

QRB's, the volume of qualified redevelopment bonds issued would be constrained by the existing State bond volume caps established under section 146 of the Internal Revenue Code. Local governments wishing to issue qualified redevelopment bonds for brownfield sites would have to compete with other issuers for authority to issue private activity bonds under the State volume cap.

Mr. Speaker, vacant, polluted brownfield sites have become a serious problem for our country. They have blighted many of our communities in both financial and environmental terms, and they have contributed to urban sprawl. Restoring and redeveloping our country's brownfield sites will be a difficult task—it will take the cooperation of both the public and private sectors. The financial assistance provided in this bill would be a valuable tool in the environmental and economic redevelopment of America. I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "present" on rollcall No. 1; "no" on rollcall No. 2; "yes" on rollcall No. 3; and "no" on rollcall No. 4.

BOSNIA AND THE FUTURE OF NATO

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the new Secretary General of NATO, Javier Solana, wrote a piece in the Washington Post on December 24, 1995, entitled "In Bosnia, a Defining Moment." I was impressed with his analysis, particularly concerning the cooperation of 16 non-NATO nations with the 16 Members of NATO in support of the Bosnia Implementation Force. As the Secretary General states "[W]e have the opportunity not only to end the war in Bosnia but to lay the foundations for an enduring structure of peace across a now-undivided and democratic Europe."

I comment the article to the attention of my colleagues. The text follows:

[From the Washington Post; Dec. 24, 1995]

(By Javier Solana)

IN BOSNIA, A DEFINING MOMENT

Much of the debate that preceded last week's deployment of a NATO-led peace implementation force into Bosnia centered on whether the stakes involved justified sending the young men and women of this alliance into harm's way. On this point, the response of our 16 member nations has been clear: We simply had to act in order to bring the worst conflict in Europe since World War II to a definitive halt.

The alternative would not only have been to condemn the people of Bosnia to further suffering but to risk seeing the conflict spread and perhaps confront us with the need

to intervene in a shooting war on a much larger scale. Because NATO nations on both sides of the Atlantic remember all too well the price paid in 1914 and 1939 because of Western blunders and blindness, they were determined not to miss this opportunity to stop a war in the heart of Europe when it was in their power to do so.

What has received less attention in the international Force (IFOR) debate are the profound implications for NATO of this operation, which is the first ground force "out-of-area" deployment in our 46-year history. For those who until recently considered the organization a Cold War relic, the coalition that our supreme allied commander Europe, Gen. George A. Joulwan, is assembling must seem astonishing indeed.

Thus far, 16 non-NATO nations have joined the 16 allies in "Operation Joint Endeavor." These include many of our former adversaries from Central and Eastern Europe who now wish to join NATO, neutral countries such as Sweden and Finland, non-European nations such as Egypt and Pakistan and, most notably, Russia. Still other nations, such as Austria and Switzerland, have broken with tradition and taboo to cooperate with NATO to facilitate the largest and most complex movement of forces by land, sea and air in Europe in 50 years.

Clearly, something is happening in Europe today that transcends the Bosnian situation. Underlying the desire of so many nations to contribute to this NATO-led operation is a consciousness that a defining moment in the post-Cold War security order has arrived. This is not a moment or an opportunity that has come about by accident. NATO has worked quietly but intensively over the past two years to prepare the new democracies in our Partnership for Peace program for such joint operations, just as we have endeavored to build a truly cooperative relationship with the Russian Federation.

Thus in Bosnia we have an opportunity not only to end a war in the Balkans but to lay the foundations for an enduring structure of peace across a now-undivided and democratic Europe.

I am keenly aware that it is one thing to proclaim such a lofty ideal and quite another for our troops to face the grim reality of a Balkan winter under trying and dangerous circumstances. Throughout history, it has been ever thus—it has been to the lonely foot soldier to realize the visions of leaders and politicians.

But thanks to their capacity to learn from the mistakes of the first half of this century, two generations of Europeans and North Americans have not had to ask their sons and daughters to sacrifice themselves in another world war. They have not had to do so—and current and future generations will not have to do so—largely because NATO exists to keep the peace.

Now that a new NATO is moving boldly to meet the post-Cold War security challenges of a new Europe, our thoughts should go to our young soldiers of peace who will spend their Christmas truly spreading the season's message of hope to their fellow man.

H.R. 2843, VETERANS' INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 1995

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which will update and make changes to two of the VA insurance pro-

grams—the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance [SGLI] and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance [VGLI]. My distinguished colleagues, SONNY MONTGOMERY, TERRY EVERETT, LANE EVANS, and CHRIS SMITH, join me in introducing this bill.

