

(Ronne) Froman, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy Retired.

Ronne Froman serves as Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross of San Diego and Imperial Counties. Froman joined the American Red Cross in 2003 and through her leadership quickly and decisively developed "The New American Red Cross" in San Diego by refocusing the organization on its core mission of disaster relief and emergency preparedness.

Admiral Froman comes to the American Red Cross from the San Diego Unified School District, where she served as Chief of Business Operations for one-and-a-half years. As the Chief Business Officer, she was responsible for the modernization and automation of the district's finance, technology and logistics support operations and infrastructure.

She is a retired Rear Admiral from the United States Navy and the former "Navy Mayor of San Diego." Admiral Froman brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the American Red Cross of San Diego and Imperial Counties, with over 31 years of service as a Naval Officer leading similar reform efforts.

Her expertise is reorganizing, saving money and improving services. Froman is a no-nonsense "efficiency expert" and whether she's helping the military, education or human service organizations, Froman is always ready to meet any challenge head-on.

Admiral Froman has received the Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medal, and the United States Navy Distinguished Service Medal, as well as various service and unit awards.

In the civilian community she currently sits on the Board of Directors of 1st Pacific Bank of California, the Monarch School, and the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum. She was recognized by the San Diego Mediation Center with the Peacemaker of the Year Award (2004), and by San Diego Magazine as one of the "50 People to Watch in 2004." In 2003, she was honored to serve as the Chair of Fleet Week and received the Girl Scouts' Cool Woman Award. Other awards include: the "YMCA TWIN" Award, (2002), the San Diego Soroptimists' Woman of Accomplishment (1998), the National Association of Women Business Owners' Advocate of the Year (1998), the San Diego Press Club's Headliner Award (1998), and a San Diego Women Who Mean Business Award (1997).

With 20-years senior executive experience in complex, multi-functional, multimillion dollar organizations; with extensive experience in operations, facility management, marketing and human resources; being skilled in building teams through collaborative management; being a strategic planner and proven executor of the plans; being a designer and implementor of major organizational change; always being people and customer focused; and extremely comfortable handling community relations, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Veronica Zasadni (Ronne) Froman and commend her accomplishments to my colleagues.

RECOGNIZING MARSHA COBB

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Marsha M. Cobb for her recent recognition by the Texas Council for the Social Studies as "Elementary Teacher of the Year" for 2004.

Mrs. Cobb is a second-grade teacher at Polser Elementary School in Lewisville, Texas, located in my Congressional District. She is now up for consideration as the national Social Studies Teacher of the Year award, given by the National Council for the Social Studies.

Mrs. Cobb has 16 years of experience in the classroom. Mrs. Cobb employs a "hands on" educational philosophy and strives to educate her students through experience rather than text books. If you were to walk in her classroom, you would most likely see her students roaming the room looking at various interactive displays rather than with their heads buried in textbooks.

Mrs. Cobb is not the only recognized distinguished teacher in the Lewisville School District. This is the third consecutive year a Lewisville teacher has won the Texas Council for Social Studies Elementary Teacher of the Year award. Last year, Linda Krause, a fifth-grade teacher at Wellington Elementary School in Flower Mound received the award. And in 2002, Janet Davis, a second-grade teacher at Heritage Elementary in Highland Village, earned the award.

I would like to commend Marsha Cobb, as well as Linda Krause and Janet Davis, for receiving this distinguished award.

A TRIBUTE TO HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, on August 9th, students and teachers in North Alabama officially ended their summer break and headed back into the classroom for another year of study. It was also a special day for my high school alma mater, as the students and teachers of Huntsville High School began classes in a new state-of-the-art educational facility.

The original Huntsville High School, built in the 1950s, was no longer able to support its growing number of students. Mr. Speaker, the new school encompasses 280,000 square feet, has 65 classrooms, a small practice gym, a lecture hall of 140 seats, a large auditorium that can hold the entire student body, and a main gym that will seat 2,400.

I strongly believe that a firm academic foundation will help the young people of North Alabama achieve their goals and help raise the overall quality of life in our community. Having outstanding teachers with eager students in this wonderful new facility will be a successful combination for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to join the administrators and faculty, students, alumni, and friends at the official opening of the new Huntsville High School. However, I rise today

to join in their celebration and welcome them into the new Huntsville High.

