

the line for the liberty we all enjoy today. If not for their sacrifice, our world would be a far different place.

May God bless them all for what they did, keep them in good health, and may God Bless America.

SALUTE TO DR. PEGGY CHABRIAN

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Peggy Chabrian, who is President and Founder of Women in Aviation, International. The organization was incorporated in 1994 following the success of the annual International Women in Aviation Conference conducted in 1990.

With Peggy Chabrian commitment the conference began with 150 participants in 1990 and today that organization has grown to more than 3,000 attendees. Women in Aviation International now represents over 7,000 women and men from all segments of the aviation industry including general, corporate, commercial and military. Women in Aviation International is the premier organization in recognizing women's accomplishments in aviation. They not only highlight accomplishments by women but also provide a substantial number of educational scholarships and aviation vocational opportunities for women.

A long-time aviation enthusiast and professional aviation educator. Dr. Chabrian is a commercial/instrument multi-engine pilot and flight instructor who has been flying for over 20 years. Most recently she added helicopter and seaplane ratings to her flight qualifications.

Dr. Chabrian has held many top positions in aviation education including her tenure at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and her Chair of the aviation department at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Chabrian was the second woman to ever hold the position of dean of an engineering school in the United States. She is currently also the publisher of Aviation for Women magazine.

The recipient of numerous aviation and education awards, Dr. Chabrian has received the FAA Administrator's Award for Excellence in Aviation Education and the Civic Award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. She has been inducted into the Crown Circle of the National Congress on Aviation and Space Education. In December 2001 she received the Vision Award from Business and Commercial Aviation magazine.

Dr. Chabrian is active in numerous aviation organizations and serves as a member of several boards including the Centennial of Flight Advisory Board, the Experimental Aircraft Association Foundation and the Museum of Aviation. She is the past president and board member of the University Aviation Association.

I know that other Members of Congress join me in congratulating Peggy Chabrian on her untiring efforts in promoting and recognizing women in aviation.

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT  
AMENDMENTS' BILL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the comprehensive Voting Opportunity and Technology Enhancement Rights Act of 2005 (H.R. 533), introduced by Judiciary Committee Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS. Rep. CONYERS' new bill amends and improves the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), enacted after the chaos of the 2000 presidential election. Congressman CONYERS has done the Nation an important service by systematically reviewing HAVA (including conducting his own hearings here and elsewhere in the country) against the actual experience of the 2004 elections.

The three amendments to HAVA that I introduce today similarly arose out of my own experience during the 2004 elections here in the District of Columbia and campaigning in other parts of the country during the 2004 presidential elections. The first, Section 303A, is an amendment that responds to long lines throughout the country, which may have deterred significant numbers of voters. This amendment to HAVA would require states to permit counties or other subdivisions upon request to begin voting prior to the scheduled date of an election. During the recent election, some subdivisions had voting machines that were modern and plentiful, while other jurisdictions in the same state were burdened with scarce and out-of-date machines, resulting in long lines. In the pivotal state of Ohio, which determined the outcome of the close 2004 presidential election, the controversy was deepened by reports that lines were particularly long in counties where there were large minority populations compared with largely white counties.

One reason for the difference is that in many states, voting machines are purchased by counties or other subdivisions. Differences in income levels, tax bases and other issues often result in large disparities within the same state in the availability of machines. Small changes in the day voting begins can help eliminate these disparities and the lines that can discourage the exercise of the right to vote, without the often significant capital investment in new equipment.

Section 2 of my bill adds a section to HAVA that responds to calls to my office concerning absentee ballots which inadvertently did not include postage, or had insufficient postage. This section requires officials to accept such absentee ballots. Postage mistakes may be made depending on the number of issues on the ballot and the resulting size and weight of the envelope containing the ballot. The cost to authorities, if any, is de minimis. There should be no doubt that such ballots should be counted.

Section 3 amends HAVA to eliminate the confusion when first-time or infrequent voters or others go to incorrect voting sites or when the usual voting site has been changed. To encourage voting, voters registered anywhere in the state could cast a provisional ballot and have it counted and verified. However, voters would be told the correct polling site to allow the option of going to the correct site and

thereby avoiding any doubt that their ballots would be counted.

