

X-1 being flown by Chuck Yeager, he also was the test pilot for the "Flying Wing", the Northrop YB-49, in 1947 and 1948. The Flying Wing was a revolutionary aircraft at the time and to be chosen as a test pilot was a great honor. It was also a very dangerous assignment. General Cardenas, in an interview described one particular test flight where "he found himself at the controls of an airplane that was pointing almost straight up; refusing to respond to the controls, it was falling tail-first at 5,000 feet per minute. The aircraft then tumbled over backwards." General Cardenas managed to land the aircraft safely. In January 1949, General Cardenas flew the YB-49 on a high-speed exhibition run to Washington, DC, and where a famous picture of the YB-49 flying over the U.S. Capitol was taken.

The Flying Wing project was eventually canceled and the plane was not duplicated until the current B-2 aircraft. It is safe to say, however, that without test pilots like General Cardenas who were willing to risk their lives, we would not have the B-2 today. General Cardenas is a true American Hero and our country owes him a debt for his contributions to the development of our national security.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER PRESIDENT
JULIUS NYERERE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, a great statesman, a man of great compassion and a visionary who believed strongly in Africa's ability to forge a prosperous future of unity and peace. Former President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania passed away today in London at age 77 after losing a 2-year battle with leukemia.

Known affectionately throughout Africa as Mwalimu, or "teacher" in Swahili, President Julius Nyerere was the father of Tanzanian independence and a symbol of Africa's hope as it emerged from the shadow of European colonial rule.

He led the drive for the independence of his East African nation from British rule and became the country's first president in 1962.

In 1979, in defiance of the Organization of African Unity, President Nyerere sent troops to Uganda in response to the intense suffering of the Ugandan people under the brutal dictatorial regime of Idi Amin Dada. That operation—one of the first humanitarian missions of its kind—would help set a legal precedent for peacekeeping missions all over the globe.

Nyerere stepped down as president in 1985 after 23 years in office to devote his time to farming and diplomacy. He worked tirelessly to negotiate an end to the violence that has plagued central and southern Africa in the past decade.

Most recently, Nyerere's efforts were directed toward mediating an end to the bloody civil war in neighboring Burundi, where more than 200,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed since 1993.

Nyerere wrote eight books mainly on development and socialism in Africa and Tanzania in particular. He also translated William Shakespeare's plays "Julius Caesar" and "The Merchant of Venice" into Swahili.

A Roman Catholic, Nyerere was married and had eight children.

The current President of Tanzania, President Mkapa, has announced that a state funeral will be held for Nyerere in Dar es Salaam early next week.

RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF PFIZER, INC.

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Pfizer, Inc. and to congratulate the company on its pioneering innovations in the vital pharmaceutical industry. Pfizer's story is one of adventure, risk-taking, bold decision-making, and lifesaving. It's the chronicle of a small chemical firm from Brooklyn, NY, which, over the years, has become one of the world's premier pharmaceutical enterprises. Pfizer now employs close to 50,000 people in 85 countries, including 4,939 employees in Groton, CT. Pfizer's products are now available in 150 countries. These products treat a variety of diseases and conditions, such as hypertension, Alzheimer's, infections, diabetes, and arthritis.

Cousins Charles Pfizer and Charles Erhart emigrated to New York from Ludwigsberg, Germany in the mid-1840s. In the U.S., the young cousins united their skills and opened shop as a chemical firm in 1849. Charles Pfizer & Co. filled a gap in the American chemical market by manufacturing specialty chemicals that had not been produced in America. The company made many important breakthroughs and developed popular and effective drug treatments in its first 75 years. Medicines developed by Pfizer helped to save many lives during the Civil War.

However, it took bold decision-making to catapult Pfizer into its role as a trendsetter in the antibiotic era and a leader in the pharmaceutical industry. In 1928, when Alexander Fleming discovered the germ-killing properties of the "mold juice" secreted by penicillium, he knew that it could have enormous medical value. Unfortunately, Fleming was unable to mass-produce penicillin. In 1941, following new research relating to this "wonder drug," Pfizer executives risked their own stocks and invested millions of dollars to develop a process to mass-produce penicillin. Thankfully, they were successful. With the U.S. Government desperate for penicillin to aid soldiers in World War II, the company, in true patriotic spirit, agreed to share its method with competitors while still leading the way in penicillin production.

From this point on, Pfizer expanded into a global leadership role in the pharmaceutical industry. The company opened operations around the world and developed new and effective antibiotics to help in the fight against deadly bacteria.

Pfizer has invested a great amount of its resources into R&D—over \$2.8 billion in 1999 alone. This strategy has resulted in the launch of many successful drugs that help people live better lives. By bringing best-in-class medicines to market and working with patients and physicians to develop comprehensive disease

management programs, Pfizer helps people control their illness, rather than letting peoples' illness control them.

Recognized as one of the world's most admired companies, Pfizer was recently named "Company of the Year" by Forbes magazine. I applaud the employees of Pfizer in Groton and around the world on the company's 150th anniversary for the many contributions they have made to improving the health and well-being of millions in this country and across the globe.

RECOGNITION OF THOMAS G.
LABONTE

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 1999 National Distinguished Principal from the State of Rhode Island, Thomas Labonte. Thom is in Washington this week to join his peers and accept this prestigious honor. I am particularly pleased to honor Thom today, as I have had the opportunity to know him and his family since we grew up in the same city and our paths have crossed numerous times throughout our lives. He worked at the local pharmacy my family frequented, his brother went to high school with me, he was my son's principal in East Providence and his son started as an intern in my State house office and now serves on my staff in Washington.

Thom began as a classroom teacher in East Providence in 1970 and was appointed principal of Kent Heights Elementary School in 1986. During his time at Kent Heights, he oversaw the expansion of this neighborhood school to a school which educates over 320 students today. My son was one of Thom's students before Thom left Kent Heights to become the principal at the Watters and Meadowscrest Elementary Schools and begin his service in Pawtucket in 1990.

When he first arrived at Elizabeth Baldwin Elementary School in Pawtucket, he served as the sole administrator in a school with nearly 800 students, 90 percent of whom were eligible for free or reduced lunch. Considering that working with high risk students is one of his passions, it is no surprise that Thom thrived in this setting. During his time in Pawtucket, he also developed and began the first teacher mentoring program, which provides new teachers with a seasoned and experienced mentor as they begin their careers. This mentoring program has been lauded statewide as a model.

When he arrived in South Kingstown, he continued his refreshing and creative educational leadership. While principal of Wakefield Elementary School, he was appointed to serve concurrently as the director of the Hazard School where he oversaw the rehabilitation and redevelopment of the town's kindergarten center. He continues to provide a stable and thriving learning environment to the students, teachers, parents in the Wakefield School community.

As Thom has said, "I model the behaviors I want others to emulate, because I truly respect each child, parent, and teacher, and want the school to have a caring atmosphere