

HONORING BOB CURRAN UPON HIS
RETIREMENT**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bob Curran, Columnist for the Buffalo News on the occasion of his retirement.

Bob Curran was born in Boston to Irish immigrants. World War II interrupted his football career at Cornell University. Bob was a Sergeant with the 95th Infantry Division and fought in France, Belgium and into Germany. Gen. George Patton personally gave him the Silver Star. Bob also received 2 Purple Hearts, Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge. His wounds kept him from playing football when he returned to Cornell.

Bob worked for Fawcett Publications in New York, becoming editor of Cavalier before resigning in 1961. He was director of college football's Gotham Bowl, head of sports publicity for NBC and syndicated columnist before moving to Buffalo in 1967.

Bob has been a columnist for the Buffalo News for 32 years. His columns are famous for telling readers how to "win friends and influence him," asking trivia questions and telling backward jokes.

What has set Bob apart from other columnists has been his strong advocacy on behalf of veterans. He wrote about real heroes, the veterans in Western New York. As Chairman of the House Veterans' Benefits Subcommittee, I have greatly benefited from his insight and advice on veterans' issues.

As everyone in Western New York is aware, Bob has been a vocal advocate of the designation of December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, as a national holiday. It was through Bob's passion, encouragement and support that he generated in the veteran's community, that persuaded me to submit legislation in the House of Representatives, H.R. 965, to designate Pearl Harbor Day as a federal holiday in the same manner as November 11, Veterans Day.

I and the many members of the Western New York veteran's community look forward to Bob's continued support for veteran issues.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the Curran family, the Buffalo News, our veterans and their families as well as the entire Western New York community in tribute to Mr. Bob Curran.

With retirement comes many new opportunities. May Bob meet each new opportunity with the same enthusiasm and vigor in which he demonstrated throughout his brilliant career, and may those opportunities be as fruitful as those in his past.

Thank you, Bob, for your advocacy, tireless effort and personal commitment to our community, and for your friendship.

IN HONOR OF SHANNON MELENDI

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share with my colleagues the tragic cir-

cumstances of a constituent, Shannon Melendi, a 19 year-old sophomore at Emory University in Atlanta.

Almost 5 years ago to the day, on March 26, 1994, Shannon disappeared on a Saturday afternoon from the Softball Country Club where she worked as a scorekeeper, during games.

Shannon took a work break from which she never returned and no one has seen her since that day.

The prime suspect, a part-time umpire at the park, was previously convicted of kidnapping and taking indecent liberties with a child and served only 2 years of a 4-year prison sentence.

This was his third sexual offense.

Perhaps if this man had served his full prison sentence, Shannon would not have disappeared.

Or, perhaps if he had received a harsher sentence, due to the fact that it was his third sexual offense and committed against a child, Shannon would still be here today.

Mr. Speaker, when sexual crimes are committed, we need to ensure that these criminals spend many years incarcerated so that women and children are safe from sexual predators who prey upon them.

I urge my colleagues to work together to enact legislation that will keep people who have committed sexual crimes off our streets so that what happened to Shannon will never have to happen again.

Shannon's father, Luis, summed it up the best when he said, "What happened to us cannot be changed, but because of what happened to us, changes can be made."

TRIBUTE TO EAGLEVILLE, TN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Eagleville, TN. Historically, the first known settlers arrived in the Eagleville area in 1790. There are indications that Native Americans also camped near the local springs. The town derives its name from a legend about an unusually large eagle that was killed near the village. This name was officially adopted on August 16, 1836. Eagleville received its charter of incorporation on March 31, 1949.

Today, the tradition of this historic city continues to grow with a nationally recognized school, the community churches and its businesses. The city government consists of an elected mayor, Nolan S. Barham, Sr., and six elected council members. Eagleville's population has steadily grown through the years and today stands at 501 people.

On Saturday, March 27, the town of Eagleville will celebrate their 50th anniversary. They will be holding a community dinner from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Some members of the community, who were present for the original incorporation ceremony, will be recognized during this event. Please join me in congratulating Eagleville for reaching this milestone.

