

Later this month, Dr. Pittman will become the 83rd President of the American Optometric Association, a professional association of specialized doctors with more 34,000 members nationwide. I join with Dr. Pittman's friends and neighbors in Mexia in congratulating him on this prestigious achievement and wishing him the very best in all his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACT

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Representative EHLERS, in introducing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act at the request of this Administration. Our Subcommittees in the Science and House Resources Committees share jurisdiction over authorization of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, programs and I'm proud to say we work well together. Our joint introduction of a NOAA organic act is just one step in our commitment to work together to solidify and better support NOAA agency functions.

NOAA performs a number of vital services to the nation, including the monitoring and management of our oceans, monitoring meteorological trends, and making life-saving storm predictions. Its job is to bring together many pieces of complex oceanic and atmospheric systems so that we can best understand and utilize them as good stewards. Our very lives, particularly along the coasts, depend upon many of NOAA's functions and our future, especially as we observe the impacts of atmospheric, surface and ocean warming trends, rests on how well we support this work. NOAA's work emphasizes an ecosystem approach and enables the U.S. to best manage our place in the global environment as well as the impacts of global changes on us. This effort, given its many and diverse pieces and constituents, needs strong and central leadership and coordination, just as steering a ship requires a captain and a plan.

Because NOAA does not have a single organic act that requires the agency budget, as a whole, to be authorized on an annual basis and because many NOAA programs are authorized under different public laws and committees of jurisdiction, NOAA programs may be authorized at different times. NOAA's functions, in the contexts of many laws with varying purposes, are difficult to oversee and for the agency to fulfill under these circumstances. In light of these challenges, NOAA has done well, and by crafting an organic act for the agency, the Administration has taken the first important step toward the leadership we need to strengthen NOAA's role.

As one of the key recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, this effort is a necessary component to improving our ocean management. I look forward to working with Representative EHLERS and my colleagues on both the Resources and Science Committees and the Administration with this important legislation and on continuing to pursue and create greater central coordination of ocean policy issues.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased, along with my colleague from Maryland, Mr. GILCHREST, to introduce the President's bill to establish the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As Chairmen of the House subcommittees with jurisdiction over NOAA, we are introducing this bill as a courtesy to the President.

NOAA was created by Executive Order in 1970. Since that time Congress has not passed a comprehensive law describing the mission of the agency. On April 20, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released its long awaited Preliminary Report with recommendations for a coordinated national ocean policy. One of its key recommendations is that Congress should pass an organic act for NOAA. I have already introduced my bill creating such an organic act (H.R. 4546). This bill Mr. GILCHREST and I are introducing today is the Administration's response to the recommendation.

I look forward to working with Mr. GILCHREST and the Members of the Science Committee and the Resources Committee as we consider comprehensive legislation for NOAA.

HONORING MAYOR LUIS E. MELENDEZ CANO OF VEGA BAJA, PUERTO RICO

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an exemplary public servant from Puerto Rico, the Honorable Luis Melendez Cano, mayor of the City of Vega Baja.

Luisito, as he is popularly known, has been Mayor of the City of Vega Baja since January 1973. Luisito, who also is a pharmacist, earned the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army National Guard and became Mayor at age 33.

Luisito has served the citizens of his fast-growing city with enthusiasm, a strong sense of patriotism and total devotion to the highest ideals of public service. He is known and respected for his honesty and dedication to the best interest of the people he serves.

Mr. Speaker, public service is one of the highest callings an individual can embark on. Please join me in recognizing the stellar record of this dedicated public servant. A man who committed himself to the improvement of the City of Vega Baja and its people.

Luisito, I congratulate you for your many years of selfless public service, and I wish you and the people of your city much success in your future endeavors.

COMMEMORATION OF DELTA AIRLINE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Delta Airlines on the 75th anniversary of the airline's first passenger flight, June 17th, 1929.

