

Over the course of the years, people mighty and small fell under the spell of her vision—or in some cases simply gave up trying to thwart her.

As Hechinger put it, "I personally was a victim of her strongest characteristic: tenacity. She's a bulldog who envelops you in the rightness of her cause."

Thick wire cables dangled in the dark, empty shell boarded up with plywood. Glass crackled underfoot as fellow visionary Delores Farr walked a few paces and paused.

"I want you to know I'm standing in my office," she said.

"Your office is closer to that window, isn't it?" Lubic asked, pointing toward a blank concrete wall.

Down there on one end, where the store's dairy section once was located, will be the entrance for pregnant women coming for delivery or pre- or postnatal care. Women needing social services and day care will enter on the other side. High-risk patients will deliver at Howard University Hospital, where nurse-midwives will have admitting privileges.

It's not surprising that Lubic and Farr can visualize in the dark shell a bright center bustling with patients and clients. Both could see it in their minds before they'd even identified a site.

In 1994, a friend told Lubic that she should look up Farr, director of the Healthy Babies Project, a private nonprofit group. Farr and her workers walk the streets of tough neighborhoods. They visit crack houses, liquor stores, beauty shops—anywhere they might find a pregnant woman and persuade her to get prenatal care. They offer parenting classes, counseling, help with obtaining addiction treatment. Lubic's birthing center, Farr agreed, would be a perfect place to relocate.

"Meeting Ruth was like a dream come true," Farr said. "We immediately saw eye to eye on the needs and issues. We've been joined at the hip ever since."

There were so many obstacles—getting a place and raising millions of dollars was just the start. They needed all kinds of permits from D.C. health officials, building officials, zoning officials. They needed assurances of Medicaid reimbursement, legal help, partnership with a hospital.

People told them it would never happen. You can't even get potholes around here fixed, they said. You'll never get a big, complicated project like this rising out of nothing.

But they kept on pushing with the plan. They will get to pregnant women early through the Healthy Babies outreach. The birthing center, Lubic hopes, will give women more control over their pregnancies. And because birthing center deliveries cost 30 to 60 percent less than hospital deliveries, she said, the savings could help fund other services.

Lubic managed to persuade city officials to designate her still-imaginary center as a future welfare-to-work site. Still, they would need day care for the clients for whom they found jobs.

So in 1996, Lubic and Farr met with Travis Hardmon, of the National Child Day Care Association. At that point, the center lived only in their imaginations, but how would he feel, they asked, about organizing child care for infants and toddlers?

"His eyes lit up," Lubic said. "Since then, he's been the answer to a maiden's prayer."

And although Lubic had been told 100 times that she couldn't have the Hechinger property, that didn't stop anybody on the new team.

"Travis brought in Bill Davis, and things then really started coming together," Lubic said.

Davis, a project manager with nonprofit development experience, couldn't get inside

the building, but from outside the chain-link fence, he studied the property and pictured the renovations. And Lubic turned up the heat on Hechinger and Garibaldi.

Initially, the property manager refused even to put her in touch with Hechinger. But she kept coming back, and coming back. "One day, somehow, she got me to see her vision," Geribaldi said. He began to lobby members of Hechinger Enterprises, the family partnership, as did Lubic's new friends.

"Things were constantly cropping up where I'd say, 'Oh no, Ruth Lubic again,'" Hechinger said. "Donna Shalala called and said, 'I'm really not in a position to tell you what to do with your property, but this is a tremendous thing Ruth Lubic is up to.'"

While the Hechinger family considered various proposals at quarterly meetings, Lubic handed planning grants from two national foundations and an anonymous donor.

The first big breakthrough came about a year ago when city officials discovered that millions in unspent grants were about to revert to the federal government unless quickly allocated.

"We ran like crazy" to put together a proposal, Lubic said. The city awarded \$785,000 on the condition that the money be matched within a few months—a seemingly impossible goal. But Sullivan, the former HHS secretary, soon became the second answer to a maiden's prayer.