The 2000 presidential election was a calamity of such historic proportions that it cast doubt on the validity of the election of the President of the United States and led to the enactment of HAVA. The continuing problems in the 2004 elections were serious, unacceptable, and controversial. Although that election also was close, it did not have the razor thin margin of 2000 that delayed certification and settlement of the final result through a Supreme Court decision. However, the 2004 elections were another close call that yielded bitter controversy. Congress must be willing to learn from our continuing experience to make improvements in protecting the right to vote as they are needed. My bill simply uses the experience from my own district and elsewhere to contribute to this effort.

HONORING MRS. JESSIE HALE  
DOWNS

**HON. ARTUR DAVIS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional leadership, character, and outstanding achievements of Mrs. Jessie Hale Downs.

In 1944, a young couple expecting their first child began a ministry known as the Jimmie Hale Mission with the purpose of reaching out to the poor in downtown Birmingham. The couple did not have much material wealth, but what they lacked in money they made up in vision. Unfortunately, the young husband passed away eight months later, leaving his 27-year-old wife and unborn daughter widowed and fatherless.

A single, homeless mother, Jessie Hale resolved to continue the ministry. Serving as the Executive Director for 46 years, Miss Jessie shepherded the Mission to its present state of 6 different facilities in central Alabama. Mrs. Downs has touched the lives of countless men, women, and children through her selfless acts of compassion and charity.

Now 88 years old, Miss Jessie remains the matriarch of the Jimmie Hale Mission. She continues to travel around central Alabama speaking about the vision and ministry of the Mission. She is the epitome of compassionate activism, and I am proud to call her one of my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, while I was with my son and daughter-in-law during the birth of their daughter, the House considered an important vote on the ethics rules governing the House. Being with my family during the birth of Kate was a thrilling experience, and I am grateful for the blessing she has already been to our extended family.

Had I been present for Rollcall Vote #145, I would have joined my 20 colleagues in opposing the change in the rules. The changes

proposed at the beginning of the 109th Congress made sense, and should have been implemented.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE—50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. NATIONAL SKI HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United States National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum that honors the birthplace of the national sport of skiing in Ishpeming, Michigan. The National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum is celebrating 50 years of honoring the history and the sport of skiing along with the athletes, coaches and supporters of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA).

The USSA, originally known as the National Ski Association (NSA), first considered a national ski museum in 1938 during a national convention. With great support, historian Harold Grinden thought it was appropriate for Ishpeming to be the site for the building because in 1904 the local Ishpeming Ski Club founded the national group making it the birthplace of organized skiing in the United States. However, due to World War II, the NSA could not begin building the museum until 1947. After 6 years of organizing, designing and construction, the museum was finally dedicated in February 1954.

It was that year that Grinden proposed honoring the "greats" of their sport through an induction into a "Hall of Fame" as many other national sports were doing at the time. Then in 1955, the National Ski Museum's name was changed to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum. To date, the Hall of Fame proudly displays photos and short bios of 342 inductees.

In the 1980's space became a problem for the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum. In 1992, the group opened their doors to a new structure over 6 times larger than the original building. With the additional space, the Museum was able to feature newly designed depictions of such historic events as Norwegian "ski troopers" carrying infant Prince Haakon over mountains to safety in 1206 and a mural by local artist Roger Junak of the American 10th Mountain Division in WWII during the ferocious battles of the Italian Campaign. It also displays a WWII "weasel", used as a groomer in its early years, as well as various forms of uphill transportation and a historic timeline of the development of skiing.

The current building with its "ski-hill" sloped roof remains in Ishpeming, Michigan and encompasses a gift shop, library of more than 1,300 books, magazines and videos, as well as an auditorium featuring a 20-minute orientation for visitors. Early medals won by famous athletes of the sport are displayed with pride along with the most modern of ski equipment emphasizing the growth of the sport through the years. The most historic reference in the collection is a replica of a ski and pole dug out of a Swedish bog dating back to some 4000 years.

The U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum rightly honors the legacy and athletic

greatness that has graced this sport through history. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum on their first 50 years and in wishing them success in the future as they continue to honor the past.