CONGRATULATING TODD HAMILTON

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Illinois native Todd Hamilton on his win at the 133rd British Open Championship on Sunday, July 18, 2004.

Born on October 18, 1965 in Galesburg, Illinois, Todd Hamilton was raised in the town of Oquawka. He practiced golf at Hend-Co Hills Golf Club in Biggsville and attended Biggsville's Union High School. At Union, he petitioned the school to create a golf club, and then went on to win the Illinois state high school golf championships during his junior and senior years. Next, Todd was an All-American golfer at the University of Oklahoma.

Todd Hamilton went pro in 1987, and then spent 11 years golfing in Asia between 1992 and 2003, where he won tournaments such as the Thailand Open, Singapore Masters, Korean Open, and the Japan Golf Tour's Acom International. However, the esteemed PGA Tour eluded him. He finally made the PGA Tour in December 2003 on his eighth attempt, tying for 16th in the qualifying tournament at the age of 38.

The four most important tournaments in golf are known as the "majors." They are the British Open, the U.S. Open, the Masters, and the USPGA championships, which make up the most important events in the golfing calendar. The British Open is golf's oldest national championship and the only one of the majors that is played outside the USA.

When Todd Hamilton was given the opportunity to compete in the Open Championship, as the British Open is known in the United Kingdom, he defeated some of golf's best and most wellknown players, including Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson. Winning this competition has elevated Todd Hamilton to rank among the world's best golfers.

I am proud to represent the place where Todd Hamilton learned to play golf, and I think I speak for everyone in Oquawka and throughout Illinois when I say that we are so proud of Todd's remarkable achievement in the Open Championship. Todd Hamilton has demonstrated the tenacity, perseverance, and skill of a champion in his long journey to the top, and I wish him and his family the best of luck in this new chapter of his career.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WILDERNESS ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, September 3rd marked the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, which protects the Nation's enduring natural heritage as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Revered by scores of Americans and visitors

each year and spanning two generations, the wilderness areas that can be found from the West to East Coasts are a tangible source of pride, progress, and potential for our Nation.

In 1924, at the insistence of forester and future "A Sand County Almanac" author Aldo Leopold, the Forest Service created the very first federally designated wilderness—the Gila Primitive Area. Located north of Silver City, the Gila Wilderness is a gigantic reserve whose boundaries were eventually made into the 558,000-acre wilderness it is today. Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, chairman of what was then called the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, stated that his support of the wilderness system was the direct result of discussions he had held almost 40 years before with Mr. Leopold. The Wilderness Act made the Gila Primitive Area official 40 years later.

After passing Congress with bipartisan support, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law on September 3, 1964. By the stroke of President Johnson's pen, the Act created 9.2 million acres of wilderness across the country. Today the system includes 662 areas covering about 105.7 million acres in 44 states, about 4 percent of the United States.

For the first time in American history, the Federal Government protected land as it is and defined wilderness as a place that "in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a member of the natural community who visits but does not remain and whose travels leave only trails."

The Wilderness Act is a deeply personal law to me. The legislation that President Johnson signed was sponsored by Senator Anderson and was guided through Congress at the urging of my father, then Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall. Serving as Interior Secretary for Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, Stewart Udall's accomplishments during his tenure are numerous: he created new national programs such as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Wilderness Act, which pushed the nation toward a deeper appreciation and protection of its remaining wild spaces. He helped create many new national parks and forests and the first national seashores. Perhaps most importantly, he established a bipartisan consensus on conservation issues that would endure for 20 years.

I visited with my father recently in Santa Fe about the Wilderness Act. He recalled that President Johnson awarded him 62 ceremonial bill signing pens throughout his service to the White House. As he signed the Wilderness Act into law, President Johnson spoke of Secretary Udall and his staff "going all over the country, looking for places to save." My father recalls the remark as one of the highest compliments he has ever received; this in a lifetime of distinguished service to his country.

With 2.1 percent of its land area protected as wilderness, New Mexico harbors 23 wilderness areas. I have introduced legislation which would designate the first wilderness approved in New Mexico since 1987—the 10,794-acre Ojito Wilderness Study Area. The Bureau of Land Management recommended wilderness status for the Ojito area in 1992. We have had hearings in both the House and Senate on this bipartisan proposal. The bill is strongly sup-

ported in New Mexico by a diverse coalition. It is my sincere hope we can pass this legislation before the 108th Congress adjourns. Ojito would remain a natural place, perfect for recreation and quiet contemplation.

