

Owen "Gene" Sweeney, Jr., of the Baltimore City Police Department. Lieutenant Sweeney—a resident of Bel Air, MD—fell in the line of duty on May 7, 1997. Mere words cannot describe the shock and grief felt by his family, friends, and fellow police officers.

Gene Sweeney joined the Baltimore City Police Department in 1968 because he wanted to make a difference. As he worked his way through the ranks, Lieutenant Sweeney was always willing to accept responsibility. He was a member of the Baltimore City Police Department Homicide Squad, and at one time commanded the Crimes Against Persons Unit.

Throughout his 28 years on the force, Gene Sweeney enjoyed great respect as an exceptional police officer and leader. He was always there when people needed him, both as a cop and as a friend. Those who knew him described him best when they said, "he was a class guy."

Gene Sweeney was a devoted husband and father. He and his wife of 25 years, Elaine, had two sons, Frank and Eugene. Like many families, they enjoyed attending Baltimore Orioles baseball games and Ravens football games. Most of Owen's happiest family moments, however, were spent boating on the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. In fact, Gene Sweeney—only 819 days shy of retirement—had already purchased a boat in anticipation of his golden years.

It was dedication to duty and devotion to the officers he commanded that took Lieutenant Sweeney on his last call. Lt. Owen Eugene Sweeney, Jr., was mortally wounded while trying to help his fellow officers. Ironically, Gene Sweeney's death came only a few days before "Fallen Heroes Day," a day on which the citizens of Maryland annually commemorate those who have laid down their lives in the performance of their duties. His death was a stark reminder of the price these brave souls have paid.

I want to offer my deepest sympathy to Lieutenant Sweeney's family, his friends, and the men and women of the Baltimore City Police Department. Gene will be dearly missed, but never forgotten.

THANK YOU, ROBERT PRICE

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of the communities throughout our great Nation are blessed with great local governments. And the reason these governments are great is because they have been led by wonderful, dedicated people like Robert Price, the president of the village of Otisville, who is retiring after 36 productive years in office. He is being honored by the village with a retirement celebration on May 31.

Bob first served his community as a member of the board of review, appeals and planning, beginning in 1958. He then in 1961 began 8 years of service as a member of the village council. Since 1969, he has been the village president.

He will leave behind him a legacy of accomplishment. The village grew during his time of leadership, and many services had to be upgraded to provide for the increased demands.

There were extensive improvements to the water system, including the construction of a new sanitary sewer system. Parks and recreational facilities were built for the community to provide the infrastructure that families need to provide wholesome recreation for their children.

Bob Price's activities on behalf of the community came in many other forms as well. He was a charter member of the Otisville Jaycees, where he promoted the Jaycee sense of encouraging new businesses for the needs of residents of the community and as a source of jobs for many residents. His involvement in other civic and church groups are very well known throughout the community, and will certainly be highlighted at his retirement celebration.

Mr. Speaker, each of us works with our local officials, and I know many of our colleagues have served in that capacity. It is the most challenging of all public service because you are accessible every moment of every day—at the office, in church, at the grocery store, or at the Little League game. I have great respect for these dedicated individuals. It is why I consider it an honor and a privilege, Mr. Speaker, to encourage you and all of our colleagues to join me in thanking Robert Price, an outstanding example of local officials, for all of the work that he has done, and offering our best wishes for him as he begins a well-earned retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO FOUR GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute four outstanding young women who are being presented with the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Vermont Girl Scout Council. They are Melissa D. Jones and Tina M. Newell of Senior Girl Scout Troop 707 in Vergennes, VT and Jennifer R. Tobin and Vincenza Tortolano of Senior Girl Scout Troop 817 in Rutland, VT. They are being honored on May 29, 1997 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting.

The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award can be earned by girls aged 14 to 17, or in grades 9 to 12. To receive the award, these Girl Scouts first earned four interest project patches, the career exploration pin, the Senior Girl Scout leadership award and the Senior Girl Scout challenge as well as designing and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project to meet a special need in their communities.