REINTRODUCTION OF BILL TO FACILITATE ACQUISITION OF MINERAL RIGHTS AT ROCKY FLATS

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today reintroducing a bill to facilitate the acquisition by the federal government of mineral rights or other non-Federal interests in lands that are located within the boundaries of the Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

The bill is cosponsored by my Colorado colleague, Representative BEAUPREZ. It is identical to a bill we cosponsored in the 108th Congress.

BACKGROUND

In the 1950s, the Federal Government bought land at Rocky Flats for use as a production facility for nuclear-weapon components. However, the purchase did not include all the mineral rights, some of which remained in private ownership.

Production at Rocky Flats ended more than a decade ago. Since then, the Department of Energy, through its contractors, has been working to have the site cleaned up and closed.

ROCKY FLATS WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

In 2001, Congress passed legislation I sponsored with Senator WAYNE ALLARD to guide the future of Rocky Flats. Under that legislation—the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001—once the cleanup and closure are accomplished, most of the land at Rocky Flats will be transferred from the Department of Energy to the Department of the Interior and will be managed as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge act includes some provisions related to the non-Federal minerals—primarily sand and gravel—at Rocky Flats. It says "nothing in this [law] limits any valid, existing . . . mineral right" except for "such reasonable conditions on access . . . as are appropriate for the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats and for the management of the refuge." And it says that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOE and Interior is to "address the impacts" mineral rights "may have on the management of the refuge, and provide strategies for resolving or mitigating these impacts."

These provisions were included in the refuge act in order to make clear that while these mineral rights are to be respected as private property, future development of the minerals could have adverse effects on the land, wildlife habitat, and other values of the future wildlife refuge. That is why Congress directed the agencies to consider these potential future effects and work to find ways to mitigate those impacts.

So far, however, the Energy and Interior Departments have not been able to agree on what to do about the minerals.

I think the best way to handle this would be for the federal government to acquire the minerals. However, neither DOE nor Interior has made this a priority, and the current budgetary situation places constraints on such acquisitions.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The Udall-Beauprez bill is intended to make it more feasible for the Interior Department to acquire some or all of the minerals. It would do that by giving the Secretary of the Interior two additional methods (either instead of or in addition to purchase for cash) for completing such acquisitions—

(1) by giving "credits" that could be used instead of cash to pay for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(2) by allowing federal lands or minerals anywhere in the country to be exchanged for the Rocky Flats minerals (under current law, such exchanges can only occur within the same state—Colorado lands/minerals for other Colorado lands/minerals).

The bill has no compulsory provisions. It would not require that any of the non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats be acquired by the government. It also would not require anyone to accept anything other than cash for any interests that the government may acquire—any transaction involving the new "credits" or any exchange could take place only with the concurrence of the party selling minerals to the United States. It would merely provide the Interior Department with new tools—in addition to those it already has—for such acquisitions.

In addition, the bill includes a provision to make clear that the Federal government cannot expand the Rocky Flats site by obtaining any non-Federal lands or interests in lands that are outside the site's boundaries except with the consent of the owners of those lands or interests.

In developing the original bill, I sought and obtained technical assistance from the Interior Department, gave careful consideration to comments from local governments and others in Colorado, and made revisions to earlier drafts of the legislation in response to points raised in those comments.

Mr. Speaker, this bill—the "Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act"—is narrow in scope. However, I think it can assist in successful implementation of something that is very important for all Coloradans—the establishment of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. I think it deserves the support of every Member of the House.

For the information of our colleagues, here is a short outline of the revised bill:

OUTLINE OF ROCKY FLATS MINERALS ACQUISITION BILL  
BACKGROUND

When the ongoing cleanup of the Rocky Flats site is completed, it will be closed and most of the site will be transferred to the Interior Department for management as a National Wildlife Refuge. Within the site's boundaries there are some privately-owned mineral rights (primarily sand and gravel). Federal acquisition of at least some of these mineral rights would further sound management of the site as a wildlife refuge. However, the current budgetary situation makes it difficult to complete such acquisition.

The purpose of the bill is to provide the Interior Department with two additional tools to assist in the acquisition of mineral rights or other non-Federal property at Rocky Flats: authority to provide "credits" (instead of or in addition to cash) that could be