

been an integral tool for historians writing about the Battle of the Bulge. To document his own vivid account as a war correspondent, he published his memoir, "Into the Jaws of Death."

Mr. Stern has not only documented the events he has witnessed, but has also made every effort to educate Americans through his personal accounts of his wartime experiences. He has served as a lecturer at the Newhouse School of Communication at Syracuse University and has made countless appearances on television to expose the American public to the realities of war. In addition to his role as educator, Mr. Stern currently acts as a trustee of the Intrepid Museum Foundation, a trustee of the Fisher House Foundation, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research at Rockefeller University, and the editor-in-chief of Fisher House Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today in honor of Michael Stern, who has dedicated his life to bringing the reality of war home for Americans to understand and appreciate. I ask that my colleagues join with me in this well-deserved tribute to Mr. Stern and in celebration of his 86 years of experience and dedication to wartime journalism and education.

GORDON MCALLISTER: A SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, whenever people ask me what ever happened to people who care about their community and their neighbors, I have the good fortune to tell them about people like Gordon McAllister, a special individual who for many years has served his community professionally, personally, and has taken the time to help people remember valuable lessons from our past.

Gordon McAllister has served as a police official in several capacities ever since his graduation from high school. He served as an Air Police officer with the United States Air Force. He then worked as a security officer for General Motors for 3 years, followed by another 3 years as a State Commissioned, Michigan State Railroad Police Detective.

For the past 27 years, Gordon has served as a member of the Bay City Police Department. For 8 years he was a patrol officer, and for 19 a detective corporal. During this time he earned 14 department commendations and numerous letters of merit from citizens and businessmen. Even more notable is that while performing in an exemplary fashion he continued to better himself by obtaining a bachelor of arts degree in Criminal Justice from Saginaw Valley State University.

He has personally been involved in many charitable events. Most notably he has been the local chairman for the National Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics for several years.

Most recently, Gordon earned the National Merit Award from the Sons of the Civil War for coordinating a salute to Civil War Veterans including songs and poems of the era, at the Vassar, Michigan, Riverside Cemetery. This program was a tribute to all veterans, particu-

larly those from the Civil War, and marked the 100th anniversary of the dedication of a monument which bears the names of more than 200 Civil War veterans at the cemetery, including his great, great-grandfather, William Bassett Stark, who served in the 34th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

With all of this public service, Gordon still believes his greatest success is investing in his family and their future—his help with his three children Darren, Darneal, and Brandon, attaining their college degrees.

Mr. Speaker, what happened to people who care about their community and their neighbors? One of them—Gordon McAllister—lives in Bay City, MI. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in recognizing his wonderful contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMAN SISISKY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably absent during tests related to my chemotherapy. Had I been present during consideration of H.R. 2391, the Compensatory Time Act, I would have voted against the bill.

AGENT ORANGE BENEFITS ACT OF 1996

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Agent Orange Benefits Act of 1996. The legislation provides necessary medical care and compensation to a new class of citizens who have sacrificed their health in the defense of our Nation—the children of agent orange-exposed Vietnam veterans who were born with Spina Bifida.

The legislation, proposed by the administration after close coordination with veterans services organizations and the disabilities community, is the result of a process set into place by the Agent Orange Act of 1991. The act established the process in which the National Academy of Sciences' [NAS] Institute of Medicine [IOM] issues reports every 2 years on the existing scientific evidence relating to Vietnam veterans' exposure to agent orange. The IOM's latest report confirmed what Vietnam veterans have known all along—that agent orange has and will continue to exact a high price on themselves and their families. The report specifically found that there is limited suggestive evidence of an association between agent orange exposure to vets and the occurrence of spina bifida in their children.

The bill I am introducing today is consistent with legislative action we have taken in the past with respect to veterans who suffered from conditions in the "second tier" of the NAS report. As with previous legislative relief we have granted veterans, my bill ensures that the VA has the authority to provide health care and appropriate compensation. Specifically, the bill gives the Secretary of the VA the authority to provide the extensive medical help

needed by children suffering from spina bifida, including important case management services. The bill also gives the Secretary the flexibility to contract for care from private sources to ensure that appropriate medical services are provided.

I applaud the administration's quick and decisive movement on this issue. In particular, Secretary Brown should be congratulated for the strong action he took in ensuring that the administration proposed comprehensive legislation that guarantees that these children will be properly cared for and compensated.

