

process, Harriet Tubman paid a high price for her defiance and her convictions. She was inflicted with a wound so severe that it would cause health problems for the rest of her life. The beating was not the first, nor would it be the last. But despite that cruel scar and despite the deep scars of slavery, Harriet Tubman still pursued. With a vigor difficult to image, she pursued her seemingly distant dreams and the buried promise of freedom.

Her own freedom was not good enough, though—others were still enslaved. A year after her own escape, Harriet Tubman became a conductor on the underground railroad. She was so successful—she alone led about 300 slaves to freedom—that a bounty, with a horrifying sentence of torture until death, was offered for her capture. Yet, she continued to travel the route of the underground railroad, telling fellow conductor Thomas Garrett that she “ventured only where God sent: and bragging years later that she had “never run off track or lost a passenger.” Time and time again whenever Harriet Tubman encountered unbeatable odds or insurmountable obstacles, she beat them and surmounted them, forging a path of service, spirit, and strength for all of us to follow.

Through her service—as a conductor on the underground railroad, as a soldier and a tender of soldiers, and as a speaker for those who could not speak for themselves—Harriet Tubman gave hope to countless slaves who referred to her as their “Moses” and who, because of her, realized that they would one day be led from oppression to the promised land of freedom. Through her strength—a strength that compelled her to risk her own freedom so that others could experience it—Harriet Tubman provided an inspiration of liberty, justice and opportunity that serves us still. The service, spirit and strength of Harriet Tubman represents in timeless eloquence much of what is best in us, as Americans and as human beings.

Mr. President, slavery was the darkest chapter in American history. But, out of the darkness of persecution in South Africa came the light of Nelson Mandela. And, out of the darkness of slavery in America came the light of Harriet Tubman.

Today, that light is kept alive by the Harriet Tubman Historical Society, located in my hometown of Wilmington, DE. Harriet Tubman Day is the brainchild of its executive director, Vivian Abdur-Rahim. The widespread support this commemorative has received around the country—19 states and several citizens have already endorsed it—is a result of Vivian’s tireless tenacity. She has made a tremendous investment toward establishing this day of recognition and tribute, and I am proud to ask the Senate to add its support to such a worthy and important effort.

CONGRATULATING PILOT STEVE FOSSETT AND THE COMMUNITY OF SALINA, KS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Steve Fossett, pilot of the Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer, and all those who

assisted him during his successful world record-setting flight around the world last week.

Steve Fossett flew the first solo, non-stop, non-refueled aerial circumnavigation of the globe in a jet aircraft, completing the record-setting flight in 67 hours and one minute, with an average speed of nearly 300 miles per hour. This feat began on Monday, February 28, 2005, and ended Wednesday, March 3, 2005, at the renowned “America’s Fuel Stop,” the Salina Municipal Airport, Kansas, USA. With aviation pioneers like Earhart, Beech and Cessna to its credit, it is only fitting that today’s modern aviation pioneer chose Kansas as the location to set his world record.

Mr. Fossett is an accomplished adventurer, having set numerous world records in aviation and sailing. In fact, Mr. Fossett owns the world record for the number of world records held, with a total of 62, to date. Collaborating with Sir Richard Branson, famed British entrepreneur and founder of the Virgin Group of companies, he embarked on this around-the-world voyage, aiming to set world records in speed around the world without stopping or refueling, distance over a close circuit without landing, and distance without landing. The Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer, the plane Mr. Fossett flew for this trek, was specially designed to be lightweight, aerodynamic, and fuel-efficient.

Mr. Fossett encountered several obstacles during his flight, including the failure of his plane’s navigation system and the discovery of a fuel shortage. However, his perseverance and determination to succeed, despite the challenges, have earned him yet another notation in the record books.

I am also proud of those who assisted Mr. Fossett and the Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer, especially the talented and dedicated staff of Dr. Dennis Kuhlman, Dean of the College of Technology and Aviation at Kansas State University at Salina. K-State at Salina is one of the top aviation schools in the nation, boasting excellent facilities for student use, which also helped to attract Mr. Fossett. The efforts of K-State at Salina to train aviation mechanics and pilots are helping to ensure safe air transportation into the next generation.

