

His efforts produced the seeds of what would become the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), the first national Hispanic legal advocacy program, which Mr. Tijerina founded in 1968. Over the past 35 years, MALDEF has grown and to this day leads us on the path towards legal equality for Hispanics in areas like education, employment, and political access.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of pioneers like Mr. Tijerina and his vision for a brighter future for all Hispanics that many of us have had the opportunity we enjoy. He helped clear the way for generations of Hispanics, so that they would not feel the burden of oppression or fear to speak out against injustice. He sought change through our judicial system, using our courts as agents of justice.

It is with our heads bowed and grief in our hearts that we say thank you to this pioneer. We can only hope to continue along the path he began.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 276, 277, and 278.

FLIGHT 100—CENTURY OF AVIATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2115) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Chairman, it is important that in determining the EAS eligibility for a small airport the Secretary define a consistent standard for identifying the commonly used route.

It is my hope that the Secretary would use the most reliable mapping capability to determine this route, such as the Rand McNally mapping system.

Further, to ensure that small airports receive a fair shake in the EAS eligibility process, my amendment requires that the Secretary consult with the Governor of the State or the Governor's designee.

In appointing a designee if the Governor so chooses, the Governor should consider designating a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to submit a plan for the most commonly used route. An MPO knows the routes that people take from one point to another in a particular region.

My amendment was drafted to ensure that, while the Secretary of Transportation has discretion, the local community should not be shut out of the process.

COMMEMORATING 80 YEARS OF AVIATION SERVICE AT SHEPHERD AIRFIELD

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate 80 years of aviation service at Shepherd Airfield in Martinsburg, WV by the Berkeley County Airport Authority and the Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 1071.

On June 17, 1923, Captain St. Clair Streett, accompanied by flight mechanic Sergeant Roy Hooe, landed their U.S. Army D.H. 4 at Shepherd Field in Martinsburg, WV. This event was the result of many years of dedicated effort by aviation enthusiasts in Berkeley County to bring Shepherd Field into the mainstream of modern aviation. This historic landing 80 years ago today spurred many important developments at Shepherd Field, including the establishment of the 167th Air National Guard Unit and the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport. With a major expansion planned for the 167th and the construction of a new commercial terminal at the Regional Airport, the airport in Berkeley County will continue its role in protecting our national security while also improving economic opportunity for all of West Virginia.

In honor of 80 years of aviation service at Shepherd Airfield, I ask my friends in West Virginia and my colleagues here in Congress to join me in recognizing June 17, 2003 as a day to celebrate the history of aviation in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. Thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 16, 2003, I missed rollcall votes 276–278. Had I been present on this date, I would have voted "aye" on all rollcall Nos. 276, 277, 278. On this date, my flight coming back to Washington, DC, was canceled due to inclement weather and I was not able to get back to town in time for these votes.

HONORING THE VIETNAM VETERANS GATHERING

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mrs. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vietnam Veterans Gathering. They have developed rich friendships and camaraderie between themselves that years and distance cannot weaken.

On Saturday, June 14, I was honored to attend the 6th Annual Vietnam Veterans Gathering at South Levy Recreation Park. This park has a rich history. After fighting in the jungles of Vietnam, veterans gathered at this

scenic location to share their stories, to heal old wounds, and to enjoy the company of others who knew what it meant to be a soldier.

As part of this commemorative event, The Moving Wall, a tribute to the more than 58,000 Americans that gave their lives during the war, was on display.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Vietnam Veterans Gathering for the great service they have given to our Nation. I recognize the sacrifices that they have made. These men are truly great Americans, and I am proud to call them my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on June 12, 2003, I was unable to vote on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act (H.R. 1308). Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" (rollcall 275).

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF STANTON COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN JACKSONVILLE, FL

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the school administrators, teachers, and students at Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville, FL, for their outstanding achievement in providing, guiding, and demonstrating a quality education.

Stanton College Preparatory School was recently highlighted by Newsweek magazine (The Best 100 High Schools in America, May 26, 2003), as the second best school in the nation, as measured by the Challenge Index. This index takes the number of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests taken by all of the students at a school in 2002 and divides them by the number of graduating seniors.

The editors of Newsweek said they used participation in the Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests as benchmarks because "these tests are more likely to stretch young minds—which should be the fundamental purpose of education."

Stanton College Preparatory School is clearly providing the curricula, support, and leadership in learning that is so very important to our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in applauding Stanton College Preparatory School and all of those schools that strive to prepare their students for higher education and thusly, a higher quality of life. Moreover, I would like to commend the school administrators, superintendents, teachers, and all of the students who have committed themselves to a quality education. As John F. Kennedy once stated, leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.