

Mr. Dantzler has served as an advocate for the more than 11,000 men and women who serve our nation in support of Tyndall AFB, the Naval Support Activity Panama City and the Coast Guard Station Panama City. His hard work has helped build military and Congressional support for important missions in Bay County. He has served tirelessly as a liaison between Bay County, State, and Federal leadership in defense of our local bases.

This has been a job requiring great dedication—which he has done splendidly—despite his additional obligations as a business owner and his many other volunteer efforts. His additional volunteer efforts include work with the Bay County Chamber of Commerce, of which he is a past chairman, Rotary, United Way, Optimist Club, Bay Medical Center Foundation, Gulf Coast Community College Foundation, Panama City-Bay County International Airport Authority, Gulf Coast Community College Board of Trustees, Coastal Operations Institute, Girls Inc., Panama City Music Association, Bay Arts Alliance and others.

I invite my distinguished colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Larry N. Dantzler for his invaluable service to Bay County, Florida. Through his leadership, he has laid the groundwork for preservation of our military installations for years to come and I would like to personally wish Larry, and his wife Nancy, the very best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE ON THE PASSING OF DAVID HERMANC—THE FATHER OF THE AMERICAN PRIUS

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David Hermance, who was killed in a plane crash in Southern California on November 25th. David was the North American Executive Engineer for Advanced Technology Vehicles at Toyota, whose headquarters is located in my congressional district.

Although most Americans may not know his name, David Hermance was one of the most influential engineers and environmentalists in the country. He was only 59 years-old when the experimental aircraft he was piloting crashed into the Pacific Ocean, and his tragic death is a stunning loss not only for his family, but for the larger community he served.

Equally respected in the environmental community and the automotive industry, David was known as the “Father of the American Prius”—and for good reason. He had a knack for translating complex systems and technologies into easy-to-understand concepts, and he worked tirelessly to help lay-people understand the workings and benefits of hybrid and other advanced-technology vehicles.

It was David’s passionate approach and commitment to the environment that helped persuade a skeptical industry and auto-buying public to appreciate the enormous potential of his work. In fact, Madam Speaker, my family drives two hybrid vehicles—one in California and the other in Washington, DC.

David will be sorely missed—as an outstanding individual and beloved colleague. Our

thoughts and prayers are with his family: his wife Mary, his children Keith and Kathy, his grandson Colin and sister Bonnie.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPACT AID SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BILL

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to help schools educating the children of U.S. service members and schools serving Native American children on federal lands.

My legislation will improve the distribution of school construction grants under the Impact Aid program. Impact Aid compensates schools affected by a federal presence such as military installations or Native American reservations. Because federal lands are exempt from local property taxes, school districts located on or near federal lands lose a major source of revenue without the federal Impact Aid program.

Currently, school construction grants under Impact Aid allow unequal funding between military school districts and Native American school districts. For example, although 36 percent of the one million federal students are from military impacted schools, the majority of school construction dollars are spent on the 12 percent of Native American students.

In 2005 and 2004, \$27 million in Impact Aid competitive construction grants were awarded. In 2005, only 1 of 8 competitive grants was awarded to a military impacted school district. In 2004, only three of 15 recipients were military school districts, and only one of 17 recipients in 2003 was a military school. In contrast, the formula grants under the Impact Aid School Construction program are equally distributed between military and Native American schools.

Considering that Impact Aid has historically been underfunded in meeting the needs of local school districts serving military and Native American families, this legislation is critical to ensure the most equitable use of available dollars.

Instead of sending 60% of funding toward 12 percent of federal students, the legislation I am introducing today would ensure 80% of school construction funding will be equally distributed between military and Native American schools. This approach will help ensure a high-quality education for the children of our military members selflessly serving our Nation. Priority would also be given to Native American districts in qualifying for emergency construction grants in recognition of the poor condition of too many Native American schools.

This legislation will also help schools affected by Global Rebasing at the Department of Defense (DoD). Over the next four years, DoD estimates that 38,000 military children will be returning to U.S. schools from closing overseas military bases. Under this legislation, schools that experience a 10% increase in the number of military students would be allowed to apply for emergency Impact Aid construction grants.

