

ACADEMY NOMINATIONS FOR U.S.  
CITIZENS IN THE CNMI

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 1995*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will provide the U.S. citizens of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with the same opportunity to attend the U.S. military academies as is enjoyed by the people of Guam and other non-State areas of our country.

This bill authorizes the Northern Marianas Resident Representative, the official elected at large to represent the Commonwealth before the Federal Government, to nominate candidates to fill one vacancy at each of the three military academies.

Currently, the people of the Northern Marianas face restricted access to West Point, Annapolis, and Colorado Springs. As U.S. citizens, they are eligible for nomination to the military academies. The Northern Marianas, however, is without representation here in Congress. Therefore, the normal route to academy appointments—nomination by a Member—is barred to these Americans.

The proposal to rectify this situation has received considerable prior study. Extending the authority for nominations was recommended in 1985 by the Commission on Federal Laws that Congress established to determine what Federal statutes should apply to the Northern Marianas.

There is also precedent for this authority to be granted to elected officials who are not Members of Congress. Under present law, the Governor of Puerto Rico can make nominations, as could the Governor of the Canal Zone before that area was returned to Panama.

Passage of the bill that I am introducing today will help ensure that the youth of the Northern Marianas have equal access to the important opportunity our military academies provide for both higher education and service to our Nation.

THE PASSING OF MRS. AMY BULL  
CRIST

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 1995*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I inform our colleagues of the passing of a remarkable woman Orange County's first lady, Mrs. Amy Bull Crist of Orange County, NY, this past weekend, at the age of 89.

Amy Bull Crist born on March 9, 1906 in Brick Castle, her home in Stony Ford, NY, was a lifelong resident of Orange County. The building in which she was born was built by William Bull and Sarah Wells, her direct ancestors, who in 1718 became the first European couple married in what is now Orange County, NY.

As the daughter of Orange County's oldest and most illustrious family, Amy Bull Crist could have opted for a life of leisure. Instead, at an early age she determined to devote her life to the service of others.

When she was only 18—soon after her 1924 graduation from Middletown High School—she was invited to try her hand at teaching. Weary of farm work on the family estate, she eagerly grasped the opportunity to teach and within the next 15 years, as she taught in one-room schoolhouses, at Goosetown School in Hamptonburgh and at Cross Roads School in Montgomery, she became known county wide as one of the most outstanding educators in the region. Amy looked after her students like a doting parent, arranging dental and eyeglass appointments for those students who needed it, and in many ways making her mark upon the lives whose education was entrusted to her expertise and compassion. Subsequently she served as principal at Goodwill School. By the time of her retirement in the mid-1970's, Amy had risen to become our region's top education administrator, serving not only as district superintendent of schools for Orange and Ulster County, but also as district superintendent and executive officer for the Board of Cooperative Educational Services [BOCES].

Recognizing that our young people are our most valuable resource, Amy determined that education was the most worthwhile endeavor to which she could devote herself. Her lifelong career as an educator was a living testament to those who cherish this investment in our future. As a grade school teacher, a school superintendent, and as a trustee of our Orange County Community College which she was so instrumental in funding, Amy Bull Crist touched the lives of thousands of students. She served as founder and first superintended of Orange-Ulster BOCES for many years prior to her 1974 retirement, and the affection and respect in which the community held her is underscored by the fact that the BOCES complex is named in her honor.

As was typical of Amy's style, she never satisfied herself by resting on her laurels. She continued to teach evening and summer classes at New York University, the State University College at New Paltz, and at Orange County Community College in Middletown.

Amy was one of the last of her generation: a generation which saw Orange County progress from the farming area which her family helped to pioneer to the fastest-growing region of New York State. Throughout the many changes which Amy witnessed in her lifetime, she remained constant in her beliefs that those who are more fortunate have a moral responsibility to help neighbors enjoy more productive lives and live up to their potential.

Amy's philanthropic and civic endeavors in so many important activities, including Occupations, Inc., the Orange County Mental Health Association, the Goshen Historic Track, the proposed Youth Facility for the Town of Wallkill, the American Heart Association, and so many other worthwhile endeavors, helped make a better life for all of us.

Amy also remained active with the Arboretum Committee for Orange County Park; the Montgomery Grange; the Presbyterian Church in Hamptonburgh; and the Emeriti Association of Orange County Community College. She was an honorary member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Walden. She organized the Amy Bull Crist Reading Association, the Amy Bull Crist Youth-in-Government Association, and the Orange County Farmers Association and Museum.