Sullivan now president of the Morehouse School of Medicine, had agreed to a friend's request to meet with Lubic. "I was immediately impressed and began introducing her to people I know," he said.

He contacted a friend at Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., Dick Thompson, who secured a donation from his company. Thompson then got his friends at other drug companies to arrange corporate donations.

Sullivan said a lawyer friend set up a meeting for him with Katharine Graham, chairman of the executive committee of The Washington Post Co. Two foundations set up in honor of her parents and husband donated a total of \$100,000. Lubic's former employer in New York kicked in another \$100,000, law firms helped and the match was made.

Sullivan is still working on the case. "A few days ago on Martha's Vineyard, I ran into a few people and asked for their help. [Del.] Eleanor Holmes Norton, for one, indicated she'd follow up."

A \$1.2 million grant awarded last month by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will help with operating costs. The building donated by the Hechinger family came with a contingency clause—that Lubic would run the center for at least three years.

"I laughed when I heard the condition and answered, 'God willing, Lubic said."

Her son, Douglas, a New York lawyer said Hechinger can count on Lubic to persevere.

"The day she stops working for what she believes is right," he said, "will be the day she dies."

U.S. PARK POLICE AVIATION UNIT CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last month, the United States Park Police Aviation Unit celebrated its 25th anniversary of service to the nation's capital. We all remember the vivid heroics of the unit in the Air Flor-

ida crash rescue on the Potomac River in 1982, and the valiant effort here at the Capitol earlier this summer. I know all Members will want to join me in congratulating Park Police Chief Robert Langston and the Unit on this important anniversary of service. As the Washington Times puts it "Park Police take to the air in any and all emergencies."

PARK POLICE TAKE TO THE AIR IN ANY AND ALL EMERGENCIES

[By Kristan Trugman]

A 36-year-old man on a motorcycle collides with another motorcycle as the two men swerve to avoid a piece of wood in the road near Crofton. The man slides across Route 450 and is in need of medical help.

Within minutes, the phone rings about 5:20 p.m. Saturday at the U.S. Park Police Aviation Section—called the Eagles Nest—at Anacostia Park.

Sgt. Kevin Duckworth, 36, a pilot, and Officer Doug Bullock, 32, a rescue technician, look at a map, grab their helmets and climb into Eagle 1, a twin-engine helicopter. They head to Crofton to fly the victim to Prince George's Hospital Center in Cheverly.

The helicopter lands in a grassy field at Crofton Middle School and waits about 10 minutes for an ambulance to arrive from the accident scene about 6 miles away. At 5:55 p.m., Sgt. Duckworth lifts the helicopter off the ground; five minutes later, doctors at the hospital are examining the man, who will recover.

The Saturday mission is one of more than 6,000 medical evacuations performed by the helicopter section since 1973.

The section is best known for its rescue of passengers in the January 1982 crash of an Air Florida jet into the 14th Street Bridge and Potomac River.

Most recently, it flew a mortally wounded Special Agent Officer John M. Gibson, 42, to the Washington Hospital Center on July 24 after the shooting at the U.S. Capitol that also killed Officer Jacob J. Chestnut, 58.

While those missions highlighted the aviation unit in the news, its primary role and about half of its work is law-enforcement operations. The officers in the sky patrol assist officers on the ground almost daily.

Since the demise of the Metropolitan Police Department's helicopter branch in 1996, the Park Police has the only law-enforcement aviation unit in Washington. Its main function is to assist the U.S. Park Police, but it also helps medical and law enforcement agencies across the metro area.

At the crew's discretion and depending on the number of hours the helicopters have flown in a month, officers can patrol in the air, usually for about an hour.

"You fly for an hour and you feel you've been through the wringer. It can be fatiguing," says Officer Ronald Galey, 49, who has been a member of the unit since 1977 and a pilot since 1987. A few minutes later, he and Officer Bullock take Eagle 1 up for patrol about 9 p.m. Saturday night.

