

are being recognized with the National Association of Police Organization's prestigious TOP COPS Awards. These brave individuals are receiving these distinguished awards for their valiant efforts in protecting their community from an armed killer on November 10, 1998.

On that date, Sergeants Terry White, Steve Gumm and Billy Paul Miller, Patrolwoman Rebecca Caton, and Patrolmen Roy Wedlow, Henry Pena, Shawn Hamre and Bradley Arn, responded to a high-priority call to subdue an armed sniper who was randomly firing at vehicles attempting to cross a busy local intersection. The assailant fired approximately 200 rounds of bullets from his assault weapon, fatally wounding Officer Arn, before being shot and killed by sergeant Miller. Thanks to the quick response and undaunted courage of these brave officers, no innocent bystander lost their life as a result of this tragedy.

In addition, I wish to pay a special tribute to the family of Officer Arn. Survived by his loving wife Andrea and two-year-old twin daughters Molleigh and Mallorie, Officer Arn will be forever remembered in the hearts of the residents of St. Joseph for making the greatest sacrifices while protecting the community. He was truly one of America's finest, and I am honored to offer this tribute to him—as well as his family—today.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the heroic acts of these brave law enforcement officers have not gone unnoticed, and I rise today to express my appreciation to them for their dedication in protecting the St. Joseph community. Each of these officers exemplify the finest of traits one must possess to be a member of the law enforcement community, and I congratulate them on receiving these awards.

HONORING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF SMITH COUNTY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th birthday of Smith County, Tennessee, one of the most scenic and friendly communities you'll ever come across.

Smith County, the fifth county created in Middle Tennessee, was established by Private Act in October of 1799 and was named in honor of Daniel Smith, a Revolutionary War officer, surveyor and U.S. Senator.

Nestled among the gently rolling hills and the pristine fish-filled streams that meander through Middle Tennessee, the county is home to some truly wonderful folks, including Vice President AL GORE. The vice president's late father, Al Gore Sr., also called Smith County home and proudly represented the county and region in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, as did another famous resident, Cordell Hull, who also served the nation as Secretary of State.

I congratulate the county's residents for their invaluable contributions to the state of Tennessee and the nation as a whole. Happy Birthday Smith County and thanks to its residents for letting me serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO BERNT BALCHEN

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, October 23, 1999 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late great Norwegian-American pilot, military leader, and Arctic and Antarctic explorer, Colonel Bernt Balchen.

Bernt Balchen was born in Tveit, Norway, on October 23, 1899, the son of a physician with an ancestry of military leaders and sea captains. His love of nature and wildlife, his artistic talents, and his sensitive, discerning eye were revealed in his sketch books begun at an early age.

His love of outdoor life and sports was coupled with a keen spirit of adventure and discovery which was kindled when he met the great explorer Roald Amundsen, shortly after his successful expedition to the South Pole in 1913. This meeting fired young Balchen's imagination and determination to explore the mysteries of the Polar regions.

After completing his education in Forestry Engineering at Harnosand, Sweden, interspersed with practical work in Norway's lumber camps, Bernt Balchen underwent training in the Norwegian Army. At 18, he volunteered for service with the White Army in Finland, serving first in ski patrols and then in the cavalry. A Russian bayonet almost cost him his life. He confounded doctors who predicted he would be permanently incapacitated by later becoming a member of Norway's Olympic boxing team, then setting records in cross-country skiing and bicycling. He built a strong physique, great endurance, keen perceptions and the quick reflexes which were to serve him, and others, so well in the rugged life ahead.

Bernt Balchen's eyes turned skyward. He entered the Royal Norwegian Naval Air Force, graduating at the head of his class and receiving his wings in 1921. He became an instructor in navigation and participated in the planning of some of the first Arctic serial expeditions from Norway. While working on preparations for Amundsen's first flight across the North Pole in the dirigible *Norge* based at Spitsbergen, Balchen was directed by Amundsen to assist Commander Richard E. Byrd in equipping his plane with skis of Balchen's design. This plane was to be flown by Floyd Bennett, with Byrd as a navigator, in an attempt to reach the North Pole.

Impressed with Balchen's many skills, Commander Richard Byrd asked that Balchen be given leave from the Norwegian Naval Air Force and join his party on its return to the U.S. Balchen then became chief test pilot for the famous aircraft designer, Tony Fokker, joining the Fokker Aircraft Corporation at Teterboro, New Jersey. In 1927, Balchen was assigned to Western Canada Airways at Hudson, Ontario, to teach Canadian pilots how to handle ski-equipped planes—the beginning of "bush flying"—then to transport men, equipment and supplies from Cache Lake, Manitoba, the northern terminus of the Hudson Bay railway, to Fort Churchill, Manitoba, within a prescribed period of time. As one of the two pilots selected for the job, he flew an open cockpit plane during six weeks of savage weather, with temperatures hitting 65 degrees

below zero. In paying tribute to the importance of this operation, which was an important factor in changing the economy of Canada, the government of Canada stated, "There has been no more brilliant operation in the history of commercial aviation."

