

TRIBUTE TO BARTLEY "BART"
BENNETT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great humanitarian and close friend, Mr. Bartley "Bart" Bennett. Bart has worked tirelessly for the housing industry and constantly volunteered his time throughout our community. For that, I would like to honor him today.

Bart and I have known each other for years. Since founding Christmas CanTree with Frank Riser in 1977, Bart has worked with numerous organizations providing for the less fortunate. He simultaneously served on the Salvation Army Modesto Corps Advisory Board and the Community Housing and Shelter Services Board for almost two decades. This unrelenting dedication has affected many lives over the years.

In addition to these services, Bart has served as chairman of the Big Five Fundraiser for 10 years. This organization benefits the Community Housing and Shelter Services. It is a pleasure to recognize Bart today for these selfless acts of good will.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL WRITE
YOUR CONGRESSMAN

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased during the last few years to see that so many Americans take the opportunity to become involved in our Government. This involvement is reflected in the high volume of letters from my constituents regarding issues and events that affect their lives. I encourage and welcome this type of participation.

Today, I would like to recognize an organization that helps the people of this country send their thoughts and concerns to their Representatives in Washington, DC. National Write Your Congressman, founded in 1958, is a unique organization. It is different because it is not a lobbying organization and does not show partiality toward a particular issue. National Write Your Congressman researches legislation, presents both sides of national issues, and allows its members to develop their own opinions.

Once a month, this organization sends its members an opinion ballot outlining both sides of a controversial issue. They also conduct frequent national polls among their members and advise Representatives of the results. Finally, National Write Your Congressman keeps its members aware of their Representatives' voting records on national issues.

I am proud to see this organization actively encouraging busy Americans to voice their opinions on national issues. I commend National Write Your Congressman on its efforts to keep the American people in touch with their Representatives.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 553,
SOUTH GLENS FALLS, NY, HON-
ORED FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as a lifetime member of the American Legion myself, it is with great pride that I commemorate the Mohican Post 553 of the American Legion in South Glens Falls, NY, in my congressional district. And it is with great humility that I stand here today and try and do justice to all the tremendous service and good this post has done for veterans and their families, as well as the entire community over the past 75 years.

Just last year, I had the tremendous good fortune of addressing both the New York State and the National American Legion Convention where I was awarded with the American Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award. Mr. Speaker, it occurred to me that among all the things I've done in this Congress, I literally cherish above all else the time I've spent working alongside the American Legion. Together we've achieved so much on behalf of flag and country.

But Mr. Speaker, those achievements are what makes the men and women of American Legion Posts like No. 553 in South Glens Falls the true heroes. Not only have they served their country in uniform, but they have served America and their fellow veterans as members of the Legion. A group that is always in the forefront of efforts to develop and maintain adequate veterans benefits and programs.

And as if that wasn't enough, there are the tremendous programs and activities the members of Post 553 run on behalf of their community. I'm talking about things like scholarships and teams they sponsor for the youth in Glens Falls as well as community wide events.

Because of efforts like these, their promotion of pride, patriotism, and good citizenship goes unparalleled. And that's why I can't wait to pass the constitutional amendment to protect Old Glory right here on the House floor knowing I have the wholehearted support of my fellow Legionnaires from Post 553 in South Glens Falls, New York.

Mr. Speaker, protecting our flag, watching out for fellow veterans and ensuring a strong national defense may seem like a large and daunting agenda to some. But that's not half of what Legion Posts like this one have done over the 75 year history dating back to 1922. But I know there's no limit to what they can accomplish. That's because this post is made up of patriotic Americans who have served their country and earned the right to call themselves veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and proud members of the American Legion.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all members join me in paying tribute to all the members of South Glens Falls Legion Post 553 for their tireless and selfless devotion to America and their community.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR.
ROBERT L. FULLER

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, on May 24, 1997, Mt. Hermon Baptist Church will honor a dedicated individual and servant of God. The church, which is in my congressional district, will pay special tribute to Dr. Robert Lawrence Fuller, a pastor who completed 81 years in the Gospel Ministry. I join the Mt. Hermon Church family and the Greater Cleveland community in saluting Dr. Fuller. I want to share with my colleagues and others some information regarding this distinguished individual.

Dr. Fuller was born on October 10, 1911, in Decatur, AL. At the age of 5, his call to the ministry was recognized. Although Dr. Fuller was born with a speech impediment and had never been to school, he undertook the preaching of the Gospel with an unwavering conviction. He received his license at the age of 11, and was ordained some 8 years later. At the youthful age of 22, Dr. Fuller accepted his first pastorate at the Union Hill Baptist Church of Chattanooga, TN.

