

she could land, flying in Alaska's extreme weather conditions and restoring airplanes.

Some of her experiences were delightful, others were not. Like July 10, 1980, the day that the engine in Ellen's Piper Twin Pacer quit somewhere between Farewell and McGrath. The plane fell like a brick and crashed into a stand of trees. A day and a half later, after making a smoke fire from brush and engine oil to call attention to the downed aircraft, she was rescued.

That incident gave Ellen a new nickname, "the survivor." The chapter devoted to Ellen in Sandi Sumner's book "Women Pilots of Alaska" is entitled "The Survivor." But it goes on to note that surviving the July 1980 crash in the Alaska bush was one of many crises in Ellen's life from which she grew and thrived.

Ellen was born in Kotzebue, AK, a relatively large community, in Alaska's bush. Ellen's parents divorced when she was age 5. Her father left the picture following the divorce. Her mother was never around. The family moved from Kotzebue to the big city of Anchorage.

Ellen took on the role of mother to her two sisters at the age of 9 and carried on until the age of 12 when the State moved the children into foster homes, splitting the family up to Ellen's protestations. By 14 Ellen was living in a detention facility. She looked at a magazine with airplanes on the cover and said, "This is going to change my life."

Indeed, it did. At age 16, holding a dividend check from Cook Inlet Region, one of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act regional corporations created by Congress, Ellen went to Merrill Field, the general aviation airport in Anchorage, to take flying lessons. The rest is history.

When Ellen spoke to groups of at-risk kids, she could relate from her personal experience. She told them:

I was just like you. I got no encouragement. When you decide to do something don't let anyone or anything discourage you. It's up to you.

In aviation as in life, attitude influences altitude. With an attitude like this it is no wonder that Ellen will be remembered as a "heroine in aviation." That was the name of an exhibit sponsored by the Chicago Airport System which also chronicled Ellen's extraordinary life adventure.

On March 15, a celebration of Ellen's life will take place at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum in Anchorage. I regret that I will not be able to attend this event to commemorate the achievements of this truly Renaissance woman. So I am taking a few minutes of the Senate's time today to pay tribute to this individual who I so deeply respect.

I thank the Senate for allowing me to take a few moments today to speak of Ellen Paneok, one of many Alaskans whose contributions to the making of my home State will be repeated again

and again in the run-up to the 50th anniversary of Alaska's statehood next January.

Sadly, Ellen will not be with us in person to celebrate that 50th anniversary, yet her inspiring life will not be forgotten. It is forever a part of Alaska's history. ●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1084. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, and the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to build operational readiness in civilian agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1424. To amend section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, section 2705 of the Public Health Service Act, and section 9812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require equity in the provision of mental health and substance-related disorder benefits under group health plans, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5159. An act to establish the Office of the Capitol Visitor Center within the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, headed by the Chief Executive Officer for Visitor Services, to provide for the effective management and administration of the Capitol Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2734. A bill to aid families and neighborhoods facing home foreclosure and address the subprime mortgage crisis.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. SUNUNU):

S. 2731. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL:

S. 2732. A bill to expand the definition of independent student under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include active members of the National Guard or Reserve forces of the United States and to prevent payments of educational assistance for veterans and members of the Selected Reserve from being offset in the calculation of financial aid under such Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2733. A bill to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965; considered and passed.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. 2734. A bill to aid families and neighborhoods facing home foreclosure and address the subprime mortgage crisis; read the first time.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 2735. A bill to establish the Council on Healthy Housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2736. A bill to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. Res. 476. A resolution designating March 25, 2008, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CONRAD:

S. Con. Res. 70. An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013; from the Committee on the Budget; placed on the calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 507

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 507, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 1795

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1795, a bill to improve access to workers' compensation programs for injured Federal employees.

S. 2142

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S.