Emanuel Axelrod, who succeeded Army as Orange-Ulster BOCES superintendent after her retirement in 1974, said upon her passing: "She never wavered when she felt she was right. I will never forget her. She was one of the most outstanding people I've known."

Amy was chairman of the Orange County museums—Hill Hold and Brick House—the original lands and buildings of her family. She was well known for presiding at the well-publicized Bull family summer reunions which brought together her many relatives from throughout the United States and the world and which on occasion I had the pleasure of attending.

Amy, the widow of the late Clarence H. Crist, is survived by a large family including her sister, Molly B. Bazemore of Augusta, GA; two nieces, including Mary Ann Cohen of Goshen, NY; four nephews, including Michael K. Brown of Campbell Hall, NY, and William Bull Brown of Middletown; 19 great-nieces and great-nephews; and 13 great-great nieces and great-great nephews.

I often relied upon Amy for advice and assistance in many of my responsibilities in the Congress. She always had a patient ear, a keen insight, and a helping hand.

Amy left us this past weekend; peacefully in her sleep at her home, Brick Castle—the same home in which she was born 89 years earlier!

Our county, our region, and our State will long miss Orange County's First Lady, Amy Bull Crist.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon all of my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to a truly remarkable lady.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES SMITH

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 1995*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding public service of Mr. James Smith of Ridgecrest, CA. Jim, a dedicated professional and longtime community activist, is retiring as the manager of Administration for North American Chemical Co. A tribute dinner will be held in his honor on June 2 to honor his more than 40 years of support to the chemical industry.

Jim Smith graduated from Loyola University in Los Angeles in 1954 and served 2 years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Following graduation, Jim went to work for American Potash and Chemical Corp. where he served in supervisory and management positions at plants across the country. In 1967, Jim went to work for Kerr McGee Chemical Corp. of Trona where for 23 years he fulfilled critical functions relating to labor relations, environmental relations, and community relations. In 1990, Jim went to work at North American Chemical Co. where he has served as manager of Administration and Regulatory Affairs and most recently, as special assistant for public affairs.

To say the least, Jim has played an extraordinary and active role in our community. He is a board member of the Fire Mountain Foundation, the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce, the Chemical Industry Council of California,

the Desert Empire Fair, and the Maturango Museum. In addition, he has also served as an elected trustee of the Trona Joint Unified School District, and as a board member for the Council on Substance Abuse Awareness and the Searles Valley Community Service Council. Jim is also a past member of the San Bernardino County Air Pollution Control Advisory Council and a member of the Kern County Air Pollution Central District Hearing Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Jim's wife, Grace, and his family and many friends in recognizing his many fine achievements and selfless contributions. Over the years, Jim Smith has touched the lives of many people and it is only fitting that the House of Representatives recognize him today.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PATCHOGUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 1995*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Patchogue Fire Department on 115 years of excellent service to the residents of the village of Patchogue and the East Patchogue Fire Protection District. I would like to extend my applause to the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association on celebrating the 100th anniversary of their convention.

The Patchogue Fire Department has established a tradition as one of the oldest and finest fire departments in New York. The firemen of Patchogue are among the best trained and bravest fire fighters in New York as well. These firemen regularly risk their lives to protect and serve the people of Patchogue. Upon examining their impeccable service record, it is no surprise that the Patchogue Fire Department has been protecting the village of Patchogue so well for 115 years.

On Friday, June 9, 1995, the men and women of the Patchogue Fire Department will celebrate at the 100th Annual Convention of the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association. This association, which represents the volunteer and exempt firemen of the nine southern counties, stands as evidence that New York does in fact have among the best firemen in the Nation.

#### REMEMBERING A HERO, HUMBLE SERVANT

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 1995*

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, the Army Corps of Engineers, our southern region and the nation lost a humble servant, war hero and good friend when Mitchell "Stoney" Merriman died last week from complications of an inoperable brain tumor.

Originally from White County, Tennessee, Stoney wrote the book on public relations—literally. A published author, newsman and writer, Stoney had such a creative and innovative style that he wrote a how-to book for the Corps that is used nationwide today.

Since 1987, he managed the Army Corps Nashville District's public information, media relations and community relations program in a 7-State area. I cannot think of anyone who knew how to promote an event better.