The helicopter whirls past the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, all glowing in the night.

The officers let dispatchers know they are in the air and available for assistance.

"Let's see if we can find an aggressive driver or two," Officer Bullock says.

In the next few minutes, the officers spot aggressive drivers along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and again on the Capitol Beltway near the American Legion Bridge. The officers shine a spotlight on the drivers, who quickly slow down.

"It lets them know someone is watching them," Officer Bullock says.

The rain and chill in the air Saturday night apparently kept criminals indoors.

"It's pretty quiet out there," Officer Bullock says as his eyes scan the ground and he listens to the police radio. "I'm not at all surprised, given the weather," Officer Galey says.

After an hour, the officers land the helicopter, refuel, fill out paperwork and wait for the next call.

In its 25 years—an anniversary the unit celebrated in a recent ceremony—the section has flown more than 25,000 hours without an accident. Since January 1994, the unit of 15 officers—six pilots, seven rescue technicians who are certified paramedics, and two administrators—operates 24 hours a day.

Park Police formed the aviation section in April 1973. It provides support for law enforcement, emergency medical evacuation for trauma patients, search-and-rescue missions, presidential and dignitary security, and transportation of high-risk prisoners.

Congress funds the unit—part of the U.S. Department of the Interior—that flies about 1,000 hours each year. The unit has two helicopters—Eagle 1, a Bell 412 SP, and Eagle 2, a Bell 206 Long-Ranger. Funding for a third helicopter is included in the \$8.5 million budget for the aviation unit in the D.C. appropriations bill.

The two helicopters have thermal imagers that indicate heat and help officers find criminals hiding in woods or trespassers in federal parks after dark. They also have high-intensity searchlights, which is what the officers focused on the aggressive drivers.

The twin-engine helicopter has a rescue hoist system that has 245 feet of cable and can lift 600 pounds. The officers also have radios on board that allow them direct contact with officers on the ground.

From 1991 to 1997, the unit responded to more than 9,500 calls for assistance, performed more than 2,376 medical evacuations and responded to more than 730 search-and-rescue operations. It assisted on more than 3,360 criminal calls and 979 arrests and provided more than 812 flights for the president and other dignitaries.

"That's why I like it here. There's a variety," Sgt. Duckworth says.

When the helicopters are in the air, the rescue technicians handle the operation while the pilot concentrates on flying.

Officer Galey particularly enjoys the flights chasing fleeing criminals in cars. They are challenging, he says, because while watching sky, the pilot also is forced to divert his attention to the car on the road.

"And you're a little lower than you normally would be. There are a lot of towers to be cognizant of," he said.

Most pilots and rescue technicians agree that the most difficult operations are those involving injured children. "Nine times out of 10, it's because an adult messed up. They are victims of circumstance," Sgt. Duckworth said, sitting at aviation headquarters, where a gray cat has taken up residence and keeps the mice away.

Officer Galey said fewer patients are dying while en route to hospitals because, through the years, medics on the ground have been better trained and are more equipped to stabilize patients before they are put into the helicopter.

guished group of veterans and their families at Triangle Park in the great city of Hialeah, Florida.

Before I spoke, a young man also addressed the audience. I could hardly believe that the young orator was a senior in high school.

Erich Almonte has recently graduated from Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory and he is currently attending Georgetown University. I am certain that you will agree that his brilliant speech, which I will now recite as he did that morning, captures the essence of what being American is truly about.

Thank you. Good morning members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, their auxiliaries, Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, councilmen, and all others here today. Memorial Day is an opportunity for us as Americans to thank and honor those men and women who have served our country in the armed forces, including both of my grandfathers and my father, and especially to honor those who have died in that service. It is a solemn occasion, yet one of celebration, for we know that these individuals did not die in vain. You see, we find one day a year to explicitly thank these men and women, but each time someone exercises his or her right to vote, each day we live without fear, each time we enjoy the freedoms of democracy is a testament to their service and sacrifice. And today I would like to thank these men and women, and their fellows in the American Legion and VFW, for all that they have done. Not only are they Americans to the fullest extent of the word, but they are America personified. And if we really want to see what Americanism is, we need to look beyond mere words to these individuals here today.

