

Flip's interest and involvement in our community have led him to serve on several boards and committees, including the American Heart Association, San Fernando Valley Public Safety Advisory Commission, the State Small Business Commission, and many others. He also served as the president of the Mid-Valley Community Police Council, helping to raise over \$100,000 annually to assist law enforcement in the San Fernando Valley.

Flip has worked closely with the members of our community to raise the standard of living, and he has generously donated his time and energy to several different organizations. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Philip Smith. He is a role model for the citizens of Los Angeles.

#### McLEAN COUNTY WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

### HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 8, 1997, McLean County will hold a dedication ceremony for their new World War II memorial.

Our Nation is graced with many treasures, though none so precious as the freedom we enjoy in our prosperous country. As we approach this Veterans Day, we must thank our veterans for providing and safeguarding that freedom. Unfortunately, many have died in war protecting and defending that freedom. In cities throughout this great land, and now right here in Bloomington, there are monuments etched with names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Each name marks the end of the dreams of a young American whose life was cut short in the defense of freedom, each inscription a lasting legacy to the selfless sacrifice our very best men and women were willing to make.

I commend all the volunteers who spent countless hours building this lasting memorial for the 306 men and women from McLean County who died in World War II. I thank all the union workers who donated their time and efforts, in particular the carpenters, engineers, cement masons, plumbers, teamsters, and electrical workers. Their efforts will be appreciated for generations to come.

I invite all to join me on November 11, Veterans Day, in recognizing all of yesterday's service members, and all of today's soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. Our Nation is the finest in the history of mankind because of their service.

#### HELP COMBAT UNDERAGE SMOKING

### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would place a \$500 per year tax on vending machines that sell cigarettes and other tobacco products. It is my hope that this tax will discourage the use of these vending machines and recoup some

of the costs that these vending machines inflict upon society by making it easier for our children to illegally purchase and use tobacco products.

Smoking and second-hand tobacco smoke are known class A carcinogens. In fact, scientists recently identified the chemical process through which cigarette smoke causes cancer. Smoking also causes heart disease and birth defects among the children of women smokers. Cigarettes kill more than 434,000 Americans each year. Tobacco addiction costs the American public more than \$65 billion each year in health care costs and lost productivity.

The saddest fact to me is that 90 percent of smokers began smoking when they were children—most started before they were 16 years old. Everyday—every single day—3,000 young people began smoking.

All States have laws restricting tobacco sales to children below a certain age. While these laws can be effective when a sales clerk is selling the tobacco, they do little to prevent minors from purchasing tobacco from vending machines. My legislation recognizes the insidious nature of tobacco vending machines by placing a \$500 per year tax on vending machines that sell tobacco products.

Hopefully, this tax will help discourage tobacco companies from selling their goods through vending machines and discourage our children from smoking; \$500 is a small price to pay to protect our children from emphysema, cancer, and the other ravages of tobacco.

#### 53D ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

### HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, who came together with friends and family on their 53d anniversary to dedicate a monument to the courage of the soldiers, living and dead, who fought, in the most important battles ever undertaken by the U.S. Army.

My sister was an army nurse who treated the sick and wounded in field hospitals during this great battle. Joseph F. Zimmer, a member of the 87th Infantry Division, read the following essay, *Reflections*. I commend this essay to my colleagues' attention.

Once again we meet to recall and honor those days, those men, those warriors who saved the day in the historic Battle of the Bulge of World War II.

As WWII gets even more remote from people's personal experiences, it, and this battle, are going to become even more attractive and memorable. In 100 years, even at the end of the 3rd millennium, people are going to flock to see the memorials that mark, for all time, those dark, dank, foggy days in Belgium and Luxembourg. The valor, bravery, courage, and heroics have been spoken of, written about, and memorialized in uncountable plaques and monuments in our country, most recently at Carlisle, and those far away villages and towns where heroes died, were captured, wounded, or escaped unharmed.