The SGLI Program provides group life insurance coverage to persons on active duty in the military service, Ready Reservists, members of the uniformed services, cadets and midshipmen of the four service academies and members of the Reserve Office Training Corps. Although it is a program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, this program is actually administered by the Prudential Insurance Co.

The VGLI Program is a program of post-separation insurance which provides for the conversion of servicemen's group life insurance to a 5-year term policy. Like Servicemen's Group, Veterans' Group is supervised by the Department of Veterans Affairs but administered by the Office of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance.

This bill would make quite a few changes, including setting the automatic coverage under SGLI at \$200,000 from the current \$100,000; allowing the Secretary the authority to terminate an individual's insurance if premiums are not paid within 60 days; and renaming the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance Program to Servicemember's Group Life Insurance.

Additional provisions include merging the Retired Reserve Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance Programs; extending VGLI lifetime coverage to members of the Ready Reserve of a uniformed service; providing for an individual, upon separation from the military, to change to the SGLI Program or choose as commercial policy; and eliminating the 5-year VGLI renewal period.

Mr. Speaker, we already know that these are great insurance programs and are very popular with veterans and active duty personnel. The changes offered in this legislation will improve the programs for current policy holders and future participants.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

A CHAMPION OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Seattle Councilman Sam Smith who passed away November 16, 1995. Sam Smith was born July 21, 1922, on a farm just outside of Gibsland, LA. He entered the U.S. Army in 1942, was assigned to a post in Seattle, and achieved the rank of warrant officer. After World War II, he married his high school sweetheart, Marion, and together they raised six children. Sam earned a degree in social science from Seattle University in 1951, and a degree in economics from the University of Washington in 1952. He entered politics in 1956, and was elected to the Washington State Legislature in 1958, representing the 37th Legislative District of Washington for five terms until 1967. Sam then was elected to the Seattle City Council. He was the

council's first black member, and he served on the council for 24 years.

What made Sam Smith one of the finest elected officials to hold office in Seattle? Was it his insistence that he answer his own telephone with the familiar and friendly, "This is Sam"? Or his warm smile and greeting of "Hi, neighbor" to all he encountered on his regular strolls through the neighborhoods of Seattle? Was it his keen political skills that found answers to problems when others could not? Or was it his unique ability to bring opposing sides together to find common ground?

Yes, Sam Smith will be remembered for the way he answered his phone, greeted people on the streets, found answers and not excuses. However, he also is remembered as a champion of economic justice. Sam Smith addressed issues in a direct, thoughtful, and dedicated manner, at a time in our country's history when talk of fair housing and fair employment opportunities for minorities and the working poor too often was met with ignorance and indifference. He is remembered as someone who lifted as he climbed. Sam Smith was among the fathers of the robust diversity that distinguishes Seattle politics nationally. Many city, county, and State public officials attribute their opportunities to Sam and the avenues he opened for them.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Seattle mourns the loss of Sam Smith, someone who dedicated his life to public service, who greeted one and all with warmth and respect, and who, above all, cared about his neighbors.

IN HONOR OF COL. BILLY CLYDE STEED

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize a fellow Mississippian, Col. Billy Clyde Steed, who is retiring this month after 40 years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps. I wanted to share with my colleagues the highlights of Colonel Steed's outstanding career of service to his country.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in January 1956. After completion of recruit training, he reported to the 2d Marine Division and was assigned to the 8th Marine Regiment. He was later assigned to the amphibious reconnaissance company.

In 1958, he was ordered to Marine Barracks, 8th & I, and remained there until 1962. From 1962 to 1964, he was stationed at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, as a drill instructor. Colonel Steed was then transferred to the 1st Marine Division and served with 3d Battalion, 7th Marines. The 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, deployed to Okinawa and was redesignated as 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, and deployed to Vietnam in January 1965. During this period, he served as a squad leader, platoon sergeant, and platoon commander.

Returning to the United States in 1965, he was again assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, as an instructor at the Drill Instructor School.

Commissioned a second lieutenant on September 30, 1966, he was ordered to the 2d Marine Division and attended the Aerial Ob-

server School. During his tour with the 2d Marine Division he served as an instructor at the Aerial Observer School, executive officer for L Company, 3d Battalion, 6th Marines, and commanding officer, Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion, 2d Marine Division. On December 30, 1967, he was promoted to 1st lieutenant. In 1968, he joined the 3d Battalion, 27th Marines, and deployed to the Republic of Vietnam, serving as a platoon commander, executive officer, and later as commander, I Company.