I hope that we can take quick action on this legislation. The bottom line is that we have sick children who have paid the price because of their father's service to our Nation. They need and deserve the best that our nation can give them. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO HISPANIC-AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute our Hispanic-American veterans and to share with you a few of the experiences of these brave men and women. On August 23 and 24, 1996, the California Occupational Foundation, under the leadership of Gus Hernandez, will be having a dinner and parade to recognize the contributions of our Hispanic-American veterans.

It is important that we recognize our Nation's Hispanic-American veterans, men and women who answered the call to defend freedom and democracy. Since the American Revolution, Hispanic Americans have courageously served, and in many cases died for our country. During the Civil War, an estimated 10,000 Hispanic-American soldiers fought in either the Union or Confederate Armies. Because of a language barrier, few Hispanic Americans saw any combat during World War I. But by World War II, with the language barrier broken, approximately 500,000 Hispanic-American soldiers helped the Allies defeat the Axis powers. Hispanic Americans have also served in Korea, Vietnam, and in Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Today, there are approximately 1 million living Hispanic-American veterans. Currently, Hispanic-Americans make up 5 percent of our Nation's active duty armed forces personnel.

Among these heroes is Marine PFC Guy Gabaldon, who with distinction captured more enemy soldiers than anyone else in the history of U.S. military conflicts. PFC Gabaldon captured over 1,000 Japanese soldiers during World War II. Also included are eight men who selflessly gave their lives for our country, continuing a tradition of honor rooted in a small street in Silvis, IL. Although the street is only large enough to accommodate 22 families, it has produced 84 brave men who fought in either World War II, Korea, or Vietnam. Once named Second Street, this small block has been renamed Hero Street U.S.A. and stands as a monument to these American heroes.

Most notable are the 41 Hispanic Americans who have been awarded our Nation's most prestigious and highest military decoration, the

Congressional Medal of Honor. This is more than any other ethnic group of veterans. Among the recipients is Private Jose P. Martinez who sacrificed his life by leaping forward and leading his platoon in attack after Japanese soldiers pinned down his unit during World War II.

Another honoree is Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez, who after recovering from a wound during his first tour of duty in Vietnam, returned to the war and earned his way into the elite Army Special Forces. Upon his return, Benavidez assisted in the rescue of 12 men from his unit, and destroyed classified documents so that they would not fall into enemy hands.

These soldiers are the epitome of the valor and service that is found within every soldier. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring our Hispanic-American military heroes and to recognize the tremendous contributions Hispanic-American veterans have made in defense of liberty and democracy.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY REFORM ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES B. LONGLEY, JR.

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3118, the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act.

It has become extremely clear that the question of health care eligibility has become extremely clouded as the result of a very complex and difficult to understand process of determining eligibility. In fact, as a country, we probably spend more time and money determining who is eligible, as compared to providing needed care. This must change.

I think that H.R. 3118 is a giant first step in the direction of positive changes in the provision of Veterans Administration health care.

At the same time, I want to commend this committee and Chairman STUMP for the outstanding work on behalf of the Nation's veterans. I hope that the committee will continue to be vigilant and aggressive in examining a system of veterans health care in order to ensure that it continues to provide quality care.

This would include, I hope, careful examination of the use of funds by the Veterans Administration. In the last two appropriations bills, this Congress has made careful provisions to increase funding for the provision of VA medical care. In the fiscal year 1997 budget, we increased funding by \$504 million, from \$16.6 billion to over \$17 billion. In fiscal year 1996, the previous year, we increased funding an additional \$400 million.

Sadly, however, although we have increased annual funding by almost \$1 billion in the last 2 years, it seems that those additional funds have not made their way to the grass roots. It has certainly not made it to the Veterans Hospital in my district located in Togus, ME. In fact, if anything, as we have increased funding from Washington, the limitations on services, including the discussion of cutbacks on existing services has continued unabated.

It is not uncommon, for instance, to find a Maine veteran being forced to travel to a VA

hospital in the Boston area and admit him or herself as an inpatient. He or she could remain in Boston for days, if not weeks, to receive needed medical treatment that could have been provided through a cooperative arrangement at a significantly lower cost with a Maine hospital.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3118 is a significant first step in the direction of improving and reforming the delivery of medical care to our Nation's veterans. I hope that, in the course of implementing H.R. 3118, we will see the committee continue to take a vigilant stance in overseeing the administration of the VA system and that it will take whatever action is necessary in order to protect provision of care at existing VA hospitals, such as that hospital located in Togus, ME. Our Nation's veterans, Maine veterans, deserve no less.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY "DOTSY" LOCKHART-ELSKOE

HON. VICTOR O. FRAZER

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, Dorothy "Dotsy" Lockhart-Elskoe was born and raised on the island of St. Thomas and is the second child of Alfred and Elmira Lockhart. Dorothy was a graduate of the Charlotte Amalie High School Class of 1947. She attended on-island education programs for teachers that utilized professors from Puerto Rico and various mainland universities and colleges.