Delta has a long and storied history in aviation development in America. Starting as a small crop-dusting business in Monroe, Louisiana under the name of Huff Daland Dusters in 1923, C.E. Woolman and his associates acquired it in 1928. A company secretary came up with the name Delta after the airline's location near the Mississippi River's outlet to the Gulf of Mexico. By 1929 the company had its first passenger plane. Seventy-five years ago today, a Delta Airlines plane carried passengers for the first time from Monroe to Dallas, Texas.

While competitors faltered during the Great Depression, Delta survived by teaching flying as well as providing maintenance and hangar rentals to other airlines at its Monroe base. Delta won a bid for a federal postal contract in 1934, giving the airline a route from Charleston, South Carolina to Fort Worth, Texas. As the airline grew Delta split the route into two parts—eastbound to Charleston and westbound to Dallas and Fort Worth, later linking them up in Atlanta. With this route and passenger service as reliable sources of income, Delta grasped the opportunity to evolve into one of the most successful airline companies in the United States. Today Delta serves 209 domestic cities in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as 48 international cities in 32 countries. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Aviation, I am pleased to recognize Delta's great contribution to the transportation industry.

TRIBUTE TO DRURY SHOEMAKER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, as we have just recently reflected on the loss of President Reagan and have also recently remembered those who have given their lives in defense of this great Nation on Memorial Day, I wanted to also pay tribute to the late Drury Shoemaker of my District in Tennessee.

Drury's beloved widow, Hazel, sent me a nice note in remembrance of her late husband, who served in the United States Marine Corps. Drury Shoemaker was a fine Marine, part of the C-1-28-5th Division that participated in the battle of Iwo Jima. He survived the War, but later took ill as a result of exposure to radiation from the Hiroshima nuclear explosion. Drury went to be with the Lord on December 11, 2001.

Known as Papaw to his special grandson Darrian, Drury often spoke of taking his wife and grandson back to Iwo Jima to share with them such an important place in his life. Unfortunately, his health did not allow for that special trip.

During the many services I attended on Memorial Day, I especially remembered the service of Drury W. Shoemaker to our Country and the love he showed for his family and fellow Marines.

Mr. Speaker, this Nation would be a much better place if there were more people here like Drury Shoemaker. His loving widow, Hazel, composed a wonderful prayer, especially timely as we remember those who have paid the ultimate price and at a time when we dedicate a wonderful new memorial to those who served in World War II. I would like to call this special prayer to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

Dear Lord and Creator: As America is preparing to dedicate the World War II Memorial in Washington, at a time our Nation is again involved in a war, Lord, my plea to you this day is that through your wisdom and power you will help the people of America truly understand what freedom has cost us.

From Flanders Field to Arlington, from Iwo Jima to Hiroshima, all across Europe (the world really), our loved ones have paid the price in full, Dear Lord, either with their living until death takes them in conditions almost unbearable for them and the ones caring for them. Our veterans are dying by the thousands every day Lord, and the pain and loneliness only you know and understand. Tears, Lord, that seem to have no end. Long days and worse nights, torment that never goes away. Lord, please stand by the widows and the little ones who cannot understand where their Papaw has gone, they just cry themselves to sleep and ask why. God, please help us to endure, because that's all we can do, just endure until we are again with the ones we love.

In your mercy and love please protect my President and the men and women who are truly trying to bring this war to an end. Give them wisdom and courage and strength.

The Memorial is beautiful Lord, but only you can know that the heartbreak the ones left behind endure is not pretty, it's awful and never ending.

God, please, I pray again, stay close by our little ones who just can't understand loss.

Help us, Lord, as a Nation to stand firm and faithful and every day thank you for your Love and Protection.

Thank you Lord for listening. Amen.

MRS. DRURY W. SHOEMAKER.

TRIBUTE TO ERICA BATTLE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to South Carolina's golfing "phenom" Erica Battle, a young lady who seems to be poised to make a big splash in the golf world in the not-to-distant future.

Just last week, this 19-year-old Irmo, South Carolina native, won the Sonic Women's City of Columbia Championship held at the Forrest Lake Country Club. She stayed focused through a rainy second day at the tournament to break the course record with a score of 4-under par 68. After the 3 day tournament, she emerged with a 2-over-par 218, and bested the second place finisher by five strokes.