Emerson said "Every hero becomes a bore at last." Nevertheless, the storytelling will insure that our journey to this sacred place at

Gettysburg, and the unknown future will keep us connected to one another, to what we experienced in the Bulge during those terrifying times, our inherited strength, and, most especially, to those who have gone before us. Life became death, the shatterer of worlds. We live in the present without being obsessed about the past or worried about the future. We constantly strive to discover the significance of our experiences and in our minds we are constantly standing on holy ground. The bitterest tears shed over a grave are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone. (Harriet Beecher Stowe)

What we forget is that this country had about 120 million people during those war years. Out of that number there were only about 20 million men between the ages of 17 and 36—and four out of five of them went to war, joined by over 100,000 women. Beginning in 1939 with our Armed Forces numbering about 174,000 men, ranking 17th in the world behind such nations as Bulgaria and Portugal, we turned into a global fighting force of more than 8 million, an army without which the allies could not have defeated Nazi Germany and Japan. In all of this it is worthwhile to remember some words of war. They were uttered by Joshua Chamberlain when he returned to the battle field many years after his heroics on Little Round Top: "In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays," says the old soldier "Generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field, to ponder and dream" This too can be said about all the areas we fought in during the Battle of the Bulge.

The history of the world, like letters without poetry, flowers without fragrance, or thought without imagination, would be a dry matter indeed without its legends. And yet many of these, though scorned by proof of a hundred times, seem worth preserving for their own familiar sakes. What we did, what we experienced, represents the engrafted love of our country, our fellow citizens, and of freedom. In the suburbs of our hearts, we remember that we were part of a gathering of the noblest of men who ever lived in the tides of times. We feel that we must draw on our history to describe our history. It fits each of us to a "q"—honesty, loyalty, integrity. "The spirit of man is god-like, eternal, indestructible," said Norman Mailer in his WWII book, *The Naked and the Dead*. This spirit is reflected in the selfless sacrifices made by army nurses, doctors and medics, the women who waited—a mother, wife, sister, even a daughter, maybe, had their daily hell as well.

Our organization, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, remains a vessel for each of us to pour our memories and values into, and yet we don't have to run to catch up with our selves. Our founders, present and past presidents, our leaders, are owed a great debt of gratitude to afford us a vehicle, and these reunions, in the company of our companions, to once again gather together, to keep alive in the special vault of the national imagination, the gallantry, uncommon glory and sacrifices made during that great battle. Each of the 19,000 who died, every drop of blood shed, invigorated our Nation and other nations as well as Western civilization. They were among the 292,131 men and women that were killed in battle in WWII; another 115,000 did under

other conditions. These are not just statistics—these are persons. Our being here is important for when we pass on. You don't just lose the glamorous culture we survived in, you lose the whole culture that we stood for and in a way fought for.

It is good to be reminded that there are such men, that there always have been and always will be. "We sometimes forget, I think," said historian, Stephen Ambrose, "that you can manufacture weapons, and you can purchase ammunition, but you can't buy valor and you can't pull heroes off a assembly line" Each of us veterans of VBOB can be very proud this day and every day. We are all still heroes, and we do not take lightly being called a hero.

Who knows what our comradeship means, but surely it means more than just that we are all haunted by ghosts; because they are not just echoes of voices that have years since ceased to speak, but the murmur of heroes, in the sense that, through them, something of the power and richness of life itself, not only touched us once long ago, but continues to touch us today as we meet. Let us be worthy of this heritage as we continue to meet from time to time in our chapter meetings, our executive national reunions to see that it is memorialized and never forgotten.

In our vintage years remember: yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery; today is a gift—that's why it is called "the present."

Finally, legend has it that when we leave this world and get to our eternal abode in heaven, the God we believe in returns to us our best self. It is not difficult to see that what we all were during WWII, and what we became mirrors our best selves. What we did and how we performed in the Battle of the Bulge surely added to our luster. Godspeed to each and everyone here.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE  
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AIR  
FORCE SERGEANT WILLIAM ROY  
PEARSON

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding American, Air Force Sergeant William Roy Pearson, a member of the elite Maroon Berets of the 37th Air Rescue, who died with six other servicemen when his helicopter was shot down during a rescue mission in Vietnam in 1972. Missing in action for 25 years, Sgt. Pearson was recently returned home to New Hampshire and his family to be buried in his hometown of Webster.

In a time when the word hero is used to describe sports stars or movie actors, Sgt. Pearson stands out as a real-life hero. Like all true heroes, he rose to meet his challenges with a quiet courage. This brave young man, shot down just 12 days before his 21st birthday, earned in his short lifetime, a Silver Star, a Purple Heart and two Distinguished Flying Crosses. He and his squadron are credited with helping to rescue 116 servicemen. And he was a hero until the end—Sgt. William Pearson died while trying to save the life of a downed airman.

