

of Education for 2004. This decision was made by a committee of school board members from among 524 districts. It is the second time that Nixa's school board has received this honor, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to education in our community.

The Nixa School Board, chaired by Peggy Taylor, has successfully lobbied local, state, and federal officials for continuing support of educational goals. Their leadership contributed to the lives of Nixa students in five general areas of significance: school district accreditation, community engagement, improved student achievement, success with school district goals and local board initiatives. Through their dedication and relentless pursuit of the goals placed before them, this school board has called attention to the strength of the education system in the Seventh Congressional District of Missouri.

Additionally, the school board has built overall trust and encouraged effective communication between the Nixa RII School Administration and the community. The District Superintendent, Steven Kleinsmith, attributes much of the school district's success to the high expectation that the Board of Education placed on itself and sought from others. Success, such as a perfect score on Missouri's Annual Performance Review conducted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and earning the State of Missouri's highest accreditation possible, "Accredited with Distinction for Performance," demonstrate a demand for superior education and represents the quality of our public schools in southwest Missouri.

Today is a great day for the city of Nixa, the Nixa RII School System, and its Board of Education. I am proud to salute their leadership as an example for us all.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID  
THOMSON

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of David Thomson, a lifelong Boy Scout, dedicated patriot and beloved community activist who recently passed away at the age of 87. David died at his home in Redstone, Colorado after a lifetime of service to Colorado and the nation. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation and recognize his service and accomplishments.

David was born in Glen Ridge, New Jersey in 1917, and attended his first Boy Scout Jamboree in 1937. After he attained his Eagle Scout and Silver Beaver status with the Boy Scouts he met Shirley in 1940 and married her two years later. Together with their three children John, Janet, and JoAnn they lived in North Carolina, Virginia, and Texas where David served in the Marine Corps as an aircraft mechanic instructor during World War II. After the war, the family spent fourteen months in Lima, Peru while David was an inspector for Pan American. When his stint in Peru was completed, the family settled in Golden where David took swing shifts at the Gates Rubber Plant as he finished his coursework to complete his college degree.

In 1952, David completed his degree and applied to the Boy Scouts' Western Colorado Council to serve as a district executive in Grand Junction. After 20 years of long hours on nights and weekends, David retired to Redstone. There he served as a substitute teacher for the Roaring Fork School District and operated a small library that was used to give story hours on Saturday mornings. David and his wife Shirley were very active in their local church, which prompted the pastor to name them true "visionaries". Despite his busy career, David always maintained his service with the Boy Scouts, acting as a mentor and fundraiser for the Western Colorado Council.

Mr. Speaker, David Thomson was an honorable, kind, and genuine soul who lived a long and full life doing what he loved. He touched the lives of many who have been fortunate enough to cross his path, and I am privileged to recognize the life of such a tremendous public servant. My thoughts and prayers go out to David's family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE AIR  
CARGO HARDENED CONTAINER  
PILOT PROGRAM

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask for unanimous consent to address the House for as much time as I may consume.

I want to bring to the attention of this Congress, legislation that I have introduced today—The Hardened Containers for Air Cargo Security Act of 2004.

This legislation is in direct response to the 9/11 Commission Report's recommendation that a blast proof container should be on every commercial airplane that handles cargo. This legislation is a proactive step that puts this much needed and much delayed technology to immediate use.

To successfully implement the hardened container program, a win-win partnership needs to be formed between the government, the air carriers and the flying public.

This legislation puts these partners together. Specifically, this legislation creates a pilot program that does the following:

Creates an incentive program that provides assistance to air carriers to test the use of hardened containers.

Develops guidelines that determine the type of cargo that will be placed in hardened containers on a passenger aircraft.

The pilot program will test the function and interaction of the hardened containers with other components of the aviation security system. It will validate estimates of the quantity of hardened containers required in the air carriers' operations, and identify issues in logistics and control.

The pilot program will ultimately validate training and maintenance requirements required for integrating hardened containers into a carrier's fleet.

The total investment in this pilot program is \$1.7 million.

As the 9/11 Commission Report has outlined, our nation must have a layered ap-

proach to aviation security. Hardened containers and the subsequent program this legislation creates, I firmly believe, must be a staple in aviation passenger security in the near future.

Hardened containers, or blast proof containers as they are sometimes called, are the last line of defense if an explosive device eludes active security measures.

We cannot rely on one technology or one security measure to protect our citizens, our aviation infrastructure and our aircrafts.

Integrating a hardened container program will compliment technology and security measure that are already in place such as Explosive Detection Systems (EDS), on ground screeners, air marshals and of course our brave flight attendants.

Since the catastrophic bombing of Pan Am 103 in December 1988, industry, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Transportation Security Administration, have developed hardened containers that safely contain the detonation of bombs that otherwise would destroy airliners in flight.

We have made the investment in this technology, now is the time to integrate it into our aviation system. The hardened containers are effective now in preventing damage to airliners by bombs considerably larger than the one that destroyed Pan Am 103.

I ask my colleagues to strongly support the "The Hardened Containers for Air Cargo Security Act of 2004" and to comply with the 9/11 Commission Report's recommendation on this very important issue.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVE  
NORMAN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. SCOTT McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dave Norman, a dedicated Colorado native who has committed himself to 30 years of service on behalf of senior citizens in Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties. Dave is a compassionate individual whose devotion has aided over 8,800 seniors in Colorado. He is a valuable member of his community, and it is an honor to recognize his service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Dave received his bachelors degree from Colorado State University, and his masters degree in Social Work from the University of Denver. He has been the Director of the Northwest Colorado Area Agency on Aging for the past 30 years, which assists more than a quarter of the senior citizens in the Western Colorado region. The agency provides seniors with adult day care, home delivered meals, legal services, caregiver information, nutrition education, respite care, congregate meals and basic transportation.

Throughout his extensive career of service, Dave has found time to serve as the Director for the Northwest Colorado Council on Aging, a volunteer group that serves as an advisory board on senior needs and programs. He also served as a member and past chairman of the Colorado Aging Policy Advisory Committee for which he received an Outstanding Performance Award from the Colorado Division of