In 1952, Mrs. Elskoe began her teaching career as an elementary school teacher; however, after 8 years as a teacher, she developed a throat condition which forced her early retirement from the classroom. Mrs. Elskoe worked at the Department of Education and the Department of Finance. Additionally, she held various positions in the government. She was Administrative Assistant for the Virgin Islands Urban Renewal Board, Director of Emergency Housing for the Department of Housing and Community Renewal, Director of Community Relations and Complaints for the Virgin Islands Legislature and retired in 1986 as Director of the Rotary Multipurpose Center for Senior Citizens.

Dorothy's retirement gives her more time for community involvement. Her involvement in the community is both civic and political. She was president of the Democratic Party Women's Auxiliary for 8 years and a member of the Democratic Territorial Committee. Dotsy is still involved in politics—her assistance is often solicited by both senatorial and gubernatorial candidates. In addition to her past political involvements, Dotsy is a charter member of the League of Women Voters, member of St. Thomas is All of Us and the Welfare Rights Organization. Mrs. Elskoe chaired the Children's Sub-Committee of the Carnival Committee for 10 years and worked with Sam King and the late Halvor Hart, Jr. to bring children's rides to Carnival—began a children's village and started the tradition of a Prince and Princess float in the parade.

Presently, Dotsy is a member of the Board of Governors for the Virgin Islands Cultural Heritage Institute, United Way Board Member, member of the Downstreet People, Inc., President of the Committee to Revive Our Culture,

Co-Chairperson of the Merry Carolers, member of the Challenge of Carolers, Inc., President of the Elskoe and Associates Carnival Froupe, founder and member of the St. Jude Prayer Group and a Red Cross volunteer. Mrs. Elskoe has given and continues to render assistance to schools, social and civic clubs whenever her services are requested.

Mrs. Elskoe fosters her firm belief of preserving the traditional values and the indigenous customs of the Virgin Islands because they are on the fringe of extinction. In the summer of 1990, Dotsy assisted the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, in preparing a mini-parade and a past and present living exhibit about the islands for the 24th annual festival of American Folklife.

She has presented and organized many demonstrations in the culinary arts and other arts and crafts to the schools and other organizations—locally and abroad. In past summers, the Committee to Revive Our Culture, of which Dotsy is President, organized youth summer programs for children between the ages of 12 and 17. They learned native culinary arts and additional handicrafts. With the aid of the Tourism Department, the Committee to Revive Our Culture held several successful cultural fairs in May and December at the Emancipation Garden. In the near future, Mrs. Elskoe will be embarking upon a project to organize a cooperative where local crafts and articles made in the Virgin Islands can be purchased.

Forty years ago, Dorothy Elskoe and master float builder—Ector Roebuck gave life to the then Elskoe and Roebuck Carnival Froupe—now known to all as the Elskoe and Associates Carnival Froupe. Dotsy and her froupe members have worked as ambassadors of the Virgin Islands, spreading the culture abroad to various areas in the Western Hemisphere. Elskoe and Associates have traveled to Puerto Rico, Miami, New York, Tortola, Washington, DC, St. Croix, St. John, Antigua, Toronto Canada and Atlanta—winning numerous prizes along the way.

At home, Elskoe and Associates has won numerous first place awards within the froupe category as well as within the King and Queen of the Bands competition. In 1972, the then Elskoe & Roebuck was the first froupe to construct queen and king of the band costumes on St. Thomas. Fayer Elskoe-Liburd—Dotsy's eldest daughter—was the first Queen of the Band and the King of the Band was "Ricardo". One of the famous Elskoe and Associates froupe entries that was considered a masterpiece was a float which displayed a twenty cent Danish coin—built by the late Ector Roebuck. This coin included three ladies who were very prominent in Virgin Islands History. The ladies who portrayed these historic individuals were sprayed entirely in silver for authenticity.

Mrs. Elskoe's overwhelming urge to protect and preserve our culture and heritage has not gone unnoticed by a supportive community. She has received many civic certificates, awards and honorable mentions including the Wilbur Bill Lamotta Community Service Award, The Queen Cosiah Award, the 1974 and 1996 Virgin Islands Carnival Committee Outstanding Participation Awards, the 1993 Virgin Islands Carnival Committee's V.I. Cultural Ambassador Award.

Two calypsos were written in her honor by Glen "Kwabena" Davis and the late Dana Orie