

Extra Terrestrial" and "Schindler's List."

Without question Lew Wasserman was one of the most powerful and influential people in the entertainment industry, and his presence and leadership will be truly missed.

I am certain that his memory and good works will live on and continue to touch and improve the lives of people everywhere.

To list Lew's accomplishments does not come near to his contributions to our great nation.

Although Lew was unable to afford college, he was inspired to donate millions of dollars for undergraduate scholarships at UCLA. Indeed, few people have been as big-hearted and giving as Lew and his wife Edie.

Together they have given millions of dollars to a myriad of philanthropic causes including the Motion Picture & Television Hospital in Woodland Hills.

Lew was instrumental in building the Dorothy Chandler Music Center in Los Angeles and served as a trustee of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the California Institute of Technology.

I know that the Wasserman family will continue the legacy of philanthropic giving.

Lew also was very active in the foundation, Research to Prevent Blindness for which he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor, by former President Clinton.

Throughout his distinguished career, Lew was often called upon by important leaders in our country including former Presidents Clinton, Reagan, Carter and Lyndon B. Johnson, who wanted him as his Secretary of Commerce.

Despite his retirement, Lew was a man of tireless energy. He was an avid and effective mediator during the labor tensions last year, when major studios were negotiating with writers and actors, Lew privately advised both sides to compromise, avoiding a strike that could have potentially paralyzed the economy of California.

Simply put Lew Wasserman was a great American. His legacy is one of inspiring leadership and extraordinary accomplishment.

I am proud to say Lew was a loyal and good friend. Lew set a high standard and his passing has left an enormous void to fill.

I know the next few weeks and months will be difficult for Edie and the rest of the Wasserman family. But as they grieve, I hope they find comfort in knowing what a wonderful contribution Lew made to the world around him.●

HOUSTON DIGITAL BROADCAST

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the city of Houston on its recent designation as a "Digital Television Zone." Viewers in Houston are fortunate to be served by

local television stations that are broadcasting in digital. These stations are: KPRC, the NBC affiliate; KHOU, the CBS affiliate; KRIV, the local FOX station; KTRK, the local ABC owned and operated station; KTXH, a FOX owned UPN affiliate; and KUHT, the local PBS station.

I would like to especially note KPRC, a Post-Newsweek owned NBC affiliate, where I had the privilege to work in a former life as a journalist.

As the broadcast industry undertakes its transition to digital television, I am proud to say all these local Houston stations are already fully on the air in digital. For those not familiar with digital television, it is the next step in the evolution of television. Just as other communication mediums are moving from an analog to a digital format, television is too.

This year, coverage of the Olympics' opening ceremonies and the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship was broadcast in High-definition digital television. Today, Houston viewers can watch popular programs like "Drew Carey," "NYPD Blue," and "the Tonight Show" in High Definition TV. Programming like this will propel the transition forward and encourage consumers to invest in digital technology—like their local broadcasters have done already.

In January, as one of only three cities in the country with all affiliates on the air in digital, Houston earned the distinction of being designated a "Digital TV Zone." Houston broadcasters pooled their resources over the past year to educate Houston consumers about digital TV technology and its benefits. The local stations cooperated with electronics manufacturers and retailers to post digital sets in high traffic areas throughout the city.

Houston broadcasters are doing their part to launch the digital television future. As with other technological advances, there will be challenges before consumers can fully benefit from everything digital TV offers. There are issues about making digital television sets capable of communicating with digital VCRs and DVD players. There are questions about the availability of digital tuners in new TV sets. Importantly, American consumers will need to embrace digital television. Despite these remaining questions, I am proud to say that Houston broadcasters are ready for the digital future.●

DEFENDING THE 939TH AIR RESCUE WING

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce an amendment with Senator WYDEN to preserve a truly invaluable search and rescue capability in the Pacific Northwest.

On May 30, all eyes in Oregon and across the Nation watched as brave Oregonians put themselves in harms way to rescue climbers on Mt. Hood. The rescuers included members of the Oregon National Guard, the Portland

Mountain Rescue, and the Air Force Reserve 939th Air Rescue Wing, whose members have been lauded for scores of rescues on Mt. Hood and the Oregon Coast, not to mention rescues in our neighboring state of Washington.

Last week, nine climbers were swept into a 20-foot deep crevasse on Mt. Hood. Tragically three of the climbers did not survive, but the skills of the rescuers ensured that others would survive. The rescue last week highlighted the skills of the Rescue Wing and the importance Oregonians placed on the Wing's capabilities in the region. While adverse wind conditions most likely sent one of the helicopters into an inevitable crash, the highly skilled pilot of the 939th ensured that the crew survived and that all on the ground were unharmed.

This happened just one week after the 939th rescued a sick climber from Mt. Hood's Sandy Glacier. I believe this rescue highlights the Wing's capabilities. Late in the evening, the 304th Rescue Squadron used its night vision capabilities to spot the climber at an elevation of 8,750 feet. The Pave Hawk, equipped with a hoist, lowered down Steve Rollins of Portland Mountain Rescue onto the Glacier to assess the climber. After being secured to the hoist, the climber and rescuer were raised into the helicopter and transported to safety.

Oregonians were devastated to hear of Air Force plans to take away the 939th Search and Rescue Wing out of the State to move it to Florida.

Oregonians realize that the 939th's mission is to rescue our brave men in combat. In fact, we believe that the members of the 939th are among the very best trained in the Nation. We know this because we know the Oregon terrain and we have witnessed firsthand their skill under most challenging conditions.

The decision to move the 939th came about in December 2000—ten months prior to a day that has changed our understanding of national security and defense needs. We have been at war since September 11. We need to keep the highly trained combat search and rescuers who are ready to serve at a moment's notice. A new active duty wing would neither be ready today nor tomorrow, not next week nor next month. It would take two years to stand up a new active duty rescue wing. We not only need assets in places abroad where al Qaeda members train, but we need a capability at home to support homeland security needs.

I have not seen enough evidence to make me believe that changing the mission of a CSAR Wing would be advantageous to the United States in wartime.

In the wake of September 11, the President established the White House Office of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council to ensure that our Federal response and protection efforts are coordinated and effective. The President also directed