When the 27th Marines returned to the United States, he remained in Vietnam and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division Aerial Observer Section. Upon returning to the United States in 1969, he was assigned to the G-4, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In March 1970, he was promoted to Captain. From 1970 to 1971, he served with the Shore Party Battalion, 5th Marine Division, as a company commander and operations officer.

Graduating from the Amphibious Warfare School in 1971, he was assigned as a company commander at Officer Candidate School.

Again ordered to the Republic of Vietnam in December 1972, he served as an aerial observer with Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company. Following the cease fire, he transferred to the Landing Support Group, 3d Force Service Regiment, Nam Phong, Thailand, and served as the operations officer.

In 1974, he returned to the United States and was assigned as the I-I, E Company, 2d Battalion, 23d Marines, Concord, CA.

He was promoted to major in June 1977. He was next ordered to the 1st Marine Brigade in Hawaii and served as Weapons Company Commander, the executive officer for 2d Battalion, 3d Marines, the regimental S-4, and the operations officer for the 31st Marine Amphibious Unit.

Graduating from the Armed Forces Staff College in 1981, he was assigned as the Chief Aerial Observer, VMO-2, Camp Pendleton, CA. In July 1982, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and assigned to the air-ground exchange program where he served as G-3 Plans and Deputy G-4, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing.

In 1984 he was assigned to the 1st Marines as the regimental executive officer. During April 1985, Colonel Steed assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines. In 1987 he was assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-7, for preparedness and Special Operations Training Group of I Marine Expeditionary Force until August 1988. On August 29, 1988, Colonel Steed assumed command of the 25th Marines. On October 1, 1988, he was promoted to Colonel.

On December 15, 1990, Colonel Steed was assigned as the MARCENT/I MEF G-3 (Operations Officer) during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. During that operation, Colonel Steed served as the operations officer for the largest U.S. Marine Corps combat operation since the Vietnam conflict.

Returning to the United States in April 1991, Colonel Steed served as the G-3 Operations Officer for I MEF during the largest employment of U.S. Marine Corps Forces in counter-drug interdiction efforts in history. He was responsible for the deployment of over 10,000 marines and sailors in support of Joint Task Force-6 over a 2-year period. He later assumed the duties as Chief of Staff for I MEF, where he deployed to Somalia in November

1992. He later served as the Special Military Assistant to Adm. Jonathan Howe, USN (Retired), the Special U.S. Representative to Humanitarian and United Nations Operations in that besieged country. Following his return to the United States, he was summoned back to Somalia to work with the United Nations.

Colonel Steed is currently the director of expeditionary warfare and special operations training at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, CA.

Colonel Steed's personal decorations include: the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Combat "V," the Air Medal (Individual Award), 17 Strike Flight Awards with Combat "V," the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" with two gold stars and the Purple Heart with on gold star.

THE OBSERVER ANNUAL AWARD DINNER

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a number of Pittsburgh groups and residents who will be honored next week at the annual dinner hosted by the Observer newspaper.

Each year the Observer presents a number of awards for outstanding community service. It also selects an individual for its Humanitarian Service Award, and it confers Man and Woman of the Year Awards. I would like to recognize this year's award recipients here today.

The recipients of the Awards for Outstanding Service are listed below:

Mr. Arnold Horovitz, Esq. and Kenneth Stiles, Esq., who are being honored for their efforts to enforce zoning code provisions in a number of city neighborhoods.

The Elliott-West Athletic Association, which is being honored for 30 years of service to young people in Pittsburgh's West End, and for a number of other public service efforts, including its efforts to maintain Herschel Field.

The Pittsburgh Habitat for Humanity, which is being honored for its volunteers' efforts to provide affordable housing for low-income residents of the city of Pittsburgh.

The Hill District Community Development Corporation, which is being honored for its work in creating the Crawford Square housing development—a successful mixed income, mixed use market rate urban residential community.

The Lambda Foundation and the Pittsburgh Tavern Guild, which are being jointly honored for their philanthropic activities benefiting organizations and agencies that provide social, educational, and health-related services to members of Pittsburgh's gay and lesbian community.

The Lawrenceville Development Corp., which is being honored for its work to revitalize the historic Doughboy Square are of Lawrenceville, and for the construction and successful marketing of the Doughboy Square Townhomes—the largest new-construction housing development undertaken in Lawrenceville in the past 30 years.