

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF NMMI TV

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 20th anniversary of New Mexico Military Institute Television Productions in Roswell, NM. New Mexico is proud to have on the finest military schools in the country, New Mexico Military Institute. NMMI is known for academic excellence, offering one of the few 2-year Army Officer Commissioning Programs in the United States, and having a tough curriculum for the development of strength and character of the young men and women who attend NMMI from literally all around the world. In addition to this, NMMI has contributed greatly to its local community, through, among other things, outstanding television broadcasting produced at NMMI.

This school year NMMI Television Productions will begin its 20th season of providing the Roswell community with local and original broadcasting. Over 300 cadets, and numerous local citizens-as-program hosts and other community volunteers have been a part of this effort. Their programming ranges from community services, retirement programs and activities, bilingual awareness shows, sports, medicine, news, recreation and other programs of interest for and about Roswell. I commend NMMI-TV Productions for providing this additional technical and educational program as part of an experience-by-doing learning laboratory for cadets interested in the field of television broadcasting.

Recently, the superintendent of NMMI, Lt. Gen. Robert D. Beckel, came and briefed me on the many wonderful accomplishments and improvements taking place at NMMI. NMMI Television Productions is clearly an example of this excellence and what they are doing for the men and women attending their institution as well the local community. I am attaching an article from the Roswell Daily Record that explains in detail the exceptional work being done by this unique program. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting NMMI and NMMI Television Productions for their all-around dedication to the NMMI Corps of Cadets and the community of Roswell.

[From the Roswell Daily Record, Sept. 8, 1996]

NMMI BROADCASTS 20TH YEAR OF TV PRODUCTION

(By Marifrank DaHarb)

Lights . . . camera . . . and ACTION begins Tuesday as the New Mexico Military Institute TV Productions enters its 20th season on the air.

Under the supervision of executive producer Col. Bruce McLaren and director of broadcasting Lt. Col. Cory Woodbury, the NMMI programming airs on cable channel 11 every Tuesday night during the academic year.

"We share the channel with Community Calendar, First Baptist Church and Roswell City Council meetings," McLaren said. He also said they can offer local programming and a link to satellite teleconferences and telecourses to the community, Roswell schools and Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell as well as the institute.

"We've been on the telecommunications cutting edge for 20 years," McLaren said,

"hosting numerous broadcast events and now extending into such new areas as a proposed additional downlink site from Eastern, the new Western Governors University and availability as a node in the new statewide telecommunications network now in the planning stages."

McLaren said the NMMI program's focus has always been on cadet training, sometimes for school credit and sometimes for fun.

"We have 27 volunteer cadets right now," he said, "and a waiting list."

College sophomore Estevan Padilla of Espanola is in his third year at the institute but this is his first year of involvement with TV production. "My friend, Mike, got me into it," he said. "It's my first experience with television, but I was already in audio as a member of the VMV Club which is open to everyone, not just for cadets."

"We set up for dances and other performers such as comedians, singers, bands, whatever they need us for."

Padilla's friend, Mike Ulanski of Wahiawa, Hawaii, also a sophomore and in his third year, said, "I did this all last year, including special projects like taping alumni activities during Homecoming and the superintendent's retirement party. We'll tape anything as long as it's approved by Col. McLaren."

Ulanski explained the cadets rotate responsibilities. "For one show, you might be director," he said. "For the next one you might be in charge of audio."

Mark Jacobs of Albuquerque is in his third year at NMMI and is a junior in high school. This is his second year in TV production. "I think I'm very interested in taking this another step," he said.

Lt. Col. Woodbury believes the experience can be invaluable, even if it's not a career goal. "One cadet who graduated from here worked his way through college working for PBS (Public Broadcasting System)."

Martha Ortiz of El Paso, a college freshman, said she had been at NMMI some 21 days. She got interested in TV production after learning about it at an event in the gym showcasing campus activities. "I like it a lot," she said. "It's very interesting."

The programs offered have a variety of interests for public viewing. Dori Lenz Wagner is no stranger to the production end, having been a frequent guest on Diane Holdson's "How To . . ." But this fall her own show, "Quilting," debuts. The nationally known quilting instructor will teach four different patterns—Fancy Three Patch, Mandevilla, Attic Window and Snowball—as well as how to finish a quilt. Everything will be machine pieced with rotary cutting.

"This is the first time they've done a quilting show," she said. "I think it'll be fun and I'm looking forward to it."

Wagner's six shows will alternate weeks with newcomer Bo Shero. Shero's program is on woodcarving. "I plan to take them through a full project of carving a bluebird," he said, "including all the techniques for attaching the wings, heads and feet and painting and sharpening tools."

Shero is new to Roswell as well as NMMI-TV. He spent five years as a guest woodcarver at Silver Dollar City in Branson, MO, where people demonstrate how things were done in the Ozarks in the 1890s.

"We think we have a good line-up this fall," McLaren said. "But we'd like to be able to offer shows for the home handyman and the Roswell gardener or something like 'New Mexico Out-of-Doors' and 'Learning to play . . . whatever musical instrument.' We're limited only by the availability of program hosts."

"LINKED FINANCING"—A NEW CONCEPT IN AVIATION FUNDING

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the purpose of introducing legislation to establish an innovative new funding mechanism for the Federal Aviation Administration. We've named this new funding mechanism Linked Financing and I'm introducing the legislation at this obviously late date to ensure interested committees such as the Budget, Ways and Means and Transportation Committees, as well as organizations such as the National Civilian Aviation Review Commission, will have an opportunity to study and consider this interesting concept before work begins again next year on the controversial issue of FAA financing reform.

This concept known as Linked Financing is something I've worked on with my friends at the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). AOPA has devoted substantial time and effort to refining the idea, and I believe it holds considerable promise for addressing the future funding needs of our Nation's air transportation system. It's based on a simple premise. That is, the services provided by the FAA are an essential Government function largely financed by the users of the system. As we know, under existing budget rules the cap on discretionary spending and the trade-offs it requires, sometimes constrain our ability to fully fund programs which are largely funded by the users.

This situation cries out for a fresh approach. Next year, Congress will begin to debate a number of issues closely tied to the future of aviation funding. The House, in an overwhelming vote to take the transportation trust funds off budget, has sent the clear signal that it wants transportation trust fund monies fully spent for the intended purpose. An internal fight among airlines for market share has crept into Congress and will likely cause a reexamination of the current airline ticket tax structure. Finally, the Clinton administration, in an attempt to use more discretionary spending to fund its liberal social agenda, has created what I believe is an artificial FAA funding crisis in order to justify a new aviation tax structure.

All of these issues contain potential pitfalls. Taking the transportation trust funds out of the unified budget process could send a mixed signal as we seek to balance the Federal budget over the next 7 years. It remains to be seen whether readjusting the airline ticket tax structure will increase either safety or savings to the traveling public. The administration has not been able to adequately demonstrate its alleged aviation funding shortfall. And its proposed solution, new aviation taxes, has a number of additional problems. They are costly to collect, they can disrupt the financial planning of the airlines, they have safety implications, and—most important—FAA would have little direct accountability to Congress for how the agency spends the money.

Linked Financing is a better alternative. This plan would provide FAA the funding the administration says it needs, but, unlike imposing the administration's proposed new aviation taxes, would not circumvent the current budget process.