

TRIBUTE TO A FLIER

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, bustling in the skies overhead—airplanes and helicopters—satellites and spaceships—dirigibles and sometimes even UFO's—orbit the Earth in voyages of commerce, missions of mercy, and war, flights of fantasy and excursions of adventure and leisure.

For centuries our ancestors had no paths through the clouds. Once, most thought man would never fly; that only birds might soar the kingdom of clouds and rainbows. Today pilots steer passengers through the clouds and across the starry skies because dreamers and thinkers and inventors held to a faith that someday man would navigate the heavens.

Those who keep faith in their missions open new worlds and inspire us all to reach new heights.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a little bit of the story of one of our Nation's first black commercial airline pilots. Perry Jones is one of those faithful whose hard work, spirit, and dedication chartered a new course to the future. He is a model for young people who are pursuing dreams of flying and he is a model for older people who are searching out new rainbows when they retire from their life's work. Mr. Speaker, Capt. M. Perry Jones is one of our Nation's high flying heroes.

LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT FOR CAPT. M. PERRY JONES

On 16 December 94, Perry retired from Delta Airlines. Perry flew with Pan American World Airways for 26 years and Delta Air Lines for three. Not only was Perry Pan Am's first Black pilot and Captain, he was captain of the last Pan Am flight to depart London.

Perry has been a member of OBAP since 1977 and has served as NE regional Vice President, President, and presently as Chairman of the Board.

Perry's aviation career started in October, 1959. He served until December, 1965 in the USAF, first as a navigator and then as a pilot. He achieved the rank of Captain, flew over 100 missions over Vietnam, and received the air medal for valor. He has received many recognitions and awards including "Outstanding Service" awards from Delta Air Lines, the National Naval Officers Association (Pensacola, Florida), and Berlin American High School (Berlin, Germany).

Perry has served as an "Expert in Residence," keynote speaker, panelist, workshop presenter, university lecturer and presented testimony to the U.S. Congress.

Topics have included: Flying Safety; The Air War in Vietnam; The Responsibilities of Being an American; Race in America; What's Wrong with America?

Your Triple "A" Plan to Success; Wines; The Rise and Fall of Pan Am; Civilian Aviation and Training Programs; Minorities in Aviation; The Red Cross in Vietnam; Bessie Coleman, An American Heroine; and Willa Brown-Aviatrix.

Perry's advice to those retiring is "just enjoy every minute." His retirement plans include some consultant work and skiing. However, Perry is as busy as ever flying again with Delta as flight engineer. Congratulations and Best Wishes to Captain M. Perry Jones. Enjoy your retirement. OBAP appreciates your hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO KEN MOFFETT

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a product of K-through-12 public schooling in Los Angeles, I can testify it works. It certainly did for me.

But virtually every school in the Los Angeles Unified School System—including those I attended—could work better. And they must, if every kid is to get every chance to succeed.

An extraordinary public school administrator who transformed Lennox schools into safe, attractive, graffiti-free havens for some of Los Angeles County's poorest children has just retired. I would like to share with my colleagues an excellent article about a visionary educator and friend, Ken Moffett, whose leadership will be sorely missed:

[From the Daily Breeze, July 28, 1996]

TO SIR, WITH LOVE—LENNOX SCHOOLS SAY GOODBYE TO SUPERINTENDENT

(By Marie Montgomery)

The Ken Moffett era in the Lennox School District is drawing to a close this week.

Not too many school superintendents qualify to have an era named after them. Then again, not too many have a school named after them while they're still alive, and it's unusual to find one who has worked in the same district for almost 20 years.

Moffett, 61, has done all that and more since coming to Lennox in 1976.

On Wednesday night, the Manhattan Beach resident will walk out the door of his district headquarters and leave his superintendent title behind him. He is retiring to become an education professor at Pepperdine University this fall. He'll also head the university's administrative training program.