Mr. Speaker, in February 1937, Dr. Fuller arrived in Cleveland, OH, and began his ministerial service at Mt. Hermon Baptist Church. With the country in the Depression and the congregation on the verge of losing its place of worship, Dr. Fuller began a faith-building itinerary which would continue throughout his tenure. In 1939, the Mt. Hermon congregation began to purchase its first building. They burned the mortgage in 1942. As the membership continued to increase, a building fund was established, with a view to expansion. The ground breaking for the new place of worship took place on July 7, 1957. On August 10, 1958, the Mt. Hermon Baptist Church conducted its first worship service in the newly-completed, half-million dollar edifice on East 40th Street.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Fuller retired as pastor of Mt. Hermon Baptist Church in October 1992, after a record 55 years of dedicated service. He left with an impressive list of accomplishments to his credit. Under Dr. Fuller's leadership, renovations continued to take place, including the installation of an infra-ray heating system, a state-of-the-art public chime system, and the completion of a tower and third floor addition. Further, Dr. Fuller was instrumental in seeing that Mt. Hermon was responsive to the needs of the Greater Cleveland community. He led the congregation in evangelistic crusades and conducting religious surveys. Dr. Fuller was also responsible for the planning and building of the Good Samaritan Foundation Home which officially opened its doors to the community in October of 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Mt. Hermon Baptist Church family and many others in saluting Dr. Robert L. Fuller. His slogan that he is "God's Minute Man," exemplifies his intention to immediately respond to God's direction. I applaud Dr. Fuller for his strong commitment and dedicated service throughout the years. I recognize his achievements, and I wish him continued blessings and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was delayed on route to the Capitol following a meeting with constituents in my congressional district during the votes on H. Res. 152. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

ARLENE NUNES' GUARDIAN ANGEL

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, all of us in Congress are called upon from time to time to provide assistance to people who live in our districts and require some guidance in dealing with the complexities of one or another bureaucracy. One of the people that the excellent staff in my office have been able to help is Ms. Arlene Nunes. I was therefore especially moved when I saw Ms. Nunes recently and heard her describe the events which are chronicled in the accompanying article. The point is that Ms. Nunes having herself been in a situation where she experienced health problems and called on us to help her in dealing with a bureaucratic maze, drew strength from this and was for precisely this reason eager to help someone else who was in trouble. I was especially impressed by Ms. Nunes' assertion that precisely because she has herself asked others for assistance, she was inspired to provide literally life saving assistance to someone else at a difficult period. To go from the illness she had within a short period of time to being literally a life saver for a fellow human being is not only an extraordinary experience, but indicative of an extraordinary individual, Arlene Nunes, and I am proud to share this experience with others as an example of how adversity of a personal sort can sometimes be strengthening and bring out the best in us.

ARLENE NUNES, AS TOLD TO VERONICA CHATER

The blue-green sea spread out before me like a blanket as I waded into the warm water of Lydgate Lagoon on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. Could a month in paradise help me heal? I wasn't sure anything could.

Only a month before, I'd been lying miserably in a hospital back home in New England, admitted for heart problems and exhausted from multiple sclerosis.

"My daughter and I are supposed to be on a plane to Kauai!" I told the doctor.

"Don't worry," my 23-year-old daughter Dorene reassured me. "We'll just postpone the trip. It's not the end of the world."

But it felt like it. At 49, with my divorce behind me, I wanted to believe I still had a lot of living to do. But instead, my heart was racing, my left side was weak—and I felt I was falling apart.

Lying in bed, 17 long days had passed while I wondered if I'd ever feel strong again. But this trip would do more for me than I could have imagined.

The sun was on my face as I fed tropical fish. I wanted to dive into the glassy blue,

but my doctor's words echoed in my mind. *Take it easy.*

I'm not much of a swimmer anyway. As a young girl, I had gone swimming in a lake and gotten a cramp in my leg. Before I knew it, I was under. Please help me! I panicked, my lungs ready to burst. Finally, someone pulled me out. But ever since, I couldn't put my head underwater, I'd just paddle and float.

So I paddled and floated out, and when I could no longer feel the sandy floor, I let the water just support my body.

I watched a man swim to shore to look after his three children while his wife went in, scuba gear in hand. Then I kept floating out—about 100 feet—to the deepest part of the lagoon.

