

Construction began in 1922, and the bridge opened on November 25, 1925. Even today, we can relate to the excitement and the anticipation of those citizens who were anxious to use the bridge for the first time.

As we dedicate the new bridge, we open a new chapter of our history on the Missouri River. For almost 80 years, the old bridge has served us faithfully. But after decades of service, it didn't take an engineer to spot serious problems. With portions of the old bridge floor falling through, and the crumbling of the sides, and the rusting of the superstructure, many have feared that our continued use of the old bridge was an invitation to tragedy. The new bridge comes none too soon.

The safety factor is the most immediate benefit of the new bridge for those who cross the wide Missouri at this point. Countless drivers have suffered from white knuckles on the steering wheel every time they crossed the old span.

Safety comes first, but we cannot underestimate how important modern and well-maintained roadways are for local economic development. A bridge that meets modern standards will enable companies and manufacturers to deliver and receive the goods they need to conduct business. It will allow farmers to safely transport agricultural goods. It will allow residents and visitors alike to travel freely and frequently.

This bridge symbolizes progress and that essential quality of American optimism: faith in the future; belief in ongoing prosperity; and our continuing effort to improve our country that has allowed America to prosper.

For thousands of years, the river has been witness to history. The new bridge will bear witness as those who cross the wide Missouri follow this road and add new chapters to the history of America.

Today, we celebrate. This achievement is a milestone for our state of Missouri. When you cross the bridge over the Missouri River, look down, and in your mind's eye, imagine the boatmen of the early 1800s as they pole their flatboats down the river toward the Port of St. Louis. And, if you listen intently, you will hear them singing that chanty of the day—

Shenandoah, I long to hear you,
Away, you rolling river,
Oh, Shenandoah, I long to hear you,
Away, I'm bound away,
'Cross the wide Missouri.

RECOGNITION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. ST. HELEN'S ERUPTION

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens.

At 8:32 a.m. on May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens erupted. The eruption lasted 9 hours, killed 57 people, and devastated 234 square miles of land. The landscape and community of southeast Washington were forever altered.

The eruption was triggered by an earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale that shook the northern face of the mountain, causing a massive avalanche of rock debris. This landslide opened a crater that engulfed the mountain's summit and produced a massive lateral blast eruption. Mudflows carrying

millions of cubic yards of debris washed down the river valleys and into the Columbia River. Tons of ash were strewn across eastern Washington and into the Earth's stratosphere.

After 18 years of relative quiescence, Mount St. Helens' volcano recaptured the world's attention in September of 2004 when it showed signs of reawakening. On September 23 a swarm of small, shallow earthquakes began in and beneath the 1980–1986 lava dome. Activity has continued on and off since then, with the lava dome growing and letting off periodic steam eruptions.

To protect the safety of communities located near Mount Saint Helens, I worked with Congressman NORM DICKS and Senator PATTY MURRAY to secure an additional \$1.5 million for the United States Geological Survey in the Emergency Supplemental to conduct the necessary monitoring of Mt. St. Helens. This funding will increase the safety of citizens living near the area and help protect commercial aircraft.

Today, to commemorate Mt. St. Helens' 25 years of recovery and renewal, people are gathering at Weyerhaeuser's Forest Learning Center at Mount St. Helens to reflect on the 1980 devastation and celebrate 25 years of nature's recovery, including the return of forests, plants, and wildlife. Additionally, Weyerhaeuser is pledging \$1 million in wood products, funding, and volunteer labor to help build Habitat for Humanity homes at the 2005 Jimmy Carter Work Project and in other communities across the United States and Canada.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
ALEXANDER ASHE, JR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the passing of Captain Alexander Ashe, Jr., an accomplished law enforcement professional and tireless community servant and activist, who died last Friday, May 13, 2005. Captain Ashe joined the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) in December 1973. He leaves behind a legacy of achievement and inspiration, for he was an example of what genuine caring and unrelenting commitment can accomplish. His passing is a great loss for our community.

To let you know the kind of man Captain Ashe was, I want to share with my colleagues this passage from his last job evaluation, in 2002, which included the following: "He has demonstrated concern for his subordinates, making himself available for guidance and direction. He encouraged his personnel to seek personal growth through departmental training and the promotional process." MDPD Major Chester Butler described Captain Ashe as ". . . someone who thought along the same line as I did . . . it was the best working relationships I've been fortunate to have in my career. I could always depend on him to be there for me."

As a resident of our community, he provided great wisdom and inspiration on issues affecting the Miami-Dade Police Department and was willing and ready to give of himself and put his problems on the back burner to help

others. His colleagues remember him as someone who always had the knack for providing excellent insight and courageous guidance on countless situations aimed at enhancing the professionalism of the MDPD. He was helpful to many junior officers, assisting them in their professional growth and development to help them qualify for higher rank and responsibility, and he did this without asking anything in return. A respected member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, he was a golf enthusiast who was also fascinated with computers.

Captain Alexander Ashe, Jr. is survived by his wife, MDPD Officer Patricia Ashe, son James Ashe IV; daughters MDPD Officer Deidre Ashe, Jasmine and Rene; his mother, Jefferine Richards, his extended police family and numerous other relatives and friends. As a public servant, Captain Ashe truly exemplified a unique leadership whose courageous vision and genuine caring for his fellow officers and the people whom he pledged to serve and protect evokes the character of his humanity. This is the legacy he left behind and it is how we will always remember him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2005 U.S.
PHYSICS OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the members of the 2005 United States Physics Olympiad Team. These 24 individuals have shown tremendous aptitude in physics and leadership amongst their peers.

It is very challenging to earn a spot on this prestigious team. After being nominated by their high school teachers and taking a preliminary exam, 200 students qualified to take the second and final screening exam for the U.S. Physics Team. The 24 survivors of that group represent the top physics students in the U.S., and they are now at a 9-day training camp of intense study, examination and problem solving. Five of these students will advance and compete for our country in July at the International Physics Olympiad in Salamanca, Spain.

Members of the 2005 team include: Thomas D. Belulovich, David Chen, Timothy F. Credo, Nickolas A. Fortino, YingYu Gao, Sherry Gong, Timothy H. Hsieh, Anthony E. Kim, John Y. Kim, Jenny L. Kwan, Chor Hang Lam, Samuel S. Lederer, Menyong Lee, David Lo, Anton S. Malyshev, Sarah E. Marzen, Eric J. Mecklenburg, Aaron H. Potechin, John D. Schulman, William T. Throwe, Madeleine R. Udell, Ameya A. Velingker, Daniel P. Whalen and Fan Zhang.

Mr. Speaker, as a nuclear physicist and formal physics professor, I have worked to promote math and science education and to emphasize the pivotal role these fields play in our nation's economic competitiveness and national security. Educating our K–12 students in math and science is very important. It is encouraging to see so many young, outstanding physics students enthusiastic about science. I hope their enthusiasm will be contagious to other students who will be drawn to challenging and rewarding careers in math and