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA—1999
ARMY COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S
AWARD**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Fort Benning, GA, the "Home of the Infantry" and the Army's premier installation, for being recognized with the 1999 Army Communities of Excellence Commander-in-Chief's Award.

This is the fourth Commander in Chief's Award Fort Benning has received in the last five years. The annual award recognizes the best Army installation in the world. Fort Benning has also been awarded, for the seventh consecutive year, the Chief of Staff, Army Award which recognizes the best Army installation in the continental United States.

The ability and professionalism of the tens of thousands of soldiers and nearly 7,000 civilians who pass through Fort Benning's gate each and every year are responsible for this recognition. The awards are also indicative of the successful partnership that has been developed over the years between Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama.

Major General Ernst, Commanding General, and his able staff continue to reinforce Fort Benning's longstanding commitment to military quality, focusing on the watchwords "first in training, first in readiness, and first in quality of life." As the home of the infantry, Fort Benning's mission is to produce the world's finest combat-ready infantry and to continue to be the Army's premier installation and home for soldiers, families, civilian employees, and military retirees. This mission is achieved with distinction on a daily basis by Fort Benning soldiers who constitute a cornerstone of our Nation's Armed Forces.

While the infantry remains the central focus of activity at Fort Benning, other specialized units have been added over the years, enhancing the ability of the installation to accomplish its mission. Fort Benning houses, among others, the 11th and 29th Infantry Regiments, the 36th Engineer Group, the Ranger Training Brigade and the 75th Ranger Regiment, the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, the Drill Sergeant School, the Henry Caro Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, and the U.S. Army School of the Americas. Each of these units work tirelessly to defend our national interests around the world and to serve our communities at home.

To the military and civilian personnel of Fort Benning, I offer my sincere thanks and congratulations for a job well done.

MARCH IS NATIONAL SOCIAL
WORK MONTH**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind my colleagues as we adjourn for the district work period that March is "Social Work

Month". As a trained social worker, I know first-hand the significant contributions that have been made nationwide by this profession. Professional social workers, throughout this nation, can be found in the most amazing places including fortune 500 companies, departments of health, courts, mental health centers, managed care companies, schools, child welfare agencies, nursing homes, health care settings, employee assistance programs, and public and private agencies. Daily they are tasked with helping to alleviate society's most intractable problems, working one-on-one with troubled children and families, organizing communities for change and performing cutting-edge research and administering social programs.

The business of social work is helping people help themselves. One such entity that has made a point of emphasizing the importance of social workers in the health care delivery system is the Miami-Dade County health department. Social workers play an integral role in servicing Dade County residents in a variety of public health areas. The fact that the county administration has agreed to give special recognition to its social workers is a testament to their significant contributions to the health department. Let me congratulate all my fellow social workers and we honor them for their service during the month of March.

BEAN THERE, DONE THAT

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the famous story of Speaker Joe Cannon yelling "Thunderation!" when he went to the Member's Dining Room wanting a bowl of Michigan Navy Bean Soup, and not finding it on the menu. Ever since that day, this soup with its main ingredient, the Navy Bean, coming from most likely my congressional district, has been on the menu. But how many of you have heard the story of John A. McGill, Jr., the now-retired Executive Vice-President and Treasurer of the Michigan Bean Shippers Association having lunch with our former colleague, Bob Traxler, in the same dining room, and having to once again yell "Thunderation" when someone substituted impostor Great Northern Beans for the historic and acclaimed Navy Bean?

From 1969 until August 28, 1998, John McGill actively worked to promote the interests of the Michigan dry bean industry. Both shippers and growers benefited from this gentleman's expertise, his savvy business sense, and his well-known resolve to fight for what he believes to be right. And our Navy Bean Soup remains secure.