As members of the Vermont Girl Scout Council, Melissa Jones and Tina Newell first earned badges in understanding yourself and others, child care, games, creative writing, and reading. The girls then combined their efforts in a project to combat illiteracy. They designed a series of three workshops for young children about the magic of books which they put on at their local town library. The workshops featured a magician, hired with moneys the girls raised themselves, magic tricks and crafts taught by the girls and wonderful stories fea-

turing magic. They attracted a large number of youngsters. The girls reported "Everything we did interested and excited the children; they wanted to read more books and they now know the library and are planning to come to their future children's programs."

Jennifer Tobin and Vincenza Tortolano put their efforts into making a special place for some elderly members of their community. The girls designed and established a conversation garden to give nursing home residents and their guests access to sidewalks, shade and beauty, putting in two settees and planting bulbs and a flowering crabapple tree, all financed by the girls' sale of handmade cookbooks. To quote the nursing home administrator, "These two young people have earned the respect and appreciation of 125 nursing home residents and 160 employees of Eden Park."

These four Senior Girl Scouts have earned my respect and appreciation, too, and I believe all four of the girls should receive the public recognition due them for such significant services to their communities and their country.

HONORING CAPTAIN LEROY A.  
FARR, A MILITARY AND AMERICAN HERO

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and a true military giant, an American hero—U.S. Navy Captain Leroy Farr.

Captain Farr is retiring from the Navy after 30 years of service to our country. As a test pilot, landing signal officer, operations and maintenance officer, squadron commanding officer, air boss, program manager, and inspector general, Captain Farr has a record in naval aviation that is second to none.

In 30 years Captain Farr has racked up numerous accomplishments but one of the greatest achievements in his distinguished record is the quiet but critical role he played in helping to save a strategic military asset—the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division in Lakehurst, NJ.

Lakehurst, Mr. Speaker, is the heart of naval aviation. It is a unique, one-of-its-kind, world-class facility whose primary function is to ensure that aircraft safely launch and recover from the deck of a carrier or other platform, and that support equipment assist in the service of planes, parts, and ordinance at sea. The safety and success of every single naval aircraft depends on the work and skill housed at Navy Lakehurst.

Despite its military value, the Department of Defense erroneously targeted Navy Lakehurst for closure—and then for a radical realignment. As part of the realignment scenario, the critical manufacturing, design, and research that goes on at Lakehurst was to be split apart and relocated at other bases.

Knowing that we had to act quickly to respond to this disaster, I immediately called together business and community leaders to discuss a plan to defend our base. We formed the Save Lakehurst Committee and organized a massive effort to save Navy Lakehurst. But

without reliable facts and figures, our effort would have been for naught.

As commanding officer of Lakehurst, Captain Farr was undoubtedly between a rock and a hard place. He knew the facts; he knew the figures. But as a Navy officer, Captain Farr could not and would not violate his chain of command. At the same time, as a Captain, a pilot, a former air boss, and the current commanding officer of Navy Lakehurst, Captain Farr knew better than anyone just how devastating the close Lakehurst scenario would be for national security and pilot safety.

It was an unusual situation where one's own military command was supporting a plan not in the best interest of the military. A predicament in which a man of less character, less courage, less fortitude and less grit might decide to look the other way—and let the chips fall where they may. But not Leroy Farr.

Captain Farr drew strength from his own personal skills and attributes enabling him to strike a balance between the plans of his Pentagon and the needs of his Nation. I remember his wife, Barbara, telling me just how much he grieved for the future of Navy Lakehurst and the future of any pilot who might fly off an aircraft carrier without the support of the skilled workers and artisans at Navy Lakehurst.

I had the good fortune of sitting in on Captain Farr's many briefings when BRAC officials would come to the base to see for themselves what went on at Navy Lakehurst. It was in these skillful presentations that Captain Farr laid the groundwork for the ultimate reversal of the close Lakehurst scenario. Captain Farr was informed, clear, concise, fair, direct, honest, sincere, and always careful to never publicly repudiate the Pentagon's plans.

Yet, on those critical points and questions when the facts simply did not fit the Pentagon's proposal, Captain Farr was sure to let the facts speak for themselves.

And the facts spoke volumes. Each fact introduced or underscored in a Captain Farr briefing became amplified by our community effort. We catapulted—to coin a phrase—the information to the BRAC Commission who in turn were persuaded not by rhetoric but by data—real hard evidence. They reversed the Pentagon proposal and secured the future of Navy Lakehurst and naval aviation and the safety of every Navy pilot.