In Corps events and groundbreakings in my district, Stoney always amazed us with something new, creative and exciting. His style blazed a trail for all to follow and his legacy will be long remembered.

Stoney was more than just a top-notch public relations man. He was a veteran newsman, and even more importantly, a war hero.

During his 23 years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps, he served two combat tours in Vietnam, where he served as a combat journalist. Among his awards were two Purple Hearts, Legion of Merit Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star with Combat "V" Medal and several other awards.

As a newsman, Stoney started in the military, but carried on his tradition of excellence at the "The Smithville Review" and then as publisher and editor of the "Carthage, TN Courier."

I am proud of Stoney Merriman. He was committed, honest and hard working in everything he did—whether it was a Corps event placing his life in harm's way to protect and defend his country. He was a joy to be with, and his service must always be remembered.

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM HENRY

**HON. JAMES M. TALENT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 1995*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Jim Henry, a constituent of mine who was recently awarded the Small Business Administration's "1995 Small Business Person of the Year" award for the State of Missouri.

Ten years ago Mr. Henry left his job with Emerson Electric and bought R.C. Wilson Co., a small collection agency in St. Louis, MO. At the time Mr. Henry bought R.C. Wilson he had no small business experience or background, but he did have a can-do philosophy, which has helped him build one of the most successful collection companies in our city. Over the past 10 years, sales, employment, and clientele at R.C. Wilson have grown significantly. Sales have increased by 200 percent, while employment at R.C. Wilson have grown from 25 to 118. At the same time, his company's collection success rate is over 30 percent—higher than the 22 percent average for the industry.

Mr. Henry explains his success this way: "The way a business owner treats employees makes or breaks a business. The key to long-term success is to treat your employees with dignity and always maintain the highest level of integrity and honesty in all dealings." This attitude is reflected in the companies employee benefit policies. R.C. Wilson Co. has a generous tuition reimbursement program which enables many employees to continue their education through post-graduate levels. The company also provides an annual scholarship for Missouri Business Week to the child of one employee. The company also shares profits with its employees.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by again offering Mr. Henry my congratulations on being

named the 1995 Missouri Small Business Person of the Year, and to wish him and the employees of R.C. Wilson Co. continued success.

#### HONORING VICE ADM. THOMAS J. KILCLINE, USN RETIRED

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 1995*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Vice Adm. Thomas J. Kilcline, USN [Retired] on the eve of his retirement from his position as president of The Retired Officers Association. Because of his many accomplishments, I consider it appropriate to formally recognize him for his more than 50 years of service to this Nation.

Admiral Kilcline was born in Detroit, MI, on December 9, 1925. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1949, and was designated a naval aviator in November 1950 after which he flew with VR-5 until 1953. Admiral Kilcline attended the Naval Postgraduate School and later Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned a masters degree in aeronautical engineering in 1956.

He then joined Heavy Attack Squadron Nine, serving on the *Saratoga* and *Ranger*. In 1959, he was assigned to the staff of the commander Sixth Fleet. He completed the command and staff course at the Naval War College and in 1962 completed test pilot school. He was later assigned as coordinator of test programs for all attack aircraft at the Naval Air Test Center. In January 1965, Kilcline reported to Heavy Attack Squadron Eleven [VAH-11] aboard the *Forestall*. He commanded an RA5C squadron deployed to the Vietnam theater. He returned to the staff of the commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in August 1967, and a year later was assigned as operations officer and later executive officer aboard the U.S.S. *Ticonderoga* [CVA-14] during operations off Vietnam. He then became program manager for acquisition and support of the RA-5C aircraft, Naval Air Systems Command. In October 1970, he was named director of liaison with the House of Representatives under the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs.

From August 1972 until May 1974, Kilcline was commanding officer, Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, MD. He was then assigned as director of aviation officer distribution, aviation captain detailee and later, assistant chief of Naval Personnel, Officer Distribution and Education. In August 1975, he assumed command of Naval Base Subic Bay with duties as commander in chief Pacific representative in the Philippines and commander U.S. Naval Forces, Philippines. He became chief, Legislative Affairs in February 1978 and in July 1981, was assigned as commander Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He retired from the Navy in 1983.

His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with three gold stars; the Bronze Star; the Air Medal; and awards from the governments of the Philippines and the Republic of Vietnam.

Following retirement, Admiral Kilcline formed a military and congressional consulting firm