After the crash-landing of the plane *America* on a test flight in which the pilot Floyd Bennett was badly injured, Balchen became involved in preparations for Byrd's Trans-Atlantic flight in 1927. He was chosen to be a co-pilot, along with Bert Acosta. As harsh weather conditions developed on that flight, Balchen took over the piloting of the plane for 40 hours, and finally saved the lives of all aboard by making an emergency landing off the coast of France. Balchen subsequently became the third person to successfully fly across the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1928, Balchen piloted one of the relief planes flying to the crash site of the German aircraft *Bremen* on Greenly Island, off Labrador. The next year he piloted now-Admiral Byrd across the South Pole in the *Floyd Bennett*—the first flight over the South Pole. In addition to his work as pilot for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition I, Balchen played a major role in designing equipment and working out problems in logistics, constructing snow hangars and other equipment. The following year, back in the U.S., he instructed Amelia Earhart and redesigned her aircraft for her successful flight across the Atlantic.

In 1931, through a special act of Congress, Colonel Balchen became a U.S. citizen.

Balchen served as chief pilot for the Lincoln Ellsworth Trans-Antarctic Expeditions (1933–1935). Upon completing this association, he returned to Norway to work in aviation and the development of the Norwegian Airlines, and the laying of the foundation for a united Scandinavian airlines system.

With the invasion of Norway by Germany, Bernt Balchen became associated with the British Royal Air Force in ferrying planes over the North Atlantic and in transport flights from San Diego to Singapore. He carried out the first flight from San Diego to Singapore.

In 1941, as the U.S. began to ferry bombers to England, Balchen was requested by General "Hap" Arnold to join the U.S. Army Air Force and to build a secret base in Greenland—code-named Bluie West 9 (8W-8). From this base, Balchen and his men carried out spectacular rescues of downed American bomber crews by dogsled and plane, one of which involved a belly-landing of a PBY by Bernt Balchen on the ice—a feat never before attempted. In 1943, he led successful bombing missions against German installations on the east coast of Greenland; later, in Iceland.

In 1944, Balchen became the commander of the Allied Air Transport Command for Scandinavia and the USSR, with a secret base in Leuchars, Scotland. This became part of the Carpetbagger Operation (OSS), involving the organization of an air route to Sweden using civilian plan markings and unmarked, black aircraft used for flights into Norway to supply underground forces and to carry out bombing missions. Close to 4,000 Norwegians were safely transported through the Sweden air route to England. His command supported Norwegian forces and helped in the evacuation of 70,000 Russians from slave labor camps in northern Norway, as well as participating in the destruction of the German "heavy water" development center. The Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit, the

Soldiers Medal and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters were among the many honors awarded to Bernt Balchen by the U.S. for his wartime service, in addition to high honors from Norway and Denmark.

Returning to civilian life in 1946, Balchen resumed work in the development of the Scandinavian airlines system, while working for DNL in Norway. Recalled to the U.S. Air Force in 1948, he took command of the 10th Rescue Squadron in Alaska. In 1949, he piloted the first flight from Alaska across the North Pole, landing in Norway—thus becoming the first pilot to fly over both the North and the South Poles. He served as a special assistant to the Secretary of the U.S. Air Force on Arctic Affairs, developing search and rescue techniques and equipment, defense concepts, and navigational systems for the transpolar route which was soon to be adopted by commercial airlines. He pioneered the building of the antimissile base at Thule, Greenland, hailed for its strategic importance.

Through all the rugged years, Balchen's sketch pad and watercolor paints were close at hand. In 1948, however, inspired by the grandeur of the scenery and wildlife in Alaska, he began a serious study of watercolor painting techniques, acquiring a large collection of the best books on the subject. In 1953, he held his first one-man show in New York, in which 73 of his paintings won critical acclaim from critics because of their brilliant colors and thrilling scenes of the High North. This was followed later by one-man showings in other areas of New York, as well as other states and abroad.

Upon his retirement from the Air Force in 1956, Colonel Balchen was honored with the Distinguished Service Medal with a citation for "his understanding of the intricate Arctic conditions and for his firm leadership, extensive background and selfless devotion to duty." He was the holder of many other honors, including the Harmon International Trophy, awarded to him by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1954, and the National Pilots' Association Award. He held honorary Doctorate of Science degrees from Tufts College (1953) and from the University of Alaska (1954). His writings included "The Next 50 Years of Flight," his autobiography "Come North With Me" (Dutton 1958), and a cookbook published in Norway.

