

Upon his retirement from the Sheriff's Department, Lieutenant Slocumb will be honored by his community and his colleagues to serve as executive vice president with the International Union of Police Associations in Alexandria, Virginia.

What makes these accomplishments even more remarkable is that Dennis is a devoted husband and father of one. Lieutenant Slocumb's role as a public servant to the people of his community and all Californian's will not go unnoticed. Dennis truly lived the life of a model police officer and he has earned the right to say that he's made a difference.

It is with this, that I would like to honor Mr. Slocumb and his efforts to make his community a better place to live. His dedication and know-how have distinguished him greatly. The citizens of California owe Dennis a lot of gratitude and I wish him well.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE TOMMIE J. ROBINSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you to commemorate the memory of the late Tommie J. Robinson. Robinson was one of Bolton, Mississippi's oldest residents.

Robinson, a homemaker, died of heart failure on June 23, 2000. She was 106 years old. To many, Robinson was the town historian. People from all around would come to her and say, "What was life like in Mississippi 50 years ago?"

A devoted wife and mother, Robinson worked very hard to make her community a better place for future generations. Formerly a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, Robinson later became a member of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church until her death.

Robinson was an advocate for education in the black community. She encouraged black youth to seek higher education, and promoted the importance of reading. Robinson was very well known for her acute spelling ability. Many of her neighbors and friends would rely on her keen spelling abilities and challenge her to test her knowledge. She always proved triumphant.

Mr. Speaker, Tommie J. Robinson has touched the lives of many people. She will be missed, and she will always be remembered by the people of Bolton as one who loved the state of Mississippi.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PARTICIPANT ADVOCATE BILL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today Senator HARKIN and I are pleased to introduce legislation to create an Office of Pension Participant Advocacy within the Department of Labor. This is an idea whose time is long overdue. Over the last several decades, and particularly

since Congress enacted the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, our pension system has grown increasingly complicated and less "employee-friendly". Even in the best of circumstances, pension law is complex. But, when employees or retirees have questions or problems, understanding and maneuvering through our pension system can be a nightmare.

I, and many other members of Congress, have long believed that individuals need a single easy place that they can turn to when they have problems with our pension system. Currently, pension issues are handled by a variety of agencies, including the Department of Labor, Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, as well as several other agencies. Finding the right agency itself can be a challenge. In addition, these agencies often are not set up to help with individual problems and concerns. The IRS and Treasury Departments primarily focus on tax abuses, not individual inquiries. For many years, the Department of Labor had little or no staff to help individuals with specific problems. Even though the Department has worked hard in the past five years to develop a team of "benefit advisers", there is no clear statutory mandate for this program, nor clear directive that the Department should provide an easy and accessible entry point for individuals with pension problems. The American people need a simple place to go to address their pension concerns. There is no need or reason to seek out expensive lawyers when an individual has a particular pension problem which may involve a small amount of money dollar-wise, but mean the difference between a decent and an impoverished retirement to that person.

The Office of Pension Participant Advocacy would establish a clear Congressional mandate that the Department of Labor should be the entry point for individuals with their pension problems. We are not talking about creating a new bureaucracy, but streamlining and improving the existing system. Under our legislation, the Department of Labor would establish an Office of the Pension Participant Advocate that would be headed by a senior executive with demonstrated expertise in pension participant assistance. The Office would evaluate the efforts of existing entities to assist pension plan participants and promote the effectiveness of our pension system by increasing awareness of the importance of pensions and ensuring that the pension benefit rights of individuals are protected. The Pension Participant Advocate annually would report to the Administration and Congress on policy issues it has encountered and make recommendations for resolving them.

We hope this bill will receive widespread bipartisan support. Over the past several years, a bipartisan group of members and outside organizations has expressed concern about the shortcomings of our current pension assistance system. We hope this bill will provide a meaningful and cost effective solution to the system's current inadequacies and look forward to working with our colleagues towards its enactment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I hosted Labor Secretary Alexis Herman in my Congressional District who was meeting with local officials and community members. Our late return to Washington resulted in my missing the following votes on H.R. 4461, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001:

Roll No. 373, on agreeing to the Coburn amendment that sought to prohibit the use of any funding for drugs solely intended for the chemical inducement of abortion. Had I been present I would have voted no.

Roll No. 374, on agreeing to the Royce amendment that sought to reduce by one percent each amount that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law. Had I been present I would have voted no.

Roll No. 375, on agreeing to the Crowley amendment that prohibits the FDA from taking actions that restrict the purchase of prescription drugs in Canada and Mexico by United States citizens. Had I been present I would have voted aye.

Roll No. 376, on agreeing to the Royce amendment that sought to prohibit any funding to award any new allocations under the market access program or pay salaries of personnel to award such allocations. Had I been present I would have voted no.

Roll No. 377, on agreeing to the Coburn amendment that prohibits the FDA from taking any action to interfere with the import of drugs that have been approved for use within the United States and were manufactured in an FDA approved facility in the United States, Canada, or Mexico. Had I been present I would have voted aye.

Roll No. 378, on agreeing to the Sanford amendment that sought to prohibit any funding by the Department of Agriculture to carry out a pilot program under child nutrition programs to study the effects of providing free breakfasts to students without regard to family income. Had I been present I would have voted no.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ALL-AMERICAN EAGLES PARTICIPANTS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the participants of my 2000 All-American Eagles program. When I was a Recreation Supervisor with the Chicago Park District in the late 1960's, I started the All-American Eagles competition. In 1983, I was elected to represent the people of the (current) Third Congressional District of Illinois, and brought the program to Southwest Chicago and its near suburbs. After thirty-one successful years, this program is still the cornerstone of my efforts to recognize and honor many of our

district's exemplary seventh and eighth grade students.

