

FireFighter on August 14, 1984, then as Acting Chief on October 1, 1990. Finally on July 1, 1991, Mr. Robert Pizzuti was sworn in as Chief Robert Pizzuti of the Montclair Fire Department, and it is in that capacity in which he has served for the last eight years. He is a member of the F.M.B.A. and is also the Sergeant at arms of the Chief's Association.

Chief Pizzuti has been acknowledged by many groups over the years for his civic awareness; the March of Dimes, Christ Church, the Borough of Glen Ridge, the New Jersey General Assembly, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Summit, and the Montclair Optimist Club, to name just a few. Chief Pizzuti has also been involved with First Night in Montclair, as well as coaching softball, baseball, and football.

Chief Robert Pizzuti has been married to Eleanor Majewski since May 18, 1957. And they have five children; Diana, Tracy, Robert Jr., Robin, and Thomas. He and his wife are also grandparents to seven grandchildren and they are presently expecting their eighth.

Mr. Speaker, since I took office in January of 1997, Chief Robert Pizzuti has been a member of my Eighth Congressional District Public Safety Committee that has been so instrumental in counseling me on issues of importance to those who are charged with saving lives every day. In fact, Chief Pizzuti was one of the forces behind the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act which I recently introduced in this esteemed body. This law will provide federal grants directly to paid, part-paid, and volunteer fire departments to hire more firefighters, train firefighters in state-of-the-art techniques, and better equip firefighters so that they can more effectively save lives. It was in large part to Chief Pizzuti's imagination and initiative that this innovative piece of legislation was crafted.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join me, our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, Robert's family, friends, and co-workers, the Montclair Fire Department, and the Township of Montclair, New Jersey, in thanking Chief Robert Pizzuti for all his years of service to the community and congratulating him on his well deserved retirement, his presence will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JOSEPH ANTHONY CRUZ SAN AGUSTIN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to commend and congratulate Commander Joseph Anthony Cruz San Agustin of the United States Navy on his distinguished career and his upcoming well-earned retirement.

Born on October 19, 1957, in the village of Tamuning, Commander San Agustin is the son of Joaquin and Ana San Agustin. Prior to being accepted at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport Rhode Island in 1975, he attended Father Duenas Memorial School. In 1980, he earned a degree in Physical Science from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Joseph was awarded his Navy Wings from the U.S. Navy Flight School at Pensacola Flor-

ida in 1982 and went on to serve as a pilot of military aircraft for 20 years. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1980 and was assigned to VMGR-352 "Raiders" El Toro, California, VMGR-152 Okinawa, and Battalion 7th Marines, Camp Pendleton, California. Having transferred over to the Navy side as a lieutenant in 1987, he went on to serve with VQ-3 "Ironman" Barbers Point, Hawaii, PMRF, Barking Sands Hawaii, and VQ-3 "Ironman" Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, prior to being assigned to COMNAVMARIANAS, Guam.

Commander San Agustin holds the distinction of being one of only a handful of Chamorros to graduate from the Naval Academy and retire from the United States Navy. In addition to the numerous commendations and awards he received for his military service, he had also been presented various certificates and aviation qualifications which have included the Airline Transport Certificate, the Airline Single/Multi-engine land, the Flight Engineer Certificate, the Turbojet Powered, and the FAA First Class Medical Certificate.

While on Guam, he played a large role in the required process of normalization in the aftermath of various military operations and natural disasters. Joseph was involved with Operation Pacific Haven in support of over 6,600 Kurdish evacuees fleeing Iraq to seek political asylum in the United States. Along with various military personnel, he provided humanitarian assistance during the stressful times after the crash of Korean Air Flight 801 and the devastation left by super-typhoon Paka. He was also instrumental in maintaining a positive mutual relationship between the Navy and the Government of Guam in his position as Guam Liaison for COMNAVMARIANAS.

Joseph has also been active in community activities on Guam. For the past two years, he was the PTA president for Mt. Carmel School in Agat. He also finds time to get involved in various community projects with the Agat Elementary School, the Agat Mayor's Office, the Agat Running Club, the Barrigada Mayor's Office, and the San Vicente Catholic Church.

After more than two decades of distinguished and dedicated service, Commander San Agustin has chosen to retire from the Navy. In addition to the great contributions his military career has made towards the strength and security of this nation, Joseph's achievements and community involvement have undoubtedly brought pride to the island of Guam and its people. He is a role model; he is a leader; he is a great representative of his island home.

