

DISTRICT 10

Denise Maxie, Austin; Luke Aaron Woolbright, Scottsburg.

2006-2007 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

BARTHOLOMEW

Karina Collins, Central Middle School.

BENTON

Kybren Foster and Ayren Cobb, Benton Central Junior High School.

CARROLL

Chad Griffin, Carroll Jr./Sr. High School.

CASS

Dalton Christensen and Brittany Wagoner, Columbia Middle School.

CLARK

Sarah Trotter, Charlestown Middle School.

CLAY

Kole Smith, Clay City Junior High School.

CRAWFORD

Leah Lahue, Crawford County Jr. Sr. High School.

DEARBORN

Shane Bedford and Jessica Tillman, St. John Lutheran School.

DECATUR

Jasmine Duvall, North Decatur Jr. High School.

DEKALB

Joshua Garcia, DeKalb Middle School; and Jordon Hartleroad, Eastside Jr. High School.

ELKHART

Kirstin Guerrero, Heritage Middle School.

FLOYD

William Happel, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

FRANKLIN

Bret Rosenberger and Emily Ash, St. Michael School.

GREENE

Jesse Houchin and Jannae Jackson, Linton-Stockton Jr. High School.

HAMILTON

Joshua Foster and Katie Cheesman, Carmel Middle School.

HENDRICKS

Ross Smith, Smith Academy.

HENRY

Cole Williams and Rebekah Bales, Tri Jr. High School.

HOWARD

Tyler Barnes and Leah Naegeli, Northwestern Middle School.

JACKSON

Kyle Wischmeier, Lutheran Central Middle School; and Denise Maxie, Crothersville Jr. High School.

JASPER

Garrett Smith and Leslie Smith, Rensselaer Middle School.

JAY

Aaron Loy and Mariah Hornaday, East Jay Middle School.

LAKE

Hunter Balczon, Our Lady of Grace; and Taylor Hillegonds, Crown Point Christian School.

MARION

Andrew Klein and Lindsay Rader, Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

MIAMI

Cole Shafer and Jylian Vigar, Maconaquah Middle School.

MONROE

Matthew Teach, Tri-North Middle School; and Sarah Anne Foley, home school.

OWEN

Jansen Hight and Sarah Law, Owen Valley Middle School.

PORTER

Maggie Mantel, Crown Point Christian School.

POSEY

Austin Bender and Jordan Wassmer, North Posey Jr. High School.

PULASKI

Stefanie McGovern, Eastern Pulaski Middle School.

RANDOLPH

Carlas Bogue and Kailey Gough, Driver Middle School.

ST. JOSEPH

Dylan Gainey and Emily Dillon, St. Matthew Cathedral School.

SCOTT

Luke Woolbright, Scottsburg Middle School.

STARKE

Schuyler Awald and Emily Pucel, Oregon-Davis Jr. High School.

VANDERBURGH

Jacob Newmaster, Trinity Lutheran; and Jessica Kelley, St. Joseph School.

VERMILLION

Brandon Downs and Abby Garner, North Vermillion Jr. High School.

WABASH

Hunter Wells and Madison Kroh, Northfield Jr. High School.

WARRICK

Andrew Gill and Emma Donaldson, Evansville Christian School.

WAYNE

Cody Short, Centerville Jr. High School; and Elise Armstrong, Seton Catholic Jr. High School.

WELLS

Kent Blazier and Chelsea Sorg, Norwell Middle School.

WHITE

Jacob Brummett and Kaity Faucett, Frontier Jr. High School.●

REMEMBERING RAFAEL VAZQUEZ

● Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I wish to speak in honor and pay tribute to a fallen paramedic from my State, Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Lieutenant Rafael Vazquez.

Rafael's life ended prematurely this week; he died at the very young age of 42. But the memory of his dedication, hard work, and commitment to public service will live on for many lifetimes.

Rafael Vazquez led a life committed to public service. For the past 7 years, he worked at Station 28 in Royal Palm Beach, and this January he was promoted to the rank of rescue lieutenant. The men and women he supervised speak about him with great pride—describing him as a hard worker, a man with a sense of humor, and a loving father. This was a man whom they respected and considered a friend; they simply called him “Ray.”

Rafael's coworkers knew him as someone who loved his Puerto Rican heritage. He often cooked Latin food for his colleagues. And even though he was born in Brooklyn, NY, after Rafael

moved to Florida, as is our tradition in the Sunshine State, he immediately became a Floridian.

Rafael was also a family man—a devoted father and husband. He met his wife Michele while working at American Medical Response and cared for her deeply. In a recent news account, Rafael's wife Michele remembered her husband as, “. . . a jokester with a quick wit and an infectious smile who would help anyone in need.” Michele added, “I thank God every day for giving me the 13 years that I had with him.” The couple had a young son together and four children from previous relationships.

Floridians receive rapid medical care in times of emergency because of people like Rafael Vazquez. He loved his work and his contribution will be missed.

On behalf of Florida and the people of the United States, I thank and honor rescue lieutenant Rafael Vazquez for his service to his community and the safety he helped to promote.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELLEN PANEOK

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish today to honor the life of Ellen Paneok, who left us last Sunday, March 2, at the age of 48. So little time on this Earth, but Ellen made so much of it. The State of Alaska is much the better for all that she has accomplished.