Bruce McDaniel, the district's assistant superintendent for business who has worked with Moffett for more than 10 years, will take over the Lennox superintendent post this week.

"I wanted to leave on a positive note, and I'm doing that," Moffett said, "I'd like to leave without people's hands pushing in the middle of my back."

That was hardly likely given that Moffett was named National Superintendent of the Year in 1994. But retiring now gives him a chance to pursue a second career in academia—one which may help create many more "Moffett trainees" to go out and run California's schools.

"Ken, for us exemplifies the outstanding qualities needed by a leader to take schools into the 21st century. . . . We're very fortunate to get him," said Terrence Cannings, associate dean for education at Pepperdine. "He brings such a wealth of experience to anyone in today's tumultuous educational environment, and he has the ability to communicate that background to prospective teachers and administrators."

Among Moffett's accomplishments at Lennox:

He transformed district campuses into safe, attractive, graffiti-free havens for some of Los Angeles County's poorest children.

He helped convince the state in 1985 to give his district \$8.2 million to buy Lennox High School from the Centinela Valley Union High School District, refurbish it for \$2.7 million provided by the state, and convert it to Lennox Middle School.

He fought state and federal governments in the 1970s and 1980s for the right to build a new elementary school on land the district

owned directly in the flight path of Los Angeles International Airport, and then got the state to kick in money to build the school underground and soundproof it. Kenneth Moffett Elementary School opened in 1990.

The same year he won the national superintendent's title—a first for a California superintendent—he also was given the Marcus Foster Award, named for the Oakland schools chief assassinated by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

Lennox School District was one of the first in the South Bay to join the computer revolution, with the district schools already wired for classroom use of the Internet.

Teacher salaries in Lennox are the highest in the county, so the district can attract and keep qualified employees.

Glowing accolades are about all anyone will hear about Moffett.

His employees praise his enthusiasm and hard work. Colleagues in other South Bay districts stand in awe of his ability to communicate with everyone in the Lennox community, even gang members. And the direct beneficiaries of his work—Lennox students—know their superintendent by name a rarity in most other districts.

"He's Mr. Lennox to me," said school board member Mary Davis who has worked with Moffett for 10 years. "Before I got on the board, I said to myself, 'Who is this man? They think of him like God.' Then when I got to know him, I realized he can talk to anybody and associate wit anybody. Children come first for him. I can't say anything bad about this man."

El Segundo Unified School District Superintendent Bill Manahan said Moffett has always been generous with a sympathetic ear and advice for other administrators.

"If there is anyone I could emulate, it would be Ken Moffett," Manahan said. "He just has such a sense of love for the community, for the kids. It goes beyond the kids—he cares about the families, too."

Moffett made a point of visiting every classroom in his district, every year. He expected all his teachers and administrators to help give extra treats and incentives to students such as trips to a Dodgers game or a restaurant, and he pitched in with those duties too.

About the only time in Moffett's superintendent career that wasn't rosy was when he resigned briefly in 1986 to take the top job at the ABC Unified School District in east Los Angeles County.

He had a frustrating 15 months, caught in the middle of district politics. When he decided to apply to return to Lennox because the school board still hadn't filled his old post, he was criticized by some for missing the application deadline and getting rehired anyway.

But Hector Carrio, a board member who initially voted against rehiring Moffett, is now one of his big fans.

"I feel he is one of the most outstanding human beings," said Carrio, who worked with Moffett in 1970 at Monroe Junior High School in Inglewood when Moffett was a principal and Carrio was a teacher. "Under his leadership, we have only one concern—the students. It's our main concern and the rest doesn't count for us."

Moffett came to Inglewood from Western Washington State College in 1957, originally intending to teach for one year and then attend law school.

He never made it. After teaching English and physical education at Crozier Junior High School and working at a school for children of the U.S. military in Germany, he became an Inglewood administrator and then was hired by Lennox.

Situated in one of the poorest inner-city areas in California, the Lennox district