My legislation would also provide for the sale of about 13,000 acres of adjacent Bureau of Land Management holdings to Zia Pueblo, land that holds much historic and religious significance to the pueblo. All of it would remain open to the public. As such, the pueblo would be able to unite two separate pieces of its reservation, and in total, 24,000 acres would be preserved and protected. Not only is this place incredibly beautiful, it also contains rich cultural and archeological values. Designating the Ojito as wilderness will ensure that this vast landscape remains as it is, in all its natural glory, for future generations to treasure.

Mr. Speaker, the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act is an opportunity to rekindle the public interest in safeguarding our Nation's unique natural heritage for future generations to enjoy. I urge my colleagues to join with me to ensure we leave a rich legacy of unspoiled wildlands for our families, for our future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ADAM AIRCRAFT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, one of my greatest joys is to see businesses in my district flourish. Today, I am honored to recognize Adam Aircraft based out of Centennial Airport in Englewood, Colorado. Adam Aircraft designs and manufactures advanced aircraft for civil and government markets.

On August 17, 2004, the company marked the first anniversary of the A700's debut, which is undergoing initial flight testing. The A700 being the first personal aircraft with an installed interior featuring seven seats and an aft lavatory.

In addition to the A700, Adam Aircraft has also made a big showing at the EAA AirVenture 2004 with the A500. The A500 has accumulated three national and two world records for speed over a recognized course and is currently approaching FAA certification by the end of 2004.

Adam Aircraft is building a strong customer base and took a record nine orders for its two aircraft models at the EAA AirVenture 2004 show. Currently they have also taken over 60 orders for the A500 and they promise to be a strong employer for Colorado for the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, the back bone of any community is the businesses that operate there. It is my distinct pleasure to honor one of those businesses Adam Aircraft here today, and wish them all the best in her future endeavors.

CAPTAIN SCOTT SHIELDS, HIS GOLDEN RETRIEVER, BEAR, AND ALL OF THE BRAVE RESCUE DOGS WHO SERVED DURING THE 9/11 TRAGEDY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Captain Scott Shields, his golden retriever, Bear, and the more than 300 dogs that served our country at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon after the September 11th terrorist attacks. On that fateful morning, Captain Shields and Bear answered the call for assistance at the World Trade Center and were one of the first search and rescue teams to enter the devastated area. Bear and other highly-trained rescue dogs spent the next few days searching in extremely dangerous conditions for those who lost their lives in the attacks.

Scott Shields raised Bear in Westport, Connecticut, where there were no leash laws. As a result, Bear quickly learned to be comfortable maneuvering and taking direction "off leash." In addition to his regular search training, Captain Shields also took Bear to parks, beaches and even obstacle courses to continue his instruction. This preparation proved remarkably useful on the morning of September 11. Trained in disaster management, Captain Shields felt compelled to respond to the disaster and he and Bear drove to what the world would soon recognize as Ground Zero. Captain Shields and Bear entered the disaster site shortly after the second Trade Center tower collapsed to search for those who might have been trapped in the wreckage. Later that day, Captain Shields organized harbor activities, directing boats to transport emergency workers to the Trade Center site.

Bear and his fellow rescue dogs worked in very harsh conditions without the benefits of protective clothing and gas masks. They climbed through piles of debris and squeezed through tunnels of steel and concrete in their attempts to find any signs of human life.

While working in these dangerous conditions, many dogs, including Bear, were injured. Captain Shields and Bear were walking along a steel beam when a piece of twisted metal gouged Bear's back. Although the gash was deep, Bear kept working. Several months later, however, Bear developed a form of skin cancer around the perimeter of the wound. A veterinarian successfully removed the infected tissue, but from then on, Bear's health declined. Bear passed away on September 23, 2002; the following month, hundreds of mourners gathered at his memorial service aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Intrepid*.

In Bear's memory, Captain Shields, along with the New York law firm Proskauer Rose, established the Bear Search and Rescue Foundation to ensure that all dogs who participated in search and rescue operations at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon receive appropriate health care. Additionally, the foundation works diligently to provide equipment and instruction to emergency response teams throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in honoring Bear, Scott Shields and the hundreds of search and rescue teams who