His work on behalf of research both at the Saginaw Valley Bean and Beet Farm and Michigan State University has resulted in the development of new varieties that will be planted for years to come. John was a major player in making sure the Michigan's beans continue to appear on plates throughout the United Kingdom. He participated in many trade missions to Africa and other potential

markets with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and was a vital player in increasing our sales in Mexico. His development and continued publication of the Michigan Dry Bean Digest provides one of the most comprehensive documents available to the industry. And he will never be forgotten for his devotion and competitiveness in the annual MBSA golf tournament at the Association's summer meeting.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, to John and his wife Donna, we offer our most sincere best wishes and friendship in return for years of their guidance, friendship, sense of humor, and support. John's leadership for Michigan dry beans and for all of agriculture in Michigan—spanning the decades—will not be forgotten soon. He has truly set an example for future leaders, and to colleagues and friends. Mr. Speaker, we urge you and all of our colleagues to join us in wishing this wonderful gentleman his happiest years ever. May his hunting sights be filled, his tee shots straight and long, and his duck carving tools sharp and true.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LUELLA
POWELL KOONCE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, this weekend Mrs. Luella Powell Koonce will be joined by family and friends to celebrate her 90th birthday. Birthdays are perfect occasions for reflection. Mrs. Koonce's life has been fruitful and she has much of which to be proud. She has many names—Mother, Mom-in-Law, Granny, Aunt Tee, and Cousin Lou. She is the eldest living member of the Powell-Hutchins-Koonce families and has more than 100 living relatives.

As you can imagine, a woman with so many relations must have a busy life. She is known as a counselor, professional seamstress, good cook, baby sitter, family banker and hot line monitor for her church and neighborhood. Luella Koonce was born 90 years ago on a farm in Blakely, Georgia. She was one of the four children of James and Elizabeth Hutchins Powell. After the family moved to Dothan, Alabama, she met and married Early Koonce and they subsequently moved their family of three children to Newark, New Jersey and eventually to East Orange, New Jersey.

Family unity, independence and moral values have always been emphasized in her family and she has passed those and other cultural traditions down to her children and grandchildren. In the early 1940s, she joined St. Paul AME Church in East Orange. She has remained a faithful member since that time. During her membership, she has devoted her attention to the Pastor's Aide Club, Missionary Society, and Georgia Circle. A firm believer that "prayer changes things," she has made a believer out of many of her relatives.

While she is proud and boastful of the accomplishments of her children—Willie, my successful barber; Evelyn, a retired teacher/librarian; and Mary, a member of the East Orange City Council; she is always quick to remind them to remember where they came from and not get "too big for their britches."

Her nine grandchildren have profited from her inspired motivational talks using the Prodigal Son as her text to teach the value of love. As a teenager, I remember visiting the Koonce home. It was a place that always seemed to have young people around. I am sure that was because we all had a tremendous amount of respect for Mrs. Koonce. She instilled values in all of us, not just her children. She always seemed to extend herself.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in sending Mrs. Koonce our best wishes for a wonderful birthday.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD "HOWIE"
HERBERT

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring your attention to the contributions and leadership of Howard (Howie) Herbert, a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Howard Herbert moved to Albuquerque at the age of 20, in 1950. After building a reputation in sales and management Howie began his career as an entrepreneur. He opened the first discount store in the southwest, calling it Albuquerque Discount Club. Gas was sold for seven cents a gallon to those who had the Albuquerque Discount Club deal. After two years he sold this successful business and moved on to land development and the appliance business—Herbert Distributing. Mr. Herbert was a founding member of Western Bank.

Howard Herbert experienced business success, but believes that it is all about giving back to the community. Over the years he has served on more than 30 committees and boards including the Governors Drug Council, Youth Incarceration Business Outreach Program, Board of Directors for Special Olympics, Goodwill Industries, Trustee of the 100 Club of New Mexico, state chairman of the Easter Seals program and New Mexico Mental Health, founder of the Christmas Basket Program in Albuquerque and co-founder of the Halfway House Rehab for Alcoholics, and the list continues.

Please join me in the recognition of economic and social contributions Howard Herbert has made to my home of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TROOPER FACES PROBE OVER OUTBURST

EUGENE, OR (AP)—A state police trooper accused of shouting racial slurs and obscenities during an incident in Eugene is facing a criminal charge.

Joseph Michael Jansen, 28, assigned to the Madras patrol office, was in town for a wedding when he allegedly caused the 2 a.m. ruckus Jan. 24.