

had vision problems other than glaucoma. Equally important was the fact that 57,000 were given the good news that no eye disease was detected.

One outstanding initiative has been the Student Sight Savers Program. Through this project grants have been awarded to 46 medical schools and teaching hospitals across the country. The aim is to expose medical students to a clinical specialty, ophthalmology in their earlier years of medical school. Through this community service initiative, medical students across the country have screened as many as a quarter of the patients.

We, thus bear witness to a man and his dream. A dream we shared. He joined with many of my colleagues, and myself in seeking to preserve the sight of our people. He convinced glaucoma specialists, other experts and a team of volunteers to follow his lead. Mr. Grant also had the unwavering and committed support of his wife, Mrs. Eleanor Beers Grant. She not only lent him encouragement, but she became quite active in the affairs of the Foundation.

In his indefatigable pursuit, he challenges all of us to match his efforts. He is, moreover, sensitive to the cultural strands of our great nation and the need to seek out and care for those who lack health care services. He has taken his staff on mobile vans into what would be considered inaccessible areas.

This great body has honored many a deserving individual. I am extremely proud to offer a special tribute and recognize Stanley J. Bud Grant for all that he has done and will continue to do on behalf of the American people.

REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, 106 days ago, the world watched as one of the worst natural disasters in the history of the United States came crashing down on our Gulf Coast. I spent much of the last weekend in New Orleans, touring the affected areas and speaking with folks about the recovery efforts.

The effects of the hurricane and its aftermath are eerily similar to natural disasters that in recent years have befallen my home state of West Virginia—floods of the 100-year variety.

Displaced families. Businesses boarded up. A sense of despair and unease in the community. Helpless citizens looking for someone, anyone, to provide some guidance to a sound and quick recovery.

The damage done to the Gulf Coast and New Orleans, in particular, is well documented. But so are the promises made to those residents who call New Orleans home. And those promises have so far gone unfulfilled.

Billions of dollars will be needed to rebuild New Orleans. First and foremost, the levee system, which failed New Orleans' residents in the aftermath of the hurricane, must be upgraded to protect from future 100-year storms. Some estimates put that cost at more than \$32 billion—and many in Washington are balking at the price tag.

My question is this: Can't we afford America? We have spent more than \$300 billion in Iraq and Afghanistan, yet this Republican Congress doesn't have a concrete plan to rebuild New Orleans, or the budget blueprint to do it. We are investing billions of American taxpayer dollars for bridges, levees and infrastructure in Baghdad, yet we can't get a commitment from our leaders to rebuild the levees in New Orleans for Americans. We have enacted tax cut after tax cut—most recently a \$95 billion cut for the wealthiest Americans—yet 78,000 American families displaced by the hurricane are still waiting for FEMA trailers in Louisiana.

And what about West Virginia? Parts of southern West Virginia are still recovering from the major floods of the past five years. Many families displaced by those floods have yet to be able to move back to their homes. And we are still unable to secure the necessary investment from the Corps of Engineers to prevent this kind of flood from ever happening again.

It is long past time to look inward and focus on the many issues confronting Americans in America. The flooding of New Orleans exposed more concerns than just the failure of the levee system. Investment in our schools, health care system, infrastructure and homeland security needs to be high on our list of priorities going forward.

This Administration and this Congress have decisions to make. For the sake of all of us who have been—and will be again—affected by severe flooding, it is my sincere hope that they choose to stand with the American people and invest in the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

TRIBUTE TO GORDY NEWSTROM

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gordon (Gordy) Newstrom, who was a true pioneer and visionary in commercial aviation. A long-time resident of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Gordy Newstrom passed away yesterday, December 12, 2005, at the age of 93.

After training Naval Air Cadets during World War II, Gordy Newstrom returned to Coleraine, Minnesota to establish a flight school in 1944. That same year, Gordy Newstrom founded a charter airline service which he named Mesaba Airlines, to reflect its Minnesota roots. "Mesaba" is a Chippewa Indian word meaning "soaring eagle." For several years, Gordy Newstrom operated Mesaba Airlines as a Fixed Base Operator, while sharing his love of aviation by teaching aspiring pilots to fly. In 1950, Gordy Newstrom moved Mesaba's operations from Coleraine to Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Gordy Newstrom owned the company for its first 26 years of operation; in 1970 he sold it to the Halverson family of Duluth, who began the airline's first scheduled service in 1973.

Over the years, Mesaba Airlines has evolved into the eighth largest regional airline in the United States, with the distinction of being the nation's oldest regional airline. Although many operators in the aviation industry have come and gone, the airline founded by

Gordy Newstrom celebrated 61 years of continuous service earlier this year. Today, Mesaba Airlines flies to 100 destinations throughout the United States and Canada, through a cooperative agreement with Northwest Airlines.