I join his wife, Maria, their children Rachel, Rebecca, and Alan, in celebrating his accomplishments throughout his long and successful military career. On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend and congratulate Commander Joseph Anthony Cruz San Agustin on his well-earned retirement. I wish him well in his future endeavors and expect from him only the best as he once again becomes part of Guam's civilian community.

IN HONOR OF THE FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1-year anniversary of the new Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service (MCHDEMS). Therefore, on this occasion, I want to recognize and applaud the accomplishments of MCHDEMS in providing quality patient care and customer service for the citizens and visitors of Montgomery County.

During its first year, MCHDEMS implemented a system-wide improvement program focused on accountability to the patient and the community. They have also joined with area hospitals and school health programs to provide educational classes for pediatrics, trauma, and cardiac emergencies.

Furthermore, the Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service has provide CPR certification for over 300 lay persons, who through this training, increased the survival rate for people in our community. Many of the CPR rescues and other critical interventions they have performed have saved patient lives and restored patients to their families.

In addition, its community outreach programs, including how to "dial 911" featuring Andy the Ambulance and Twinkle the Clown, have reached over 5,000 children. Their Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) awareness programs, provided across county high schools, have been beneficial in preventing many needless tragedies.

For all of these and other efforts, Allen Johnson, Operations Manager of the Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service was recognized as the Administrator of the Year for the State of Texas for his leadership in the resumption of the Emergency Medical Service for Montgomery County Hospital District.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service well as they begin their 2nd year of service.

HONORING ST. MARY'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce on their twenty-fifth anniversary.

Their initial meeting was held in April, 1974 by combining the Leonardtown and Lexington Park Chambers. A board of directors was installed and George Sparling was elected president. Eddie Bailey, Rubye Beaman, Eddie Burroughs, Robert Dudley, Bert Fenwick, Jack Fletcher, Joe M. Gough, Stewart Hobbs, Jim Kenney, Richard Lubbers, Charles Mason, Bill Raley, Buzzy Ridgell, Mary Salisbury, Les Shaw, Harry Lee Smith,

Leroy Thompson, Jr., Elliot Weisman, and Rocky Willis served as the board of directors.

The chamber had 150 charter members. Office space was two rooms on the second floor of the First National Bank of St. Mary's in Leonardtown, courtesy of Joe M. Gough. They occupied those offices until 1988 when the chamber moved to Mechanicsville. Not only has the chamber grown in membership with 400 members today, but also in service to the community, with members serving on a number of county and state boards and local committees.

Over the years, the chamber has supported county events such as the Oyster Festival and Maryland Day. The Trade Fair was started in 1983 to give local businesses the chance to show their wares and to promote county businesses. As a result of a good working relationship with county government, state government and the Southern Maryland Congressional delegation, major accomplishments of direct and indirect services to the business community have been achieved. The chamber lobbied for five years to have the commercial inventory tax reduced, which affected 80% of the county's wholesale and retail businesses.

In 1976, the chamber operated the tourist information center at Charlotte Hall. In 1980, the Tourist Information Center found its permanent home at the chamber office in Mechanicsville. Over the years the chamber has evolved into a vital entity of St. Mary's County. Despite its growth, one thing has not changed; the original core values to promote local business and empower local citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and the remainder of my colleagues to join with me in applauding the service and sacrifice of the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE
REFORM ACT

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, joined by my colleague, Mr. BONIOR, today I introduce the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 1999. This legislation will expand the safety net for American workers by reauthorizing and improving existing adjustment programs for workers who are adversely impacted by trade. It combines the best features of the existing Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and the NAFTA Transitional Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA) programs into a consolidated TAA program and improves the effectiveness and timeliness of services provided to American workers hurt by international trade.

The bill would authorize the consolidated TAA program for 5 years through fiscal year 2004. Most importantly, the consolidated program would expand eligibility to workers who lose their jobs due to shifts in production by their firm to other countries. Currently, TAA eligibility is restricted to workers hurt by imports and NAFTA-TAA is limited to workers adversely affected by imports from, or shifts in production to, Mexico or Canada only. Our bill will ensure that comprehensive assistance is available to workers who lose their jobs due to imports from, or shifts in production to, any foreign country.