In addition, I extend sincere congratulations to the Salina Airport Authority Board of Directors, Mr. Tim Rogers, Executive Director, and the many fine airport staff members. While the airport’s 12,300 ft. runway was a significant factor in the site selection for this historic attempt, it didn’t hurt that the Salina Airport Authority has established expertise in the areas of airfield security, ground handling, equipment and media services.

Other significant contributors to the mission were the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, led by Mr. Gerald Cook, President/CEO, and staff; and, the City of Salina, Mr. Monte Shadwick, Mayor; Mr. Dennis Kissinger, City Manager, and staff. This was truly a collaborative effort, of magnificent proportions, befitting a record-setting feat.

I join the world in congratulating Steve Fossett and honoring the contributions of the greater Salina community on a job well done.

HONORING BOB LANIER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the 80th birthday of Bob Lanier, former Mayor of Houston and a dedicated public servant. Bob may not have entered politics until after his 66th birthday, but he certainly made up for lost time in the 14 years that followed.

Bob had a distinguished career before he ran for Mayor of Houston. He served in the Navy during World War II, graduated from the University of Texas Law School with high honors, and chaired the Texas Highway Commission and Houston’s Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Bob has been the recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Hubert Humphrey Civil Rights Award, the Bond Market Association’s Distinguished Public Service Award, and a place in the Texas Transportation Hall of Honor.

Respected and admired by Americans on both sides of the aisle, Bob served the people of Houston exceptionally well during his three terms. They returned him to office in 1993 with over 91 percent of the vote, and he left office with a remarkable 78 percent approval rating.

Within his first 90 days in office, “Mayor Bob,” as he was affectionately known, added 655 police officers, leading to a dramatic reduction in the city’s crime rate. He was also known for revitalizing several areas of Houston, transforming them into vibrant engines of the city’s economy.

Further, he made tremendous strides in environmental preservation. He and his wonderful wife Elyse won two national awards for clean up and beautification of the city. President Clinton summed up Bob’s contributions to the city when he said, “He was a magnificent mayor.”

Bob received many accolades during his six years as mayor, but perhaps most fitting was when Texas Monthly named him one of three top Texas mayors of the 20th century.

Bob and Elyse are enjoying their retirement, and I am sure that their seven children and ten grandchildren will be a big part of helping them continue to enjoy it.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Bob a very happy 80th birthday, and I hope that I can share in the celebration of many happy returns.

REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL TIME OUT DAY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a House resolution recognizing the goals and ideas of the National Time Out Day, which the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) and over 50 other health care organizations are celebrating on June 22, 2005 to promote the adoption of a new protocol for preventing medical errors in the operating room.

The number of individuals who are affected by medical errors is astounding. In 2000, the Institute of Medicine released a report entitled "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System." The report revealed that between 44,000 and 98,000 hospitalized people in the U.S. die each year due to medical errors, and thousands of others suffer injury or illness as a result of preventable errors. To address this problem, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations has developed a universal protocol which calls for surgical teams to call a "time out" before surgeries begin in order to verify the patient's identity, the procedure to be performed, and the site of the procedure. The Joint Commission has required nurses, surgeons and hospitals throughout the country to adopt this protocol effective July 1, 2004, in order to curb the alarming number of deaths and injuries due to medical errors.

AORN has created an Internet website and distributed 55,000 tool kits to healthcare professionals to help them implement the universal protocol, and they are celebrating National Time Out Day on June 23 to promote the protocol and its adoption. National Time Out Day has been endorsed by a distinguished group of healthcare organizations, including the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Hospital Association, and the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management.

Mr. Speaker, ultimately, this issue is about health care access and patient safety. I think it is important for Congress to recognize and congratulate perioperative nurses and representatives of surgical teams for working together to reduce medical errors and to ensure the improved health and safety of surgical patients. Fewer medical errors will result in better outcomes for patients, fewer medical malpractice suits, which in turn will help keep malpractice insurance rates and health care premiums down. I urge the House to adopt the resolution.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY WORK OF EDDIE AGUILAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary work of Eddie Aguilar of Seguin, Texas for his dedication and commitment to community service. Eddie Aguilar has made the people of my Congressional district proud, by tirelessly dedicating his time to many non-profit organizations.