To honor the many remarkable contributions Gordy Newstrom made to aviation and Northern Minnesota, the region's airport was renamed the Grand Rapids/Itasca County Airport-Gordon Newstrom Field. It was a well-deserved tribute to the founding father of Mesaba Airlines to honor his vision, dedication and determination.

An avid pilot throughout his life, Gordon Newstrom logged more than 40,000 hours in the cockpit, until piloting his last flight five years ago at the age of 87.

I am proud and honored to share with my colleagues this brief, but deserved tribute to Gordy Newstrom, who gave so much of himself to enrich the lives of others and to serve his community and his country.

HONORING RON CEFALO

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, in this chamber, we often hear rhetoric of great praise for athletes, authors and statesman. With great fanfare we announce legitimate accomplishments. Other times the rhetoric is to trumpet our own actions and plans with grand gestures, receptions and press.

An American humorist, Al Capp, once said, "The man who is not trying to reform the world—will!" Those who truly change our world are those who labor daily, without praise, to create a better life for themselves and those around them.

Today I would like to introduce the body to a man who is changing the world—not by doing something no one else can, but by doing something of which everyone is capable, but few choose to do. This gentleman is changing the world one person at a time.

Ron Cefalo, is a science teacher at Box Elder High School. He was recently recognized for his outstanding efforts in exciting kids on a regular basis to the world of physical science. That by itself is something not easy to do. The Air Force Association, after a rigorous search, first named Ron the AFA Teacher of the Year for Northern Utah. Later he was also chosen from the regional winners as the Air Force Association Teacher of the Year for the State of Utah.

In his 37th year of teaching, Ron can claim such accomplishments as sending two projects into space on the shuttle and coaching an award winning Academic Olympiad Team. Each year Ron takes students to the annual Utah State University Physics Day at Lagoon, an amusement park in Utah, which competitively demonstrates the properties of physics to 5,000 kids from Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming and Utah. Earlier this year Ron Cefalo's group took home seven awards in four different categories. Ron also won first place in the instructor competition for Curriculum Development. Utah State physics professor JR Dennison noted, "Ron has been participating and winning since the inception

of USU Physics Day at Lagoon in 1990. In fact, Ron was one of the participants at a summer workshop for secondary teachers held at USU in 1989 when the idea for a USU Physics Day was founded. Ron has been a tremendous asset to us . . . in connection with the American Association of Physics Teachers' regional activities and as a source of some of the best students in physics here at USU."

His greatest achievement is his ability to draw students through hands-on projects into his lessons. Even though setting up student lab projects takes extra time, money and effort, it is these demonstrations that shook the school, once literally, and had students clamoring to enroll in his class.

Ron Cefalo knows that the success of a teacher is only as great as the success of his students. As a dedicated teacher, Ron instructs year-round, spending his summers at Johns Hopkins University, working at a center for gifted youth from all over the world. One summer, a gifted, but troubled student from a dysfunctional home intentionally broke a number of items in one of the classrooms. Another instructor considered the boy to be "too dangerous" and kicked him out of the class. The Principal, faced with the option of sending the boy home early, asked Ron to give the kid one last chance. Ron Cefalo willingly stepped forward and took this troubled youth into his classroom and taught him without further incident.

As expressed in the lyrics of Utah's Senator ORRIN HATCH in the song, "Every Day Hero":

Some people have helping hands that go a second mile
They're willing to love and lift a brother for a while
Everyday Heroes live in every neighborhoods.
Everyday Heroes, helping in the way a neighbor should.
Giving just a little time; sharing just a little love.
God bless each one of those everyday heroes.

It was an honor to teach alongside an "Every Day Hero" before coming to Congress, and I personally know the commitment Ron brings to his job and the "helping hands that go a second mile".

Each of Ron Cefalo's students recognize his uncommon talent for making them personally feel important and realize that they have value and someone cares. Every year Ron helps kids mature and learn. Every month Ron gives of himself for others. Every week Ron creates a learning environment in which kids want to participate. Every day Ron makes the world a better place.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL
TO NAME A POST OFFICE AFTER
SENATOR HIRAM FONG

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, Senator Hiram L. Fong gave over 30 years of outstanding public service to the people of Hawaii. He began his career of public service at the age of 31, by serving from 1938 to 1954 in Hawaii's territorial House of Representatives.

Early on, Senator Fong showed his ability to work well with both Democrats and Republicans as he forged a coalition of independents from both parties and was elected Speaker of the House during his first term.

Senator Fong went on to serve 17 years in the United States Senate, where he was the first Asian-American U.S. Senator. After leaving politics, he focused on building a financial empire based on real estate, insurance and financing.