Attaining such an accomplishment as a college junior is not unusual for this golf standout. As a high school player, Erica was named

South Carolina's Female Athlete of the Year by The State newspaper and won the Beth Daniel Player of the Year award from the South Carolina Junior Golf Association. She qualified for the United States Amateur in 2002, won the 4A State Girl individual title in 2000, and led her Irmo High School golf team to three state championships.

She is also dedicated to help with charitable causes. Last August, Erica participated in the 13th annual Rudolph Canzater Memorial Classic that I host annually in Santee, South Carolina. Last year's tournament contributed \$21,000 in college scholarships for 22 needy students, and \$25,000 to an Endowment I have established at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. I played in the foursome with Erica on the first day of that two-day event, and got to see first hand the poise and maturity she has developed in the few years since she was my primary source for Girl Scout cookies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and your colleagues to join me in celebrating the most recent success of Erica Battle, and in encouraging her to continue setting goals and records. Her success is a shining example to those who will follow in her footsteps.

IN MEMORY OF DR. LAWRENCE A. DAVIS, SR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a devoted and well-respected Arkansan, Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Sr. Known as Prexy to close family and friends, Dr. Davis passed away on Saturday, June 5, at the age of 89. His deep devotion to higher education and to the well-being of everyone around him, particularly his students, leaves a legacy that will live on for generations in the lives he touched.

A native of McCroy, Arkansas, Dr. Davis graduated magna cum laude in 1937 from Arkansas AM&N in Pine Bluff. He went on to receive a master's degree in English from the University of Kansas and a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Davis spent most of his career at Arkansas AM&N, where he served as an English professor, registrar, dean, and assistant to the president. In 1943, at age 29, Dr. Davis became president of AM&N, making him the youngest college president in the Nation. Thirty years later, he oversaw the merger of Arkansas AM&N with the University of Arkansas education system, creating the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and became the school's first chancellor. His son, Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Jr., has followed in his father's footsteps and serves as the current UAPB chancellor.

Under Dr. Davis' leadership, the institution experienced substantial growth in enrollment, academic programs, faculty, and expansion of the physical campus. Believing that every person has the right to receive a college education, Dr. Davis inspired and helped countless students who had limited resources to complete their degrees and go on to accomplish great things.

Serving his community and improving the lives of others were life-long commitments of this compassionate and diligent leader. Dr. Davis was a member of numerous community and university committees.

My thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Davis' family, friends, and colleagues, to whom I extend my deepest and sincere sympathies. May his legacy endure in the many lives that he touched and inspired.

THE FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, the Forest Legacy Program preserves working forests and protects critical forest resources. Since its inception, the Forest Legacy program has protected 360,000 acres of forested land, while helping to preserve the working forest economies of many States, including Maine.

The FY05 Interior Appropriations bill before the House today drastically cuts this program. The \$43 million in the bill for forest conservation projects is \$26 million (38 percent) less than last year's level; \$57 million less than the President requested in his budget; \$107 million (71 percent) less than sought by 92 House Members in a letter to the Interior appropriations committee that I led with Representatives BASS and MARSHALL; and a whopping \$193 million below the level of projects proposed by States.

The bill eliminates 10 projects recommended by the President, cuts funding—by as much as 75 percent—for 37 projects in 30 States and territories, and eliminates funds for 6 new States to join the program.

The Forest Legacy Program has strong support from the Administration, which proposed more than a 40-percent increase in this year's budget.

The Forest Legacy Program provides multiple public benefits. The program enables landowners to retain ownership of their land and continue to earn income from it; conserves open space, scenic lands, wildlife habitat, and clean water; and ensures continued opportunities for outdoor recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking.

Given its record of assisting private landowners, leveraging non-federal funds and ensuring long-term conservation benefits, the Forest Legacy Program is a successful example of a public-private, non-regulatory partnership approach to land conservation. For limited dollars, the program brings multiple public benefits.

We should not be cutting this program.

ENERGY POLICY

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that we develop a clear plan to lower our fuel prices and reduce our dangerous dependence on foreign oil, which decreases our security and weakens our economy.