

April 1959, and he holds the distinction of being the first American to travel in space. Alan has been characterized as the most eager to be chosen from among three Mercury astronauts who were selected to fly the famous first space flight—the Freedom 7 mission.

On that historic day, Alan Shepard—and the entire nation—waited anxiously for more than four hours as NASA worked feverishly to correct problems involving the launch vehicle's electrical system, the ground computer and the rocket's fuel pressure. This first flight in space, which lasted 15 minutes (five of those minutes in space) carried him to an altitude of 116 miles. Alan Shepard and the Freedom 7 mission marked the beginning of our journey into space.

Alan Shepard prophetically referred to this first space mission as "just the first baby step, aimed for bigger and better things." The success of Freedom 7 and the bravery of Alan Shepard resulted in tremendous enthusiasm and excitement about the U.S. space program and future prospects of space travel. Less than three weeks after Alan Shepard's flight, President Kennedy set forth the goal of landing on the moon by the end of the decade. Alan Shepard returned to space and was the fifth astronaut to walk on the Moon during the Apollo 14 Mission in February 1971.

Mr. Speaker, I remember the first space flights of the NASA's Mercury program, and I think we will always remember the lasting impression Alan Shepard made on us and on the rest of the world. We are grateful for Alan Shepard's service to our nation, his invaluable contributions to NASA and we will remember him as a shining star in our early spaceflight missions. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

RECOGNIZING CECILIA DUNBAR

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. COSTELLO, and I rise today to commend Mrs. Cecilia A. Dunbar, a distinguished student and leader in Marion, Illinois. She currently attends John A. Logan College in the 19th congressional district and is spearheading an effort to create a national day of recognition for higher education. We applaud and commend her efforts, and offer our support.

Cecilia has been focusing her energy toward devoting a day of recognition to higher education. She has worked diligently to encourage non-traditional students of four-year and community colleges the importance of education. Cecilia has not only experienced the achievement of receiving a higher education, she has also been an inspiration for many non-traditional students to attend college. After confronting many personal hurdles, Cecilia realized that she needed to exceed her high school level education and go back to school. John A. Logan College recognized her potential and gave her the opportunity to enroll as a student. From being the first John A. Logan student trustee to be reelected to im-

proving student life through various student organizations such as being President of Phi Theta Kappa, Cecilia has proven herself to be an excellent asset to John A. Logan College and the higher education community.

As a result, Cecilia has been pushing for a national day of higher education recognition as a way to thank her colleagues, and her mentors at John A. Logan College as well as stress the importance of higher education to others who face unique circumstances such as herself. Cecilia's proclamation has been recognized by Illinois Governor Jim Edgar, and she is now in the process of having it recognized by additional governors through the National Governors Association. The first day of observance is September 16, 1998 which coincides with John A. Logan's birthday.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to meet this inspiring student, and it is a pleasure to have her recognized for her various achievements. Higher education is essential for our citizens, and having people such as Cecilia recognizing the urgency of this opportunity is refreshing. Please help us in commending Mrs. Cecilia Dunbar for her persistent efforts in recognizing the importance of higher education.

CHILD NUTRITION AND WIC REAUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are reauthorizing the WIC program here today.

The WIC program is a program that works, and in the longer-term, actually saves federal money. For every one-dollar used in the prenatal segment of the WIC program, Medicaid saves untold monies and gives healthy productive lives to these children and cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

WIC works. It reduces the instances of infant mortality, low birthweight, malnutrition and the myriad other problems of impoverished children. The WIC program also provides valuable health care counseling for expectant mothers for both mothers and children.

Within the past year, Time and Newsweek magazines have written feature articles on the importance of the years from birth to age three. These articles validate long-standing research based on up-to-date studies of prenatal and early childhood development. WIC funding is a big part of the future development of these infants.

We want all of our children to have a good start. Proper nutrition is essential for healthy growth, the ability to learn, and the chance for a future as a productive citizen.

This is a wise investment.

SALUTE TO THE "FALCONS"

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts

of some very special constituents, the Friends of Arrowhead Lodge and Conservators of Nature Society (the "FALCONS"). This group of dedicated volunteers worked to save an historic lodge and outbuildings and operated the facility as a successful visitors center on national forest land in the mountains of Colorado for several productive years.

The Arrowhead Lodge, located along the Poudre Canyon in Larimer County, Colorado, has a long and distinguished history. Through the years, church services, 4-H meetings, pancake suppers, dinners, socials and parties echoed from the walls of the Arrowhead Lodge. The Forest Service bought the lodge, but planned to tear down the buildings due to budget constraints several years later. Only the hard work and grass roots efforts of Mrs. Elyse Bliss saved the buildings from destruction. She was instrumental in the designation of the Arrowhead Lodge of the National Register of Historic places and in founding the non-profit FALCONS to see that it continued to play an important role in the local community and the state's booming tourism industry.

Mr. and Mrs. Bliss, in partnership with the Forest Service, operated the lodge for several years. They, along with the other dedicated volunteers, were always there to welcome weary travelers, curious tourists and local passers by with a friendly smile, hot coffee and a wealth of good information. Sadly, management decisions within the Forest Service forced the volunteers to abandon their efforts after years of successful operations.

The loss of the FALCONS is a great loss to the local community and the traveling public. I thank Mr. and Mrs. Bliss for their hard work and dedication and I thank all of the FALCONS for their efforts as well. Their plight has motivated me to investigate how to avoid such troubling consequences in the future. I plan to investigate how to encourage and facilitate, rather than discourage, the efforts of volunteers like the FALCONS. Good volunteer work creates an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness on federal properties. It personalizes visitors' experiences and adds to the wealth and identity of our natural heritage. Moreover, volunteers could save the taxpayers millions of dollars each year. Mr. Speaker, I fully support volunteer activities on federal lands, and again thank the FALCONS for their significant and lasting contribution to the community and to the public. I wish them well and encourage them to explore other ways to continue their good work.

TRIBUTE TO HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

Fifty years ago this week, Harry S. Truman was nominated for the Presidential ticket at the Democratic convention in Philadelphia. Another profoundly memorable event occurred at that same convention in 1948; Hubert A. Humphrey, then the Mayor of Minneapolis and candidate for Senate from the State of Minnesota, delivered a speech on civil rights that is remembered today for its eloquence, its vision, and its idealism.