Born on October 15, 1906, in Kalihi, Senator Fong was the seventh of 11 children in an immigrant family. He worked his way through the University of Hawaii and graduated from Harvard Law School.

His public service was distinguished by his ability to bridge party and ethnic lines. He did so by championing civil rights, labor rights and immigration reform. At the same time, he was a firm believer in the free market and the need to stand on one's own feet.

The Senator's electoral victories owe greatly to the support of the labor unions, particularly the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, ILWU. In its testimony in support of the establishment of the Senator Hiram L. Fong Commission by the Hawaii State Legislature, the ILWU stated,

The Senator was a successful businessman and a Republican, but he never forgot his humble beginnings. He was a strong supporter of civil rights and often "crossed the aisle" to cooperate on issues important to Hawaii's unions and workers.

This was recognized by the ILWU Local 142 who endorsed his candidacy and campaigned for his re-election.

It would be appropriate to recognize and honor Senator Hiram L. Fong, who we believe, in his heart and soul, understood what it meant to represent the people of Hawaii without ideological politicized division.

Senator Fong's legislative accomplishments owe greatly to the collaboration and cooperation of Democratic colleagues, particularly the other Senator from Hawaii, Oren E. Long, and Senate Majority Leader, Senator Lyndon Johnson.

Upon the Senator's death in 2004, Frank Damon, administrative assistant to Senator Fong in 1959-61, wrote in a letter to a local newspaper, the Honolulu Advertiser:

A major accomplishment of Senator Hiram L. Fong during the early days of Hawaii's statehood was the passage of Senate Bill 3395 (introduced by his colleague Senator Oren E. Long) which established the East-West Center. The ultimate success of this bill, incorporated into the Mutual Security Act of 1959, could not have occurred without the leadership and political acumen of Hawaii's two new senators, Sen. Fong and Sen. Oren E. Long, a former Governor of Hawaii.

Senator Fong, a Republican, met often and successfully with members of the Eisenhower Administration; and Sen. Long, a Democrat, won the advocacy of Lyndon Johnson, President of the Senate. Our Hawai'i senators persuaded many of their senatorial colleagues to join them, bringing the total sponsors to 49, a number unheard of at that time and perhaps even today. Prominent scholars such as Everett Dirksen, Mike Mansfield, Hubert Humphrey and Robert Byrd joined as cosponsors."

The establishment of the East-West Center was a tribute to Senators Fong and Long. In the early days of statehood the two colleagues collaborated on much important legislation, particularly the omnibus bill, which made Ha-

wai a full and sovereign Federal State along with the other 49. Other important legislation included the Interstate Highway system, the National Parks, full inclusion in the land grant university system, the new Hawaii Institute of Geophysics, etc.

Senator Fong died on August 18, 2004, at the age of 97.

After Senator Fong's passing, the Hawaii State Legislature established the Senator Hiram L. Fong Commission in order to honor and recognize the distinguished political, business and community leader. The Commission consisted of eleven members selected from the Fong family, the Chinese-American community, the business community, the labor unions and the University of Hawaii.

After extensive deliberations, the Commission made seven recommendations on how the State of Hawaii should honor Senator Fong. One of the recommendations is to designate a post office after the distinguished Senator.

That is why I am introducing this bill today, to designate the post office located at 1271 North King Street in Honolulu as the Hiram L. Fong Post Office Building. I hope my colleagues will join me in this worthy endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO C.A. MACK MCKINNEY

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an American hero, a loyal friend to everyone who wears the uniform of our Nation's military. C.A. "Mack" McKinney, veteran of three wars and distinguished military legislative advocate for over 30 years died November 15, 2005. He was 80 years old.

In 1942, Mack McKinney enlisted with the Marine Corps at age 17 to join America's fight against tyranny and oppression, and shipped off to war. He served honorably and tirelessly for over 29 years and participated in the invasion of Okinawa during World War II, the Korean conflict, and the Tet Offensive during the Vietnam War before retiring as a Sergeant Major of Marines in 1971. McKinney is the recipient of 16 medals and commendations including the Combat Action Ribbon.

McKinney's service to this country did not end with his retirement, however. Over the next 34 years he lent his time and efforts to improving the recruiting, retention and readiness of the Armed Forces by petitioning Congress for military compensation and benefits packages commensurate with the "extraordinary demands and sacrifices associated with military service." McKinney devoted his talents to a number of organizations dedicated to bettering the lives of America's fighting forces, as well as their families. At the time of his death he was legislative counsel for the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), headquartered in Alexandria, Va.

Mack McKinney began his long public-service career with the Marine Corps League (MCL) and the Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA). He played a key role in these organizations and was credited with helping stem the losses of highly skilled mid-career military personnel by convincing leaders of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees to authorize two consecutive double-digit pay raises during the late 1970s.