I am confident this excellent legislation will improve the Impact Aid program to better serve American families. I am proud that both Native American school districts and military-

impacted school districts support the common-sense approach of this bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the reauthorization of Impact Aid later this year, and urge every Member of Congress to review and co-sponsor this legislation.

HONORING MICHAEL LOFTON AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN AND BOYS CONFERENCE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Lofton, an inspirational leader who is working each day to make a difference in the lives of young people in his community. This past summer Mr. Lofton implemented an idea to bring together 200 boys, men and parents in the first African American Men and Boys Conference. His goal was to counteract the trends where African American boys were lagging academically, disrupting classes, disrespecting themselves, and often ending up incarcerated.

His passion for helping children led him to the Austin School District, where he contacted parents, school principals, health specialists, professors, sociologists, judges, law-enforcement, businesses, community leaders and clergy, in order to create a concentrated effort to support young black men and boys in the Austin community.

The monthly African American Men and Boys Conference has continued to increase in participation since its inception this past June. It has also expanded from focusing on boys and their academic needs to working with the entire family to make a difference. Each month these boys and their families focus good decision making, managing anger, taking and passing standardized tests, completing high school, attending college, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and knowing how and when to seek assistance with school work.

It is people like Michael Lofton that are the cornerstone of our communities making a difference each and every day. He was brave enough and passionate enough to go out into the community and establish his vision for change, and he has inspired others to work with him to better our society. I commend Michael Lofton for all the work that he has done, and know that this is merely the first step of many great things to come.

HONORING SISTER MABLE WILLIAMS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Sister Mable Williams, a longtime resident of Oakland, California. Sister Mable is a role model to us all, and has demonstrated her leadership through her commitment to members of her church as well as the community at large. On Sunday, December 31, 2006, Sister Mable’s friends, family and congregation will come together to celebrate her many contributions.

Sister Mable was born on January 25, 1931 in Picayune, Mississippi. She lived there until the age of 13, when she and her family moved to Alameda, California. She attended Alameda High School and Merritt Business School.

In 1953, Sister Mable married Thomas Williams, and in 1955 they moved to Oakland, California. Mable and her family have lived in Brookfield Village in East Oakland since that time, providing spiritual support to family, friends and neighbors. She also served as an employee of the United States Post Office for over 30 outstanding years, retiring in 1989.

Sister Mable joined Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in 1944 and immediately committed herself to serving in many aspects. For example, she served as a Charter Member of the church, and also as a secretary for the pastor, Reverend Herbert Guice. Furthermore, she served as a Charter Member of the Bethel Bible Class, and as a Sunday School Teacher of the Young Adult class.

One of Sister Mable's most outstanding accomplishments is having served as the Director of the Junior Church of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church for 50 years. Under her leadership, countless young people have had opportunities to serve and to brighten their communities. Her dedication has earned her the nickname "Able Mable," because she is never too busy or too tired to give of herself.

On Sunday, December 31, 2006, the friends, family and colleagues of Sister Mable Williams will come together to celebrate her tireless work and commitment to our community. On this very special day, I join all of them in thanking and saluting Sister Mable for her invaluable service, and for the profoundly positive impact her work has had on countless lives here in California's 9th U.S. Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD A PLATT

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a respected military officer and great fighter pilot upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force and Air National Guard after 36 years of honorable and dedicated service.

Born in Silver Creek, New York, growing up in Suffern, New York, Major General Richard A. Platt began his military career June 1971 when he received his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Newark College of Engineering. After earning his pilot wings in June 1972, he flew F-4 Phantom fighter aircraft and was assigned to front line combat units in Southeast Asia, Europe and the United States.

Madam Speaker, from his early days as a fighter pilot in Vietnam to his role as a fighter weapons instructor General Platt has shown impressive leadership and combat flying skills. His flying experience includes two combat tours of duty, one in Vietnam and the other over the skies of Bosnia.

