

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 21, 2005 LR 8

looked at the vote, but what Belevedere doesn't realize, because he wasn't here yesterday, I did better on that than I had done yesterday. Sometimes you have to put these little critters in their place, which is not in the prairie dog cemetery, by the way. Members of the Legislature, this amendment is what I call the Amelia Earhart amendment. On page 1, line 8, after "hunting" would be "for the wreckage of Amelia Earhart's airplane." So that would be in the Nebraska Constitution. That would be deemed to be an important part, a valued part, of the heritage of the people. And it is a part of the heritage of the people, not just of Nebraska, maybe not just of this country, but of people everywhere to be aware of and to hunt for or to hope that somebody will hunt for and be successful in finding the wreckage of Amelia Earhart's airplane. I should not offer a proposal without giving some background information, so I did a bit of research and I have some crib notes. Amelia Earhart was born July 24, 14 days before my birth date, however, the year was different, 1897. I was born in 1886. (Laughter) She was born in Atchison, Kansas. She disappeared July 2, or around that date, 1937 near Howland Island, central Pacific Ocean, and Howland is spelled H-o-w-l-a-n-d. She was one of the world's most celebrated aviators, the first woman to fly alone over the Atlantic Ocean. Earhart worked as a military nurse in Canada during World War I, and as a social worker in Dennison House, Boston, after the war. She achieved fame on July 17 and 18, 1928, as the first woman to cross the Atlantic, although she was only a passenger. She married the publisher George P. Putnam in 1931, but continued her career under her maiden name, and I'm proud of her for that. She kept her maiden name way back there in the 1930s. Determined to justify the renown that her 1928 crossing had brought her, Earhart crossed the Atlantic alone on May 20 and 21, 1932. This soon led to a series of flights across the U.S. and drew her into the movement that encouraged the development of commercial aviation. How many knew that about Amelia Earhart, that her work and her activities led or helped bring about the development of commercial aviation? Women have done some spectacular things, as have black people, but the history books, not written by women or black people, by and large, will not have these exploits and achievements given the play they deserve. And I say we're supposed to be teachers. I want to give some information that people may not have. She