

gynecology Society. In addition, he was named the University of Colorado School of Medicine's 1996 Alumnae of the Year.

More than all the accolades and accomplishments, Dr. Kesler prides himself most on his family. His wife, JoAnn, and his children, Thomas, Jeffrey, and Kelley, he says continue to be his greatest source of encouragement and satisfaction. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to this generous, talented, and outstanding man who has given so much to his family, his many friends, the community in which he lives and the Nation.

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support in H.R. 4057, the Airport Improvement Program Reauthorization Act of 1998. This bill contains several important provisions critical to ensuring the efficiency and safety of our Nation's air traffic system, such as "whistle blower" protection and making runway incursion devices eligible for AIP funding.

This bill also authorizes funding critical to the resolution of an enormous back-log of equal employment opportunity complaints filed with the FAA and the Department of Transportation. As most of you know, this current back-log is one of the reasons that more than 200 women have filed a class action lawsuit alleging sexual harassment against the Federal Aviation Administration.

Last year, I read with great interest and dismay an article printed in the Friday, July 18, 1997 edition of USA Today. The story highlighted allegations of sexual harassment and sex discrimination among female air traffic controllers at John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California and at FAA regulated facilities across the country.

On July 23, I wrote to Chairman DUNCAN and Ranking Member LIPINSKI urging them to hold a hearing to further investigate these allegations. The leadership of the subcommittee honored my request and held a hearing on Thursday, October 23, 1997.

On the job sexual harassment is a pervasive and insidious problem. It is made worse when the alleged perpetrators of this heinous activity put the lives of hundreds of innocent men, women, and children at risk by harassing female air traffic controllers while they are directing flights as high as 36,000 feet or giving others instruction for landing or guiding aircraft on the ground to the appropriate gates or runways.

We must ensure that our nation's air traffic control towers are the safest in the world, free of discrimination and harassment of any kind. These activities lower the morale of the employees who are victims of discrimination and their colleagues who witness it. U.S. Dept. of Labor estimates that American business loses \$1 billion in absenteeism, new employee training and replacement costs, and low morale as a result of sexual harassment. (This figure does not include judgments and civil court cases.)

I applaud FAA Administrator Jane Garvey for paying immediate attention to this matter and for taking steps to eliminate sexual harassment from the FAA. In addition to her "Zero Tolerance" policy, Administrator Garvey has created an accountability board that will review all allegations, regardless of origin, and take timely, consistent and appropriate action.

The Administrators efforts, combined with the funds authorized here today, will go a long way towards dealing with the issue of sexual harassment and how the complaints are ultimately dealt with. But this is not enough. We must now work to change the culture within the FAA, and hold those persons who are guilty of sexual harassment accountable.

I'd like to thank Chairman DUNCAN and Ranking Member LIPINSKI for their leadership, and for working with me to include this language in this important bill. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the rich history of the Mount Olive Baptist Church on the 125th anniversary of its founding.

Mr. Speaker, on August 17, 1873, the Mount Olive Baptist Church was organized in the home of Brother Robert Terrell and Sister Martha Terrell by a group out of the Second Baptist Church in NW, D.C. who accepted the challenge to establish a church to meet the spiritual needs of families residing in the Near Northeast Community.

From these humble beginnings, the church became extensively involved in the community. The ministerial staff, in conjunction with the Near Northeast Group Ministers Association participated, with John Hechinger, in the development of Hechinger Mall, the Pentacle Apartments and Benning Court Apartments, and initiated a Meals on Wheels Program for the sick and shut-in. In 1975, the Near Northeast Community Enrichment Program which provides social services, employment, and after school and summer enrichment programs was implemented. The "Feed My Sheep" ministry was instituted to provide a nutritious breakfast to children each Sunday morning before Sunday School. An outside community day, "Taking Jesus to the Streets" conducting by the Youth Ministry has evolved into "Love and Unity Day."

Mr. Speaker, with the opening of the Mount Olive Baptist Church Learning Center, the church continues to grow and serve the needs of the near northeast community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members in this hallowed chamber to join me in saluting the officers, members and friends of the Mount Olive Baptist Church, a beacon of light and a safe haven in the near northeast community.

THE MUSIC MAKERS

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, two hundred years ago, in May of 1798, the United Irishmen, whose ranks were made up of both Catholics and Protestants, rebelled against the English Crown. In May of this year, as word reached our shores of resounding voter approval of a landmark peace agreement intended to end 30 years of Catholic-Protestant bloodshed, our former colleague, Senator George Mitchell, who helped mediate the agreement, shared a stage at the University of New Hampshire Commencement with a remarkable author, poet, actor, singer, storyteller and songwriter, Tommy Makem. On that sunny, breezy afternoon, each received an honorary degree.

Senator Mitchell, as was fitting, gave the commencement address; Tommy Makem, appropriately enough, sang a song he had written about the search for peace in Ireland. "Raise the cry for peace and justice; let the people sound the call: justice for our battered country, peace for one and peace for all." So many of Tommy's songs, such as "Gentle Annie" and "Four Green Fields" are so well known that they are often mistaken for traditional folk songs and are standards in the repertoire of floksingers around the world.

A native of Keady, County Armagh, Tommy is the son of the legendary folk singer, Sarah Makem. He came to Dover, New Hampshire in 1956, and established himself as an actor in New York. There he teamed up with the Clancy Brothers: Liam, Tom and Paddy. In the early 1960s, following an appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show and a number of sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall, the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem were perhaps the best known Irishmen in all the world. At the Newport Folk Festival, in 1961, he and Joan Baez were chosen as the two most promising newcomers on the American folk scene.

In 1984, Tommy joined the ranks of millions of Irish immigrants who came before him and was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in Concord, New Hampshire. He has received countless awards, among them the Gold Medal from the Eire Society in Boston and Stonehill College's prestigious Genesis Award. Irish America Magazine named him one of the Top 100 Irish Americans five years in a row. He was awarded the first Lifetime Achievement Award in the Irish Voice/Aer Lingus Community Awards.

While there is no mention of it in his biographical sketch, I am personally aware of his support for "Project Children," a non-profit organization that brings children from Northern Ireland to the United States for a summer holiday away from the Irish "troubles," recruiting them from neighborhoods in which Protestant-Catholic conflicts have taken the heaviest toll. As of 1996, more than 11,000 youngsters from Belfast, Armagh, Strabane, Enniskillen, and Derry can be counted as "alumni" of the project.

History records that the rebellion of 1798 failed in the month of August. Let us pray that peace will take hold in August of 1998 and that in the coming years the children of Northern Ireland will visit the United States as part of a cultural exchange, rather than for a respite from sectarian violence.