In 1981, Major General Platt left the active duty air force and continued his service flying the A-10 Warthog as a member of the 104th

Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard. General Platt time and time again demonstrated his unparalleled vision and leadership. As a commander, he led the transformation of the 104th Fighter Wing into one of the premier fighting units in the entire American military.

Madam Speaker, following his flying career, General Platt served with distinction as he continued to provide vision and leadership to the Air National Guard. His assignments included commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard and Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander of both Air Combat Command as well as United States Air Forces Europe. His last post brought him to Washington, D.C. where he was Assistant to the Director of the Air National Guard. In this role, General Platt was instrumental in beginning important changes to ensure the relevance and viability of the Air National Guard and United States Air Force, in this most challenging period of our country's history.

Madam Speaker, General Platt's dedication to the military has been evident from the day he joined his ROTC unit to his last tour of duty at the Pentagon; but perhaps more than any other assignment, nothing was more special to him than his role as commander of the 104th Fighter Wing. Even today, several years after General Platt's tenure, the wing is still recognized as an elite unit—his core values of integrity, dedication to duty, and patriotism remain strong. General Platt recognized that the fighter wing and our entire military are only as strong as the lowest ranking member—and no one member was more important than any other. For him the 104th Fighter Wing was more than just officers and airmen, they were, and still remain his family.

Madam Speaker, each and every American is safer and freer due to the service of Major General Platt and the men and women like him serving across all of our armed services.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of and in gratitude for his service, leadership and patriotism, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Major General Richard A. Platt upon the occasion of his retirement; and wish him great health and happiness in the days and years ahead as a father, husband and grandfather.

THE 110TH CONGRESS

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, January 4, 2007, marked a historic day for progress in the United States of America for two reasons. The House of Representatives grew by taking further steps to represent the full fabric of the American People. The American people have selected their first woman speaker, Nancy Pelosi, and their first Muslim member of Congress, Keith Ellison. I am proud that Americans have rejected the statements from some who alleged Americans of all faiths are not welcome in Congress. This is also the first time the American people are represented by a speaker with a clear goal to move the United States towards energy independence. These advances represent steps forward in America's continuing experiment in

democracy in which Congress represents America's stripes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOURNEY THROUGH HOLLOWED GROUND NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to create The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area. Senator WARNER will be introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

We remember the words of Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address:

We cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it far above our poor power to add or detract.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground winds it way along U.S. Route 15 from Jefferson's home of Monticello, in Charlottesville, Virginia to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Starting as a trail used by the Susquehannock and Iroquois, America's early history can literally be traced along this corridor. Jefferson's Monticello, Madison's Montpelier, Monroe's Oak Hill and Ashlawn Highland, Zachary Taylor's homes, Eisenhower's cottage, Teddy Roosevelt's cabin, John Marshall's home, General George Marshall's home, and Camp David are situated along this route also dotted with numerous Civil War battlefields and sites from the underground railroad.

Designation of this historic route as a National Heritage Area will create a partnership between the federal, state, and local governments as well as local civic organizations to commemorate, conserve and promote the history and resources along the Route 15 corridor between Gettysburg and Monticello. It will help link national parks to historical sites, package tourism opportunities, and provide financial and technical support for sites in the corridor.

This historic corridor includes a significant part of the 10th District of Virginia, which I am proud to represent. I echo the sentiments of author and historian David McCullough when he said that "[t]his is the ground of our Founding Fathers. These are the landscapes that speak volumes—small towns, churches, fields, mountains, creeks and rivers with names such as Bull Run and Rappahannock. They are the real thing, and what shame we will bring upon ourselves if we destroy them."

This bill is modeled after the legislation Senator WARNER and I introduced which created the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District in the Shenandoah Valley in 1996. Through that legislation, the Civil War battlefield sites in the Valley are being preserved. As with that bill, local, state and federal officials, working along with landowners and business leaders will be able to better promote the history of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground attracting tourism and an appreciation for the unique history of this area.

I would like to thank the Journey Through Hollowed Ground Partnership which has been working to forge partnerships that span the four states that fall within the proposed boundaries of the heritage area. This group has laid