I read the comments of another New Hampshire soldier who had trained and served with

Sgt. Pearson and I want to share his thoughts with you. He said that he wasn't surprised that his friend died while trying to save another soldier, stating: "Billy Pearson didn't just decide that he was going to be a hero that day. It was the result of a strong family heritage and a loving home where he developed into a young man with a courageous spirit."

Mr. Speaker, I honor that selfless, courageous spirit today. I ask that you join his family, friends, fellow soldiers and all the people of the Granite State in honoring the life and heroic efforts of Sgt. William Pearson. For too long, New Hampshire had lost one of her bravest sons, and we are very grateful to have him back.

TRIBUTE TO POLICE CHIEF JOHN  
HOPKINS

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay a special tribute to retiring Police Chief John Hopkins of the Port Hueneme, CA Police Department. His dedication to his community is truly extraordinary.

Chief Hopkins began his service over 30 years ago in the city of Port Hueneme as a reserve police officer. He later moved through the ranks from patrolman, eventually becoming Chief of Police in 1992.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work with this devoted member of our law enforcement community. During his tenure with the police department, he has been recognized for his many accomplishments and the outstanding progress he has made on the force. The diligence and commitment to Duty Chief Hopkins and his counterparts have displayed are the primary reasons Ventura County consistently ranks as one of the safest areas in the county.

Chief Hopkins will be greatly missed, but his contributions to our community will not be forgotten. I want to congratulate and wish him the very best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE  
OF MR. GEORGE MORRIS TO OUR  
NATION'S VETERANS

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as Veteran's Day draws near, I rise today to recognize an individual in my district who continues to serve his country, and his fellow veterans, more than half a century after his release as a prisoner of war.

George Morris of St. Petersburg, FL has served as a volunteer at the Bay Pines Veterans Administration Medical Center since 1981. In his 16 years of service, Mr. Morris has logged more than 16,200 hours as a volunteer. This is a remarkable feat made all the more so by the fact that he began volunteering at age 75.

During his service in World War II, Mr. Morris was working in the Philippines as a map-

maker for the Government's Coast and Geodetic Survey when he was captured by the Japanese in 1941. After being imprisoned in the Philippines, Japan, and Korea, he was released at the end of the war. Mr. Morris has not forgotten those he served with and continues to honor their memory through his service to other veterans today.

Mr. Speaker, Veteran's Day is a time to reflect on the many gifts we as a nation and as Americans have been given because of those men and women who have served in uniform here and throughout the world. This is a time to say thank you for those gifts. Mr. Morris paid a great price to protect our freedom while his was denied for so long as he was held as a prisoner of war 55 years ago. Today he continues to give of himself in service to others.

On behalf of all my colleagues, I want to say thank you to Mr. Morris, and to all our Nation's veterans, for your service and dedication which enable us all to enjoy all the freedoms and liberties the United States has to offer. Our Nation is the finest nation in the history of mankind because of their service—both past and present.

THE SILK ROAD STRATEGY ACT  
OF 1997, H.R. 2867

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the Silk Road Strategy Act of 1997 (H.R. 2867), a measure designed to focus American diplomatic and commercial attention, as well as American foreign assistance, on the important regions of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The name Silk Road is an ancient one, referring to the East-West trade route that for so long linked China and other countries in East Asia with Italy and other countries in West Europe. The countries of the Caucasus and Central Asian regions, through which travelers on the Silk Road passed, fell victim to conflict and repression as the Russian tsars pushed south and then were replaced by the brutal dictatorship of the Bolshevik Commissars. For over seven decades the eight countries of these two regions—Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan—were sealed behind the Iron Curtain, unable to move forward toward democracy and commercial prosperity with the rest of Europe and Asia. Ironically, the resources to fuel such progress lay just under the surface, in the form of vast gas and oil reserves.

Mr. Speaker, the peoples of the Caucasus and Central Asia now face the challenge of rebuilding their links to Europe and Asia, and we in the United States have a national interest to help them overcome the obstacles that lay in the way of resurrecting the old Silk Road. Regrettably, these countries lie between Russia, Iran, Afghanistan and China. In Russia, they face a country that seems intent on forcing them to stay within its sphere of dominance. In Iran, they face a fundamental Islamic regime that seeks to use them to thwart efforts led by the United States to isolate Iran until it forsakes its support for international terrorism—and an Iran that hopes to foment fundamentalist Islam from Azerbaijan to the borders of