How to characterize Ellen? I could speak of her work for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Southcentral Alaska. Or her work to promote aviation safety at the FAA and as a volunteer in the general aviation community.

I could speak of the inspiring articles she has published. I could tell you that Ellen was a highly respected Inupiat artist working in ivory and scrimshaw.

I could speak of that fact that Ellen offered herself freely as a role model for Native young people.

I could speak to the kindness and loyalty she gave to her friends, including Pat Heller, a very special friend of Ellen's and mine. Ellen's friends returned that kindness and loyalty as they took responsibility for Ellen's care in her final days.

And I could speak of the fact that Ellen was one of the first women—not to mention one of the first Alaska Native women—to pursue the career of Alaska bush pilot. Careers just don't get more adventurous than that. And it was her achievements in the field of aviation that earned Ellen a place in our Nation's history.

Ellen started flying in 1976. She flew primarily out of Barrow carrying mail and supplies to the Native villages of northern Alaska.

Her life story was chronicled in the “Women in Flight” exhibit at the National Air and Space Museum in the nineties. Ellen was one of 37 women in aviation who were part of that exhibit.

On September 11, 1997, she delighted museum goers with stories about chasing polar bears off the runway before

she could land, flying in Alaska's extreme weather conditions and restoring airplanes.

Some of her experiences were delightful, others were not. Like July 10, 1980, the day that the engine in Ellen's Piper Twin Pacer quit somewhere between Farewell and McGrath. The plane fell like a brick and crashed into a stand of trees. A day and a half later, after making a smoke fire from brush and engine oil to call attention to the downed aircraft, she was rescued.

That incident gave Ellen a new nickname, "the survivor." The chapter devoted to Ellen in Sandi Sumner's book "Women Pilots of Alaska" is entitled "The Survivor." But it goes on to note that surviving the July 1980 crash in the Alaska bush was one of many crises in Ellen's life from which she grew and thrived.

Ellen was born in Kotzebue, AK, a relatively large community, in Alaska's bush. Ellen's parents divorced when she was age 5. Her father left the picture following the divorce. Her mother was never around. The family moved from Kotzebue to the big city of Anchorage.

Ellen took on the role of mother to her two sisters at the age of 9 and carried on until the age of 12 when the State moved the children into foster homes, splitting the family up to Ellen's protestations. By 14 Ellen was living in a detention facility. She looked at a magazine with airplanes on the cover and said, "This is going to change my life."

Indeed, it did. At age 16, holding a dividend check from Cook Inlet Region, one of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act regional corporations created by Congress, Ellen went to Merrill Field, the general aviation airport in Anchorage, to take flying lessons. The rest is history.

When Ellen spoke to groups of at-risk kids, she could relate from her personal experience. She told them:

I was just like you. I got no encouragement. When you decide to do something don't let anyone or anything discourage you. It's up to you.

In aviation as in life, attitude influences altitude. With an attitude like this it is no wonder that Ellen will be remembered as a "heroine in aviation." That was the name of an exhibit sponsored by the Chicago Airport System which also chronicled Ellen's extraordinary life adventure.

On March 15, a celebration of Ellen's life will take place at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum in Anchorage. I regret that I will not be able to attend this event to commemorate the achievements of this truly Renaissance woman. So I am taking a few minutes of the Senate's time today to pay tribute to this individual who I so deeply respect.

I thank the Senate for allowing me to take a few moments today to speak of Ellen Paneok, one of many Alaskans whose contributions to the making of my home State will be repeated again

and again in the run-up to the 50th anniversary of Alaska's statehood next January.

Sadly, Ellen will not be with us in person to celebrate that 50th anniversary, yet her inspiring life will not be forgotten. It is forever a part of Alaska's history.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1084. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, and the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to build operational readiness in civilian agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1424. To amend section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, section 2705 of the Public Health Service Act, and section 9812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require equity in the provision of mental health and substance-related disorder benefits under group health plans, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5159. An act to establish the Office of the Capitol Visitor Center within the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, headed by the Chief Executive Officer for Visitor Services, to provide for the effective management and administration of the Capitol Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2734. A bill to aid families and neighborhoods facing home foreclosure and address the subprime mortgage crisis.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. SUNUNU):

S. 2731. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL:

S. 2732. A bill to expand the definition of independent student under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include active members of the National Guard or Reserve forces of the United States and to prevent payments of educational assistance for veterans and members of the Selected Reserve from being offset in the calculation of financial aid under such Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2733. A bill to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965; considered and passed.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. 2734. A bill to aid families and neighborhoods facing home foreclosure and address the subprime mortgage crisis; read the first time.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 2735. A bill to establish the Council on Healthy Housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2736. A bill to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. Res. 476. A resolution designating March 25, 2008, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CONRAD:

S. Con. Res. 70. An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013; from the Committee on the Budget; placed on the calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 507

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 507, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 1795

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1795, a bill to improve access to workers' compensation programs for injured Federal employees.

S. 2142

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S.