Captain Farr's love of his country and love of his military—and his ability to withstand the heat—enabled him to educate and guide all of us who could openly and publicly challenge the Pentagon on the basis of military value and pilot safety. He did it not in a brash, self-promoting, self-serving or destructive manner but with class, dignity, firmness, integrity, valor, and resolve. And in this effort Captain Farr demonstrated that he is the personification of what our future military leaders should always strive to be: brave, decent, honorable leaders who put the safety of the Nation at the forefront of every decision.

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to have worked with Captain Farr and I know I speak not only for myself but for all who support Navy Lakehurst and are dedicated to a strong, capable military defense when I say that we will sincerely miss you and your brand of military leadership. Our gratitude for your dedication, contribution, and success is immeasurable.

We wish you the absolute best in your future endeavors with your wife Barbara and your children, Patty, Sherry, and Andrew—you, Captain, have earned it.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) establishing the Congressional budget for the U.S. Government for the fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, Governor Rosselló has proposed an economic growth incentive for Puerto Rico that would encourage U.S. companies to stay and expand on the island. This program has been endorsed by the President and has received bipartisan support in Congress. Senators D'AMATO and MOYNIHAN have introduced legislation in the Senate to implement this proposal. It is a priority of most of the Hispanic Members of Congress. This has the unified support of the public and private sectors in Puerto Rico. This job creation incentive should be included in legislation being considered this year to spur economic growth for the Nation as a whole.

Puerto Rico has paid a very high price this decade to fund legislation which expanded existing economic incentives or created new ones from which it will not benefit. In the 1993 budget bill, for example, business operations in Puerto Rico saw a net tax increase of almost \$4 billion, while individuals and businesses on the mainland enjoyed \$25 billion in new or expanded tax benefits.

In 1996, Congress again increased taxes on commerce in Puerto Rico by \$11 billion while reducing taxes on mainland businesses and individuals by \$30 billion. The 1996 changes are especially harmful to economic growth in Puerto Rico. In effect, Congress eliminated altogether the Federal economic incentives that help attract companies to the island. Sections 936 and 30A of the Internal Revenue Code will continue for ten years but at a significantly reduced level and only for companies and lines of business that were already on the island on October 13, 1995.

As a result of these changes, Puerto Rico now has no Federal economic incentives to attract new business. Further, companies subject to the 10-year phase out may not, without losing all of their incentives, introduce new lines of business.

The 1996 tax bill enacted a number of special tax incentives for small businesses and tax credits for both small and large companies. The 1996 small business tax credits were intended to help companies offset an increase in the minimum wage. Ironically, while employers in Puerto Rico are subject to the minimum wage, they also saw the elimination of their Federal economic incentives.

These changes present the Government of Puerto Rico with a serious threat to its goal of expanding private sector employment while reducing the size and cost of both Government and welfare. Without any economic incentives for new job creation or investment, it will be difficult to stop employers from leaving the island for foreign locations.

Moreover, without any incentives, the Puerto Rican economy, where per capita income is less than 30 percent of the United States mainland, and where unemployment is two to three times the average in the States, cannot possibly catchup; it can only fall further behind, with implications for state and Federal balanced budget goals.

The D'Amato-Moynihan bill would modify the wage credit in section 30A to: (1) Apply to new business; (2) eliminate the "cap" limitations that were put in place last year; and (3) remain in effect until Puerto Rico increases its economic performance. These modifications would be made without reducing in any way the economic incentives that apply to existing business operations in Puerto Rico that are being phased out.

There are compelling reasons to act now.

Most importantly, we should not wait until there are visible declines in the Puerto Rican economy. These job creation incentives take time to generate results, and Puerto Rico needs results now. Deferring this program until all incentives for existing operations terminate is like playing Russian roulette with the 4 million Americans in Puerto Rico.

As time goes by the cost of providing new economic incentives for Puerto Rico will increase, especially as the negative impact of the 1996 tax law changes are felt. It will be far less expensive to keep companies in Puerto Rico by acting now, rather than to try and get them back after they leave.

Moreover, should Congress and the President agree on a long-term budget plan this year, it is unlikely that a major budget or tax vehicle will be considered for some time to come. As a result, this may be the last best opportunity to act.

It is in the national interest to establish these economic growth incentives for Puerto Rico this year.