

Committee from 1987 to 1994. Mr. Williams' strong leadership has helped shape the National Capital region's development, especially through improved air transportation and increased access to world markets.

Mr. Williams received his undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University and earned his law degree at the University of Virginia. He is a former partner and current Of Counsel at the law firm of McGuire, Woods, Battle & Boothe, where he specializes as a tax attorney. During his career, Mr. Williams has held numerous public offices, particularly in the field of transportation. He is currently a member of the Environmental and Transportation Committee of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and is general counsel for the International Trade Association of Northern Virginia. Mr. Williams has also served Fairfax County as a five-term member of the Virginia House of Delegates and as a trustee of the George Mason University Foundation. presently, he is a fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel and a trustee of the Virginia Conference on Federal Taxation.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Williams for over two decades, and am proud of the integrity and expertise he has displayed in his professional career and his public service. Throughout his life, he has received many well-deserved awards and honors for his service and contributions to northern Virginia. In 1991, he was the recipient of the George Mason medal, which was awarded by the board of visitors at George Mason University. Mr. Williams was also the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce's 1994 turkey roast honoree for his service and commitment to northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding Mr. Williams' significant and enduring role in shaping both our local community and the Commonwealth of Virginia over the past 30 years.

CAPT. JOHN MICHAEL CRYE TO
RETIRE FROM COAST GUARD

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 1996

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual, Capt. John Michael Crye, who is due to retire later this year. Captain Crye has served our country for more than 20 years, most recently as Deputy Chief, Coast Guard Congressional and Governmental Affairs. He also served as Coast Guard Legislative Counsel in the Coast Guard Congressional and Governmental Affairs Office. It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for his superb service to this legislative body and our great Nation as a whole.

A native of Knoxville, TN, Captain Crye received his commission from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. He was commissioned as an ensign in May 1972, first assigned as a deck watch officer aboard the Cutter *Morgenthau*.

Following this tour, Captain Crye was assigned to the Greater Antilles Section in San Juan, PR, as an operations center and search and rescue coordinator. He participated in

several heroic search and rescue cases and law enforcement seizures.

Completing a successful tour at Greater Antilles Section, PR, Captain Crye returned to his alma mater, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, as the non-appropriated funds activities officer. His outstanding performance at the Coast Guard Academy led to his selection to the University of Miami School of Law.

Upon completing law school, Captain Crye was assigned to numerous legal staff positions throughout the Coast Guard. His most notable legal staff assignment was to the Coast Guard Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic, where he defended and prosecuted some of the most detailed and controversial Coast Guard Courts-Martial Cases in Coast Guard history.

Due to his continued outstanding performance, Captain Crye was handpicked for an assignment to the Coast Guard Congressional and Governmental Affairs Office. During his tour as legislative counsel, Captain Crye worked very closely with congressional staffs in drafting important maritime and safety legislation such as the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the passenger vessel *Safety Act*. As a result of his efforts, he was nominated for the "Justice Tom C. Clark Outstanding Lawyer Award."

Captain Crye was later promoted to his current position as Deputy Chief of the Coast Guard Congressional and Governmental Affairs Office. In this position, Captain Crye has provided the members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, our personal staffs as well as many of you standing here today, with superior support regarding Coast Guard plans and programs. His valuable contributions have enabled Congress and the Department of Transportation to work closely together to ensure the Coast Guard remains "Semper paratus"—always ready.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Crye, his wife, Sheila, and their two children, Marilena and John, have made many sacrifices throughout his career. Captain Crye will be retired on August 1, 1996, and I call upon my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in wishing him much success, as well as fair winds and following seas.

LEAH McCANDLESS MEMORIAL

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON, Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I share with my colleagues the news of the recent passing of a highly respected and admired woman in the Southwest. Mrs. Leah McCandless of Hobart, OK, died on May 22, 1996, less than 1 month shy of her 96th birthday.

For a better part of this century, political candidates who wanted to represent Hobart, OK, in the Federal, State, and local legislative bodies stopped by the McCandless home in hopes of seeking her blessing. Over pie and coffee, candidate after candidate would give their best arguments as to why they would be best for Hobart and Oklahoma.

Mrs. McCandless won many battles in her long life. She was probably most proud of the five sons she raised who all became success-

ful in their chosen careers. She was married for more than 60 years to Cecil McCandless who operated a successful clothing store in Hobart. In addition to her political activity, she was a member of her Presbyterian Church for 70 years and became the first woman elder of her church.

At a memorial service for her at her church, Mrs. McCandless left the following words for those in attendance—words that are worth repeating here:

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one,
I'd like to leave an after glow of smiles when
life is done,

I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly
down the ways,

Of happy times and laughing times and
bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry
before the sun of

Happy memories that I leave When my life is
done.

The local newspaper in Mrs. McCandless' hometown said it best when the Hobart Democrat-Chief's Joe Hancock editorialized, "Leah McCandless Was A Legend in Our Time!" I want to share Mr. Hancock's comments as well as an obituary printed in the local paper. After reflecting on Mrs. McCandless wonderful life which spanned nearly the entire 20th century, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to this woman and join me as we express our condolences to her caring family and many friends.

[From the Hobart Democrat-Chief, May 30,
1996]

LEAH McCANDLESS WAS A LEGEND IN OUR
TIME!

Leah McCandless was a true lady. She was an inspiration and she was an institution. She left memories with those of us who knew her we'll not forget.

She was an amazing person. She studied events and was prepared to discuss them. Among her friends were many of our state's and nation's leaders. Many of them anxiously awaited her advice and opinions.

She loved the OU Sooners and the Dallas Cowboys. She was a rabid fan!

But none of that approached what I consider her greatest accomplishment. She melded a great family of five sons and a husband during rough depression times.

All five boys received higher educations after graduating from Hobart High School. All of them stayed close to their mother.

Her family was supported by a small family clothing business. As far as I know she never actually worked in the store but did make lunch to bring to town to her husband, Cecil. He ran the Man's Store alone during the early years.

The Presbyterian church was an integral part of the McCandless family life.

The great lady died last week but she lives on in the lives of her surviving family members and those of us who knew her.

LEAH McCANDLESS

Mrs. Leah McCandless, 95, a resident of Hobart for 70 years, died on Wednesday, May 22, 1996 in Elkview General Hospital after a serious illness for several months. She was born in Wichita, Kansas, at the turn of the century, June 17, 1900. She witnessed the many technological and scientific inventions (the automobile, airplane, television, radio, etc.) that we take for granted today.

Her father, W.S. Yeager, organized several banks in Oklahoma, including Verden and Cement where she lived as a child. The family settled in Mangum in 1910 where she met and married her husband, Cecil R. McCandless, in 1918.