There may have been 10 other swimmers, or rather, snorkelers, their breathing straws skimming and bobbing. But my vision was drawn farther out. That's the mother of those children, I realized. It was her jerking movements that had caught my eye. Without making a sound, she threw up her arm, which twisted like a corkscrew. And she was gasping as she tried to yank off her diving mask.

Instantly, I knew I was witnessing an epileptic seizure; I had seen one years ago. And now, there was only still water where the young mom had been.

My mind went blank as my body took over. I paddled over as fast as I could, my heart pounding. And then, without thinking, I dove beneath the water.

I don't even remember pulling the woman to the surface. But suddenly, there I was, floating, holding on to her with my stronger right arm to keep her afloat. And then I found my voice and screamed. "Help!"

None of the snorkelers heard me. So I kept screaming, trying to keep the woman—convulsing and grabbing me—from pulling us both under.

On shore, I saw Dorene jump at the sound of my voice, and she started hollering too. And then the woman's husband realized. "Ellen," he cried "Ellen!" The sound of his plaintive cries made my heart break.

I can't wait for help, I thought. We have to get to shore. So with my weak left arm, I swam with all my might. Will we make it? I panicked. But then I saw a man swimming quickly toward us.

Panting, he reached us. "She's having a seizure!" I cried.

"Take her legs," he coughed, and together we towed her to shore.

When my feet finally touched bottom, I shouted to the crowd: "Get a doctor!" As it turned out, there was one on the beach, who performed CPR and emptied her lungs of water. Within minutes, she and her family had disappeared in an ambulance.

Standing in the water, I realized for the first time what had happened, and I started to sob. My fellow rescuer came toward me. "You saved her life," he said.

"We did," I replied.

"You know," he said, "I'd postponed this vacation because I was ill. I was just wading in the water..."

Then I told him my own story. For a moment we just stared at each other, knowing we had shared something incredible.

Maybe it wasn't just a coincidence that we were here to save that woman, I thought. Maybe, just maybe, God wanted to give us something: the feeling of strength when we felt weak. To show us something: that we could do something wonderful for another when we weren't sure what we could do for ourselves.

We called the hospital and found that Ellen had been released. She never knew that the stranger who reached out for her that day was me.

I think about Ellen a lot. Whenever I feel tired or weak, I remember the feeling of my legs and arms moving furiously and a sensation of power taking hold. If I could pull a woman out of the ocean, I can do anything!

If you ask Ellen, she'd probably tell you that I was her guardian angel. But if you ask me I'd have to say she was mine.

NATIONAL INTEREST IN RURAL HIGHWAYS ACT

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, Congress is in the process of developing legislation to reauthorize highway and transit programs. To ensure vital transportation links are maintained into the 21st century, we must address rural America's needs as well as America's need for a strong rural America.

The National Interest in Rural Highways Act would ensure rural States receive adequate funding. These States need a level of funding that ensures a seamless transportation system. The Nation does and must continue to benefit from effective transportation in and across rural areas. Without good highways across the plains and mountains, people and goods cannot move efficiently between the west and the east coasts. Yet these States with large land areas and sparse populations cannot support these national interest roads without a Federal investment. The bill would help meet this goal by establishing a small pool of funds to be allocated to States that have a population density of 25 people per square mile or fewer and cover a total area of 10,000 square miles or more.

The allocation from this pool of funds would supplement the State's regular allocation. The allocation would help meet the special needs of States that depend so heavily upon highways. The States that would qualify for this program would be Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

The total fund would constitute a mere 1.25 percent of the authorized appropriation of the highway trust fund (excluding the mass transit account). The distribution formula would be based upon two factors. Half of the total allocation would be distributed to each qualifying State based upon the total number of NHS miles in the State. The other half of the allocation would be based upon the number of vehicle miles traveled on the NHS within the eligible State.

The need for this legislation is clear. Without good roads in and across these States, regional and national movement is stymied.

And while these States enjoy some of the benefits of mass transit and passenger rail service, these are services that largely go unused in our area of the country. Quite frankly, the costs too often outweigh the benefits. Families, businesses, and industry depend largely upon roads and highways for their day-to-day business. As an example, South Dakotans annually pay over 30 percent more per capita in motor fuel taxes than the national average.

Highways act as the lifeline between these communities. In the State of South Dakota, agriculture and tourism are the top two industries. For agriculture, roads and bridges allow