This year's theme was World War I, and consisted of three components—an essay and public speaking contest, an artwork competition, and a history quiz. Students who participated in the essay contest submitted an essay from 250–500 words long about the most important person or event in World War I. The top 20 essayists were asked to present their work orally to a panel of judges consisting of local teachers and elected officials. The top three finishers for each event were given a plaque and/or a savings bond, and accumulated points for the overall competition. The overall winner received a \$500 savings bond. The school that sent the most participants received a \$250 savings bond.

It now gives me great pleasure to announce to my colleagues the winners of the 2000 All American Eagles competition. For the essay-speech contest, Imelda Vionentes from Kinzie delivered an excellent essay about the economic and social devastation during World War I, earning her a third place finish. Samuel Lin from Southwest Chicago Christian School earned a second place prize for his remarks about the Treaty of Versailles. Nicole Svajlenka from St. Alexander School delivered an outstanding essay about the pilots of the Lafayette Escadrille, earning a \$100 savings bond and first place.

I was truly impressed with the artwork submitted for the competition this year. I have no doubt that today's youth will make great contributions to the tomorrow's culture. Winning the third place prize was Ashley Wrobel from St. George School. Joseph Waterlander and Samuel Lin from Southwest Chicago Christian School took second and first place respectively.

For the history quiz, I am reminded by the aphorism that states, "Anybody can make history—only a great man can write it." The following are the potentially "great" future historians that aced the history quiz. Demonstrating a clear interest in world history was Paul Wieckiewicz from Our Lady of the Mount School, earning a third place finish. In second place was Adam Jures from Lincoln Middle School. Finally, Samuel Lin from Southwest Chicago Christian School won his second competition and demonstrated a profound interest in the social sciences.

Furthermore, Samuel Lin made important strides towards the funding of his college education, winning the 2000 All American Eagle Award. I congratulate Samuel for his hard work and deep commitment to his continuing education. Today, I charge Samuel to use his ambition and academic talent in service to this great nation, as he is a credit to his family and community.

Again, I would like to thank all the participants in this year's competition, as well as St. George School for providing the most participants. Judging these contests can often be a difficult task. However, I had the pleasure of hearing great essays and seeing the talent of a new generation of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge these young Americans to pursue their interests to the fullest extent of their abilities and to the betterment of this nation.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL FRANCIS G. MAHON

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Francis G. Mahon. Colonel Mahon was born in Northport, New York, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Mahon. He was commissioned at the University of Delaware in 1979 when he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. In 1988, he completed a Master of Science Degree in Systems Technology. His Military education includes the Air Defense Artillery Basic Course, the Armor Officers Advanced Course, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA.

Colonel Mahon has served in many key assignments, including Chaparral Platoon Leader and Battery Executive Officer of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Carson, CO; Battery Executive Officer of Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery; Assistant S-3, 2nd Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery, and Battery Commander, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea; Chief of Intelligence Branch, C31 Division, USAADASCH Directorate of Combat Developments, Fort Bliss, Texas; Battalion Operations Officer, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, Bitburg Germany; Brigade Operations Officer, 94th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Kaiserslautern, Germany; Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion (PATRIOT), 43rd Air Defense Artillery; and Missile Defense Planner, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, The Pentagon, Virginia.

Colonel Mahon will begin Command of the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas, on July 13, 2000.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Superior Unit Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Colonel Mahon is married to the former Elizabeth Cecelia McGowan, daughter of Todd and Elizabeth McGowan of Wilmington, Delaware. They have four children, Elizabeth Anne (12), Kathleen Margaret (8), Mary Frances (6) and Francis Todd (3).

Colonel Mahon has worked for more than 20 years in service to his community and nation. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating and thanking Colonel Mahon and his family for their dedicated service to the United States of America. We wish him much success as he begins his new command.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4425, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my reluctant support for the Conference Report on H.R. 4425, the Fiscal Year 2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill. While I wholeheartedly endorse the bill as originally reported by the House in May, which contained funding for important construction projects at North Carolina's military bases, I do have some concerns about the new spending added to the bill in Conference.

Much of what was added to this bill in Conference could have been addressed through the normal appropriations process. Among the most egregious examples of pork spending in this bill are: \$45 million for a new jet for the Commandant of the Coast Guard; \$25 million for a new community center in Ohio; \$7 million to "study" sea turtles in the Pacific Ocean; and \$25 million to build a new firearms training center for the Customs Service in West Virginia.

However, the bill also contains numerous provisions that address the true emergency needs of many in this country, and in North Carolina particularly. Thousands of people in my home state are still struggling to overcome the impact of last fall's hurricanes, and have been waiting for months for Congress to take action. The assistance provided in this conference report will be critical in helping my fellow North Carolinians return to at least a semblance of the lives they led before last September's devastating floods.

Despite my concerns about the use of this bill to provide money for projects that are obviously not true emergencies, I am grateful to the Appropriations Committee for providing the desperately needed hurricane-related assistance, and appreciate their hard work in bringing this legislation to the floor.

HONORING SERGEANT ARTHUR J. REDDY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, on this day, I would like to honor Sergeant Arthur J. Reddy on his retirement after 33 years of service as a police officer with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Reddy has contributed greatly to the well-being of our citizens.

Sergeant Reddy began working in the Sheriff's Department in 1967. His assignments have included custody, patrol, and narcotics. He served as a representative to federal, state, and local narcotic advisory councils and enforcement agencies. He also received the distinguished honor of working with the U.S. Department of Justice Task Force in which he served as an inter-agency liaison.

In 1979, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the L.A. County Professional Police Officer's Association. Mr.