing her idealism. I have had the pleasure of working with her since the 1970's when she was a prominent environmental activist and later as a member of the California Coastal Commission. I not only respect her professionally, but I value her friendship and advice.

Elected in 1987 to the Los Angeles Sixth City Council District, Ruth has spent the last 15 years shaping and improving the city of Los Angeles. Ruth was President Pro Tem for 4 years and became president of the council in 2001. She is admired and well-respected by her friends, colleagues and associates. In addition to her legendary success in solving constituent problems and her well-known legislative prowess, Ruth has made a name for herself protecting the environment. She spearheaded the city's recycling program, authored the city's major water conservation programs and led the effort to fluoridate the city's water supply. She also directed the city's conservation efforts to ensure an adequate safe water supply for the next century.

Early in her tenure, Ruth created a network of Community Planning Advisory Committees which assisted her in significant land use decisions throughout the city. Also, as chair of the Council's Committee on Commerce, Energy and Natural Resources, she worked to negotiate the challenges posed by electricity deregulation and the current energy crisis facing the State. And, as the city council's expert on aviation and airport issues, Ruth's futurist vision has improved the quality of life for all who live in southern California. She knows that the decisions made today regarding airport capacity and other transportation services directly impact our quality of life today and in the future.

Born in New York City, Ruth received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan and a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from Yale. Los Angeles has been blessed to have her at the helm, and I am proud to call her my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Ruth Galanter for all she has done and wishing her continued success in all her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF PUERTO RICO KARST CONSERVATION ACT OF 2003

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Puerto Rico Karst Conservation Act of 2003. This bipartisan legislation is a common sense legislative approach that will protect a vital ecosystem in Puerto Rico, the Karst Region. The region is comprised of a unique geological and hydrological system of limestone caves, sinkholes and underground rivers, collectively known as karst, and is widely valued to the livelihood of Puerto Rico.

The Karst Region of Puerto Rico, located along the North and Northwest coasts of the Island, has many outstanding features. This region is home to the largest remaining tropical rainforests in Puerto Rico, and has a greater density of tree species than anywhere else on the Island. These forests provide habitat to a wide array of plants and animals, too many of which are endangered or threatened. In fact, the Karst Region has been identified as a secondary habitat for the restoration of the Puerto Rican parrot, a bird that is among the ten most endangered birds in the world, and the existence of which has plummeted to only 24 birds in the wild.

In addition to the extraordinary flora and fauna of the Karst Region, the water and watersheds are the most unique feature of the Karst Region. While rivers and streams are widespread throughout Puerto Rico, the vast majority of the water in the Karst Region flows underground. Where this water flows out of the ground, from springs and along the coast, it provides fresh water to nearly one-quarter of the Puerto Rico population. In addition, specific manufacturing and industrial sectors, such as the pharmaceutical industry, rely on the Karst Region's supply of clean water for their business. Without a doubt, the Karst Region sustains a large percentage of wildlife, human life, and the economy of Puerto Rico.

Yet Puerto Rico has among the highest population densities of any jurisdiction in the United States. Large, undeveloped tracts of land are becoming increasingly less common on the Island. However, the Karst Region has remained rural in nature, and has not been beset by the development and growth of the rest of Puerto Rico. The hills and unique geology of the Karst Region have forestalled similar population growth. Unfortunately, threats to the Karst Region are growing. Continued population growth will create increasing pressure on the conservation of this important region. Development of roads, resorts and other infrastructure in the region would fragment wildlife habitat, reduce water quality, and would reduce the preserved nature of the Karst Region for the rest of time.

But the Puerto Rico Karst Conservation Act will help conserve the lands and waters of the Karst Region, and stave off the threats of development. This bill, I believe, is an ideal piece of preservation policy. It places the responsibility of conservation and management not with any single entity, but requires that lands in the Karst Region be acquired and managed in a cooperative fashion.

Using funds collected in a fund established on the books of the U.S. Treasury, the Karst

Fund, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will distribute grants to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, conservation organizations and others for the purpose of acquiring and managing lands for conservation in the Karst Region. Acquired lands, purchased only from willing sellers, may only be managed for conservation, and the bill includes provisions that will protect those lands from development. Resources in the Karst Fund are derived from the existing programs of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Forest Legacy Program, from receipts generated from the Caribbean National Forest and GSA sale of property in Puerto Rico, from donations, direct appropriations, and from interest derived in the Fund. While the U.S. Forest Service is authorized to acquire lands, authority that in fact exists in current law, the agency focus will be on technical assistance and management guidance rather than actual land acquisition.

It is my belief that this bill is the most appropriate manner of approaching the conservation needs of the Karst. The Federal Government can bring important resources and experience to the table, yet the land will be primarily acquired and managed by local entities, who are best able to relate to, understand, and advocate for the conservation of the lands of the Karst Region.

I am proud and honored by the support that this bill has gained from my colleagues. Congressman JIMMY DUNCAN of Tennessee has joined me, along with six of my distinguished Democratic colleagues, to introduce this bill in the House, and I greatly appreciate their support. In addition, Senator TOM HARKIN and Senator RICHARD LUGAR, recognizing the vital importance of protecting the Karst Region, have introduced companion legislation in Senate. Their support is essential to the eventual success of this bill, and I appreciate their leadership on this issue.

Protecting the Karst Region of Puerto Rico is a large and important task. However, this legislation that I have introduced today will enable resources to be brought to the protection and conservation of the lands and water of the Karst Region. As many regions in the United States are now suffering due to a lack of water resources, affording this protection to the Karst Region will help ensure water quality and availability into the future. The cooperative nature of this conservation effort will, in my mind, enable it to succeed, and through this unique partnership, the magnificent and unique Karst Region will be preserved for this, and future generations of Puerto Rico.

COMMENDING MEDGAR WILEY EVERS AND MYRLIE EVERS-WIL- LIAMS FOR THEIR LIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Medgar Wiley Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams. These two great Americans fought tirelessly for equality and justice. It is because of efforts such as theirs that I can stand before you today as the first African-American woman to serve in Congress from the State of Ohio.