

# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



techniques. Geographical Positioning Satellites (GPS) can pinpoint a specific location to within a three-inch circle Suneson said, and elevations can be determined with these satellites also. Use of these new technologies is being studied to see if there is a more accurate way to map and survey.

Other areas of concern in the study is who does the mapping and surveying and why. Could some current federal mapping and surveying activities be better handled at the state or local level? Could some of the work be turned over to private or commercial enterprises with cost-effective results? Should the federal government consolidate or restructure surveying and mapping activities? These and other issues will be addressed in the study.

The Academy will issue a final report on the study, which will be available through the Academy's publications office at (301) 617-7801.

The National Academy of Public Administration is a congressionally chartered, independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization that provides expert advice to government agencies on matters of public administration. The Academy will work with the participating Federal agencies and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping to carry out the study.

—GERRY CHERRY  
11/14/96

## GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

### 105TH CONGRESS GREETSS NEW MEMBERS

■(GIT) When Congress convenes, the new House members — the oldest 65, the youngest 26 — will all scramble for seats on the prestigious committees — Ways and Means, Commerce or Appropriations.

Only freshman Rep.-elect Wes Watkins, R-Okla., a veteran of Congress who served 14 years in the House as a Democrat in the 1970s and 1980s, has an assurance from the GOP leadership that he will have a Ways and Means assignment.

Watkins is one of five old-new members. Another, Rep. Bob Smith, R-Ore., has been guaranteed the chairmanship of the Agriculture Committee — which lured him out of retirement.

This freshman representative class is smaller and more balanced along party lines than the class of 1994, which was full of anti-

politicians, including 35 men and women with no political background whatsoever.

There are seven ex-mayors, 25 practicing lawyers or at least graduates of law school, including the youngest, Rep. Harold Ford Jr., D-Tenn., son of retiring Rep. Harold Ford Sr., D-Tenn. The younger Ford is 26 and graduated from law school in May.

The next occupation mentioned most is businessperson, including both Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif., who at 25 had a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, and Mike Pappas, R-NJ, who left college to work in his family's insurance business.

Six freshmen representatives have been House or Senate aides and five worked in presidential administrations: one for President Bush, and two each for Presidents Reagan and Clinton.

Other professions are: nine academics, three physicians, a nurse, two psychologists, two farmers, a TV newscaster, a border patrol agent, a pilot, a social worker, a lobbyist, and a landscape architect.

The new class of representatives has nine women, a decline from 1994's freshmen class, which had 12 women. The number of African-American freshmen increased from three to four, all Democrats, and there are two new Hispanic Members.

Twenty-eight of the freshmen are in their 50s; Ford Jr. is the only new member in his twenties; 18 are in their 30s; 22 in their 40s, and, four freshmen are in their 60s, making the average age 46.

Senate freshmen average 48 years old, and the class is 13 percent (or two) female, similar to the House.

What did they do before they were elected? Most new Senators are currently House members — eight Senators came from the lower chamber, making that the most popular profession of the group.

Next most common profession is lawyer (seven); then comes businessman (four), ex-

ecutive branch official (four), state official (four), academic (two), and veterinarian (one).

Finally, a statistical anomaly sets off the freshmen of the 105th Congress. Six new members are parents of twins. That means 6.8 percent of freshman representatives and senators are parents of twins. In the population at large, only about 2.6 percent of births are multiple births.

—GERRY CHERRY  
11/12/96

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

### STATES TRY NEW MEDICAID PROGRAMS

■(GIT) Fourteen states, including Oklahoma, have been approved by the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct experimental comprehensive health care reform demonstration projects for Medicaid clients. These experiments are testing new and innovative ideas relating to benefits and services, eligibility requirements and processes, program payment and service delivery. The aim of the pilot programs is to serve more low-income and uninsured people, while saving money through more efficient delivery systems.

Section 1115 of the Social Security Act provides the Secretary of Health and Human Services broad discretion to waive certain laws pertaining to Medicaid, in order to conduct experimental, pilot or demonstration projects. Since January 1993, HHS has approved 14 demonstration projects, and the framework of one additional demonstration. In addition, 19 states have received Medicaid waivers since January 1993, as part of larger welfare reform projects. These complementary Medicaid waivers enable states to continue providing essential health care services while encouraging independence from welfare.

Oklahoma's project is called SoonerCare. Managers of the project, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, under the direction of Dr. Garth Splinter, hope the project will increase access to primary care for beneficiaries through a managed care program in urban and rural areas. To guarantee the development of managed care in rural areas, key incentives will be provided to urban plans who undertake linkage efforts with

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*"I know nothing grander, better exercise, better disposition, more positive proof of the past, the triumphant result of faith in human kind, than a well-contested American national election."*

Walt Whitman  
"Democratic Vistas"  
1871