I mention Americanism for a reason. I attended Boys State last year, and was privileged to have been selected to give a speech on Americanism for my Boys State city. Today, I would like to share that speech with you, in memory of America's fallen servicemen and women.

Americanism is what it sounds like: the embodiment of all things American, and of America itself. The freedom to choose who we want to run our government, and then freedom to call these people to account for anything they do. Freedom to think, or say, or write what we want, even if it goes against what others think. Freedom to talk to God, whether we call God Abba, or Allah, or Father. Freedom to decide what we want to do with our lives, and then freedom to do it. You cannot have Americanism, or America, without freedom.

This freedom stems from our courage. Courage in defense of our country, whether with weapons, with intelligence, or with heart, the same courage we gather together to honor today. Courage to leave home and friends to make a better life for your family. The courage to follow our ingenuity to the end, like actually injecting someone with small pox to prevent it in the future. Courage in sitting in a tin can on top of a mountain of rocket fuel and saying, "Point me to the moon and light the match." That courage explains why an American flag, and only a American flag, flies on the moon today, as a testament to our courage and spirit, the same spirit that pioneers showed when they crossed an unmapped desert, leaving farmland in their wake.

Americanism is in the diversity that makes us whole, in the integrity of our promises, in the justice of our courts, and in the honor of our souls.

But it does not come for free. No, just ask the colonists; ask the soldiers and their families what its price is. It is not automatic.

Americanism is not in the air we breath or the water we drink, but in each and every American. In the parent and the artist, in the teacher and the plumber, in the police officers, lawyers, politicians . . . everyone.

And you do not find it in a dictionary, nor in a speech, but in each of us. Not only on the battlefield, but the operating room and the classroom. Americanism is that which makes us Americans . . . and that which Americans make it. It implores us to act an not just sit idly by as children starve and marijuana clouds rise. No, Americanism is not in History books, but alive in us, calling out to keep her great, to keep America great! Thank you.

ERICH ALMONTE
May 30, 1998—Memorial Day.

INDIAN FEDERAL RECOGNITION ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 1998

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1154, the Indian Federal Recognition Administrative Procedures Act of 1998. The bill would overturn the fair and thorough process which is currently used to determine whether a Native American group should be formally recognized as a tribe by the federal government. It would replace this process with one which is politicized and would lower the criteria for recognition to the point where tribal recognition would have minimal bearing on whether the group is a legitimate tribe.

H.R. 1154 takes the recognition process away from the non-partisan Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and places it in the hands of a commission of individuals appointed by the Administration. This commission will be hand-picked by the Secretary of the Interior without the advice and consent of the Senate. These are radical and troubling changes. The BIA will not longer be in charge of a process which requires professional expertise and clearly falls within the purview of the Bureau. Furthermore, the failure of the bill to require that the Senate provide its advice and consent to the appointment of commissioners circumvents the system of checks and balances imposed on the Executive Branch by Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution.

Furthermore, this bill lowers the criteria for recognizing a tribe. Currently, a candidate group must be able to trace its lineage back to the point that it was first contacted by settler. The group must further prove that they have been identified as an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since 1900. These are important criteria: recognition as a tribe, and the significant benefits which come from such recognition, must be given only to groups which truly qualify as tribes.

The effects of bestowing federal recognition on a tribe are substantial. A federally recognized tribe is granted special rights including the status of a legally sovereign entity. This means that the tribe may no longer be sued by individuals without the tribe's consent and thus takes away the individual's right to obtain legal redress from the tribe. Sovereign status

A TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, last Memorial Day I gave an address before a distin-