The legislation also ensures that rapid response and basic readjustment services will be made available to workers upon the filing of a petition for TAA eligibility. These services are critical to facilitating rapid reemployment of workers and providing important information relating to the resources available at the Federal, State, and local level to assist them. The measure also requires a one-third reduction in the time period for the Department of Labor to process eligibility petitions under TAA in order to ensure that benefits are made available to trade-impacted workers as soon as possible after their displacement. To ensure that these workers get the assistance they need, the bill provides a much-needed increase in the annual cap on training expenditures to \$150 million; a portion of which supports the training costs associated with the expanded "shift in production" provision, and a portion of which is needed to fund the significant increase in program caseload currently being experienced.

The legislation also harmonizes the differing rules of the current programs relating to requiring enrollment in training as a condition for receiving income support. The new rules retain the program's emphasis on linking income support to training but permit specified exceptions where appropriate to assist certain workers. In addition, the bill would reduce the hardship currently experienced by workers who attend community colleges by expanding the period for scheduled breaks in a training program during which a worker may continue to receive income support.

In keeping with an increased emphasis on integrated service delivery, the legislation seeks to enhance coordination between the consolidated TAA program and the dislocated worker program under the recently-enacted Workforce Investment Act. In particular, the bill would significantly improve the accountability of the consolidated program by ensuring that TAA and the dislocated worker program have common performance outcome measures; i.e. information on the placement in employment, earnings, and retention of employment by participants.

The legislation also assures that information will be collected and maintained that identifies the countries to which production is shifted to and, to the extent practical, from which articles are imported. This will include information on the number of certifications relating to imports from, or shifts in production to, Mexico or Canada—which will assist in making eligibility determinations under related NAFTA programs and in assessing the adequacy of the consolidated program.

In addition, this legislation provides for the extension of the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program administered by the Department of Commerce under chapter 3 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974. And finally, the bill establishes a Presidential Commission on Workers and Economic Change in the New Economy to make further recommendations on program improvements.

Mr. Speaker, while much of the country is enjoying a booming economy, there are geographic areas and industries which are experiencing significant worker dislocation. It is critical that the Congress support programs that give workers the tools they need to find and prepare for good-paying jobs in the new economy. One of the important ways we can begin to develop a broad consensus on trade policy

is to address the negative consequences of globalization by reaffirming and improving on our longstanding commitment to assist workers impacted by trade. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting these reforms.

MARINO SIMONETTI HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Marino Simonetti, who will be honored by the Italian American Veterans of Luzerne County at their Past Commanders Ball on April 24. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this tribute.

A 1948 graduate of Wilkes-Barre Township High School, Marino served in the U.S. Navy from 1948 to 1952, a period that included the Korean Conflict. Marino returned to the Wyoming Valley following his discharge and worked as an electrical inspector. He also operated Simonetti's Pizzeria.

Marino is active in all local veterans organizations. He is a member of the Korean War Vets, the Catholic War Vets, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is the Bersagliere for the Italian American Vets, overseeing the color guard. He is best known for his dedicated volunteer activities at the Wilkes-Barre Veterans Affairs Medical Center, each year portraying Santa Claus and entertaining hospitalized vets on Saturday mornings at his own expense. His Halloween costumes are now a tradition in the halls of the Medical Center each October.

Marino is a member of the Korean War Vets Memorial Committee, the Committee to Preserve the Memorial at Letterkenny Army Depot, and the Committee to Restore the Italian-American Honor Roll Memorial in the Italian Cemetery. He was a guard at the "Moving Wall" Vietnam Vets memorial when it came to our area and he carried the American Flag on a march with the Canadian Legion on two occasions.

In 1992, Marino received the Humanitarian Service Award from the United Cerebral Palsy Association and in 1993, he was named "Man of the Year" by the Italian-American Veterans of Luzerne County.

Mr. Speaker, Marino Simonetti is a proud example of the strong tradition of patriotic volunteerism of our area veterans. Our veterans rise to any occasion to assist and support each other and are an integral part of our community in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I send my very best wishes to Marino on this special occasion and to all of my good friends in the Italian-American Veterans of Luzerne County.

HONORING MARTIN ETLER

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give birthday greetings to a constituent in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, Martin Etlar of Elmary Place, who celebrates his birthday on April 24.