Mr. Aguilar is a self-proclaimed "full-time volunteer," since his retirement from military service. He has been an active volunteer with the Salvation Army, The Cranny, and the Guadalupe Family Violence Shelter. The life lessons that Eddie gained while he served two years in the United States Army, and fifteen years as a U.S. Marine have aided him when he volunteered his help during times of disaster; such as floods and fires that have affected his community.

Eddie also holds the position as disaster relief coordinator with the Salvation Army, and he formally served as a board member of the Guadalupe Family Violence Shelter and The

Cranny. His work with the women's shelter and various children's groups has not gone overlooked.

Mr. Aguilar was honored by the Seguin community when Councilwoman Jo Anne Sutherland nominated him for the 2004 Time Warner Hometown hero award, many of his family and friends were in attendance when he accepted this award during a banquet in San Antonio, Texas. Honorees of this award are considered to be among the best of the community, and it is an opportunity to honor the area's un-sung heroes.

Aguilar takes no credit for his work, and praises his 78-year-old mother as being his constant inspiration. He recognizes his mother with instilling in him the belief of making a difference in someone's life and to think of others well-being ahead of his own.

I believe Mr. Aguilar has the qualities that make up a great citizen of Seguin. He demonstrates great dedication to community service, and I am further impressed by the little credit he wishes to receive for his work.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud I have had this opportunity to recognize the noble service of Eddie Aguilar.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF JOHN K. FINLEY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and community of Mayor John K. Finley; and

Whereas, Mayor Finley was a father, counselor, leader, friend, and mentor to thousands and will be deeply missed. His achievements and example will be always remembered; and

Whereas, Mayor Finley was a member of the West Virginia Fire Association, Ohio Fire Chief Association, and the Ohio Firemen's Association. He was the longest active member of the M&M Volunteer Fire Department; and

Whereas, Mayor Finley was a charter member and Elder of the Church of the Gospel Ministry in McConnelsville, and also a former member of the First Presbyterian Church of McConnelsville, where he served as Sunday School superintendent and treasurer; and

Whereas, Mayor Finley lived his life as a servant of the people as mayor and councilman of McConnelsville for more than 31 years, during which, his proudest accomplishments were the establishment of the Hawk Missile Site, the McConnelsville Swimming Pool, and updating McConnelsville's water and sewer systems; and

Whereas, the understanding and caring to which he gave to others will stand as a monument to a truly fine person. His life and dedication gave joy to all who knew him.

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Mayor John Finley.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TED JEFFERSON

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise during this month devoted to the celebration of Black History to pay tribute to Mr. Ted Jefferson, an outstanding individual who has been actively involved in my community for more than 40 years.

For the past 18 years, Ted has served as the Executive Director of the Bronx Shepards Restoration Corporation. He has been a leading force in the Bronx in providing affordable housing through rehabilitation or new construction.

The Bronx Shepard's Organization offers home ownership opportunities to first time home buyers, a weatherization program with an annual budget of over 1.5 million dollars and a variety of other programs that are of direct benefit to residents of the Bronx community. An example of Ted's leadership was the construction of the Daniel Nickerson Arms building, a home for the frail and elderly. He led Bronx Shepards in developing what began as a vision into what now stands as a model of how the government, the private sector and the local community can overcome insurmountable odds when working together.

Ted has also served the community as a volunteer with the Morris Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association, the Webster Action Committee, Community Board #13, Community Board #6, the Twin Parks Association, the Community Advisory Board of the Local Initiative Support Corporation and the Bronx Borough President's transition team. He is presently a member of the board of the Marcella Brown Foundation and the President of Black United Leadership in the Bronx.

Ted's philosophy is to develop a vision for the Bronx in which all of its residents have the opportunity to enhance their quality of life through the development of educational, social, economic and housing opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month we honor individuals such as Harriett Tubman, and Rosa Parks; African Americans who sacrificed their own well-being so that all Americans could have the opportunity to enjoy the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Today I want to honor not only these great Americans but also those who in the spirit of selflessness, continue to help others achieve a better life. I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Ted Jefferson for his outstanding service to the people of my community.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN BUSTER EDWARDS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding South Carolinian who has dedicated his life to protecting our nation's citizens. It is with great pleasure that I commend South Carolina's State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Captain Buster Edwards as he retires from a second career in public service.