Until his death on October 17, 1973, Bernt Balchen served as a consultant to the U.S. Air Force and to leading corporations, including General Precision and General Dynamics, on Polar and Arctic matters, on energy problems and defense considerations.

In addition to Bernt Balchen's being honored by the 70,000 members of the Sons of Norway, Alaska's Governor, Tony Knowles, proclaimed October 23, 1999 as "Polar Flight Day." Furthermore, the Alaska Legislature as well as the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska proclaimed October 23, 1999 as "Bernt Balchen Day," a fitting tribute to this outstanding Norwegian-American on the anniversary of his 100th birthday.

Bernt Balchen is buried in Arlington Cemetery alongside Admiral Byrd. During the interment services, a red-tipped C-54 from his former Alaskan Command flew over Arlington Cemetery in a touching farewell.

Balchen's headstone at Arlington Cemetery reads: "Today goes fast and tomorrow is almost here. Maybe I have helped a little in the change. So I go on to the next adventure,

looking to the future but always thinking back to the past, remembering my teammates and the lonely places I have seen that no man ever saw before."

Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 1999, I ask that my colleagues pause to remember Colonel Bernt Balchen, a true hero who made significant contributions to the security of both Norway and the United States.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK AND THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I now rise to pay tribute to a truly historic event in the proud and distinguished history of the great State of Colorado: the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

As the House sponsor of legislation that redesignated the Black Canyon as a national park, it gives me great joy to describe for this esteemed body's record the beauty of this truly majestic place. In addition, I would like to offer my gratitude to a community of individuals instrumental in the long process that ultimately yielded the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has visited the Black Canyon can attest to its awe-inspiring natural beauty. Named for the dark rock that makes up its sheer walls, the Black Canyon is largely composed of what geologists call basement rocks, the oldest rocks on the earth estimated at 1.7 billion years old. With its narrow openings, sheer walls, and scenic gorges that plunge 2000 feet into the clear blue majesty of the Gunnison River, the Black Canyon is a natural crown jewel second to none in its magnificent splendor. Though other canyons may have greater depth or descend on a steeper course, few combine these attributes as breathtakingly as does the Black Canyon.

If ever there was a place worthy of the prestigious status that only national park status can afford, Mr. Speaker, it is the Black Canyon. But as you know, national parks don't just happen. In this case, it took nearly 15 years, several Congressional Representatives and Senators, innumerable locally elected officials, and a virtual sea of committed citizens in western Colorado.

Included in this group are the good people of Olathe, Colorado. During this long and at times difficult process, Olathe's civic leaders have given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without Olathe's leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of Olathe who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

ON THE OCCASION OF NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very important date in the Florida educational community. Nova Southeastern University, Florida's largest independent university, will celebrate its 35th anniversary on December 2nd, 1999. This event, entitled "Celebration of Excellence," promises to showcase the outstanding achievements of NSU students and alumni alike, and I am honored to be a part of this joyous occasion.

Through Nova Southeastern University's quality educational programs, the university has made an immense contribution to the personal and professional advancement of thousands of Florida residents. In addition, NSU provides a wide range of community services and programs for the benefit of South Florida residents. Working to bring new skills and knowledge to the community around it, the work of Nova Southeastern University ultimately benefits Florida residents of all ages.

"Celebration of Excellence" is also notable because it features the fifth anniversary of the merger of Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences to form NSU in its current state. This synergistic merger of the two schools has resulted in the development of some of Florida's most impressive medical and health care education programs. Indeed, these programs benefit the entire community's health and well-being.

Nova Southeastern University has set itself apart in its ability to form partnerships with other educational institutions, state and local agencies, and community organizations. These successful cooperative efforts enhance local access to advocacy, counseling, health care, rehabilitative and other human services, raise community awareness on existing services and resources, and provide a valuable form to identify and address unmet local needs. It is without hesitation that I say that Nova Southeastern University has had a tremendous impact on the life of all South Floridians.

Mr. Speaker, Nova Southeastern University has spent the last 35 years demonstrating its strong commitment to the well-being and education of the Florida community. I am extremely proud to celebrate this anniversary with administration, students, and alumni of NSU. Reflecting on their success of the past, I wish everyone at NSU the best as the university turns its eyes to the immediate future.

RECOGNIZING THE 1999 RECIPIENTS OF THE MICHIGAN WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, this year the Michigan Women's Historical Center will induct ten members into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. These remarkable individuals from