

Mr. Speaker, Tony DeMarinis was a public servant of the highest order. He served his country in the Army for three decades. He served the City of Groton as City Clerk. He did so unselfishly and with boundless enthusiasm and pride. Tony DeMarinis embodied all of the best qualities of America—service, patriotism and pride in community. I extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

U.S. AIRLINES REACH SAFETY
MILESTONE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, in the late summer of 1908, just five years after he and his brother, Wilbur, completed the first successful powered flight at Kitty Hawk, Orville Wright was demonstrating their flying machine for the U.S. Army Signal Corps at Ft. Myer, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from where we now assemble.

After a successful first flight, Orville took off again, this time with a young Signal Corps officer, Lt. Thomas Selfridge, aboard. As they completed their first circuit of the field, Orville heard two strange thumps. He cut the engine and attempted to glide the plane to a safe landing, but the Wright Flyer lost lift and plummeted nose-first to the ground.

Lt. Selfridge died as a result of the crash and became the first person ever to be killed in an airplane accident. Orville Wright survived, but took four months to recover from his injuries.

Now, 90 years after that fatal day at Ft. Myer, air travel has become commonplace. Last year, American air carriers transported 615 million passengers, most of us in this House among them, through the skies. However, for the first time in the 31 years such records have been kept, and possibly the first time in history, U.S. airlines completed their flights without a single fatal accident. Let me repeat that: 615 million passengers carried by U.S. scheduled air carriers, not one single fatality.

For many years now, statistics have shown that travel on America's airlines has been among the safest of all transportation modes. In contrast, 42,000 people died on America's roads, streets and highways in 1997, the latest year for which a total is available.

The airlines are to be congratulated for this remarkable safety record. Congratulations, too, are to be extended to the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the aircraft manufacturers, all of whom can share credit for this remarkable accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, we indeed have cause to celebrate, but we must also temper our celebration with a dose of realism. Travel, whether by air, rail, highway or sea, is never without some element of risk. We cannot rest on this single year's result.

Worldwide, flights are expected to increase from 16.3 million this year to over 25 million by 2010. The number of passengers on U.S. domestic and international flights is expected to increase to over 900 million by 2006, a 50 percent increase over 10 years. We must be ready to manage this growth.

Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater and FAA Administrator Jane Garvey, in partnership with the aviation community, have initiated a targeted safety agenda, focusing on issues such as terrain avoidance systems, to help us meet the challenge.

We in Congress must ensure that airports continue to have the resources to make critical capacity and safety investments. The FAA and NTSB must have the safety inspectors, air traffic controllers, airway system specialists and the air traffic control equipment to meet the increased aviation demand. As a matter of fact, from all indications, we can expect to debate a measure on the House floor sometime this year to provide these resources.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee since I was first elected to the House 24 years ago. When I had the privilege to chair the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee, and later the Aviation Subcommittee, I held many, many hours of hearings which called the airlines, the manufacturers and the FAA to account for practices that threatened to diminish the margins of safety for the traveling public. I feel it is only right that, when the country's air transportation system has achieved such a remarkable safety record, I should also stand to give those responsible the credit they most certainly deserve.

I call upon my colleagues to join me in this commendation.

RECOGNITION OF DELRAY BEACH
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce's acquisition of its 1,000th member. The membership of Redhead Yacht Charters, owned and operated by Mr. Jerry Janaro, bring the Delray Chamber's membership to 1000, placing the Chamber in an elite group of just 30 Chambers in Florida to have reached this landmark.

The Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce has an 86 year history of serving the South Florida business community boasting over 175 businesses which have been members for 15 years or more, including a select group which is celebrating their 50th anniversary with the Chamber.

Although Mr. Janaro's Redhead Yacht Charters is a new member, Jerry is not new to the Chamber. Jerry joined the Chamber in 1984 and has served on the executive board, holding positions as Vice Chair of area committees as well as Chairman of the Board. Jerry has joined other chambers now that his business takes him up and down the coast, but says, "None can beat the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce for value, services and friendliness. It's the best chamber around."

The mission of the Chamber is to provide "leadership, promote the economic well being of our total community, preserve our free enterprise system, and promote business growth and development." Mr. Speaker, the Delray Chamber is doing a fine job in promoting their mission and I congratulate them on their milestone 1,000th membership.

HONORING DR. MARY SCOPATZ

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Mary Scopatz of Santa Barbara, California as she retires on January 29, 1999 after serving our local schools for 28 years.

Mary began her distinguished career in 1970 as the Department Chair and teacher for the Santa Barbara High School Business Education Department. After only three years, she was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1973. In 1978, she served as the Project Director for Disadvantaged Students, and then became the coordinator for the Youth Employment Training Programs and the Private Sector Involvement Project.

After receiving her Educational Doctorate in 1980, Mary focused her attention on involving local industry with education as the Director of the Santa Barbara Industry Education Council, and providing year round and summer employment opportunities for young people as the Director of the Career and Youth Employment Programs.

Mary has also shown a deep commitment to her community through her involvement in organizations such as the American Vocational Association, the California Business Education Association, as a member of both the Santa Barbara and the Goleta Chambers of Commerce, the Santa Barbara Youth Coalition, and the Children's Resource and Referral program.

Recently, my office had the pleasure of working with Mary on establishing a Job Corps Program on the Central Coast. Her determination and commitment to the success of young people is unquestionable.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Mary Scopatz for her lifelong work as a committed, innovative educator. Her dedication and vision will be missed but never forgotten.

HONORING MRS. RUTH ANN HALL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman, Mrs. Ruth Ann Hall of Waldorf, MD who passed away on January 18, 1999. Her passing is a tremendous loss for her family and all the people who knew her.

Ruth Ann graduated from Charles County Community College and the University of Maryland and was a teacher for the Charles County Public Schools for more than 20 years. She was voted outstanding teacher of the year in the mid-1980s, was a past president of the Education Association of Charles County and was active in many political associations.

Christa McAuliffe, one of our country's best known teachers, used as her credo: "I touch the future, I teach." Ruth Ann touched, indeed she embraced and shaped, the future. Ruth Ann fought tirelessly for children and for their teachers. She advocated public policies that would benefit our students and recognize the critical importance and inestimable worth of