

REGARDING THE ANNIVERSARY  
OF CHERRY v. MATHEWS

**HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2001*

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, July 19 is the 25th anniversary of U.S. District Court's landmark decision in the infamous case known as Cherry vs. Mathews. This historic ruling has paved the way and established equal and just civil rights for America's disabled citizens. 25 years ago, disabled Americans did not have access to many federal buildings, schools, public transportation, and voting booths.

An undue burden was placed upon citizens with disabilities, and they were not treated with the respect, courtesy, and equal opportunity that all Americans should be afforded.

Dr. James L. Cherry, a Georgian, led the fight to insure that disabled-citizen rights were acknowledged and protected. Dr. Cherry's suit against the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare brought about not only changes through the courts; it renewed and confirmed our Nation's belief that equal opportunity is a unalienable right for all.

I would like to thank Dr. Cherry for his courage, commitment, and foresight. As we observe the 25th anniversary of Cherry vs. Mathews, we are all reminded that our great nation was built upon a foundation of principles and equality and that has been sustained by the ideals of opportunity and justice.

A TRIBUTE TO GERALD JOSEPH  
RENUART, A MAN THAT HAS  
GIVEN SO MUCH TO HIS COMMU-  
NITY

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2001*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Gerald J. Renuart for his tremendous contributions during his lifetime.

Born in Coral Gables, Florida, Jerry received a business degree from the University of Miami and a masters degree from Nova University.

Jerry, a retired Naval officer, held the positions of Town Clerk and Manager in Surfside, Florida for nine years. He then became City Administrator for Lighthouse Point, Florida, a position he successfully held for 23 years. Jerry was past president of the American Society of Public Administrators and Municipal Finance Officers of America, and received a special award from Jimmy Carter for outstanding service to the community and nation. In addition to his outstanding community service, Jerry spent 25 years in the Boy Scouts of America as Scoutmaster for state and national Jamborees, round table commissioner, and district chairman. He was honored with the Silver Beaver Award, scouting's highest honor, earlier this year for his dedication to scouting.

Jerry's accomplishments did not end there. He was also a devoted husband of 40 years to the former Maureen Geller and devoted father to his children.

Mr. Speaker, Gerald Renuart devoted his life to serving his community and nation. He

will always be remembered for his service to the community and should be looked at as a role model to our society. As such, Jerry and his family are more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. On Friday, July 20, Jerry will be recognized for his lifelong contributions with his interment at Arlington National Cemetery. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in remembering and honoring the life of this remarkable man.

HONORING ELMER JOHNSON FOR  
HIS WORK WITH COLORADO  
LEADERSHIP

**HON. SCOTT MCKINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2001*

Mr. MCKINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember Elmer A. Johnson, who gave of himself throughout his life to serve his country and the citizens of Colorado. Elmer, a true patriot, was a man blessed with outstanding business and leadership skills. His presence will surely be missed.

Elmer was a devoted husband and father who was married to his wife, Philomena Mancini, for fifty years until she passed away. He gave his wife, his son, Robert, and his two granddaughters much to be proud of.

In 1941, his patriotism drove him to enlist in the Army Air Forces, where he rose in rank to serve as master sergeant in the China-Burma-India theater during World War II. It was following the war that he began running his father-in-law's printing business and editing a weekly newspaper.

Then, in 1958, he was elected for the first of three times to the Colorado State House. He earned a distinguished reputation with those who knew and worked with him there, including former state Rep. Wayne Knox whom The Denver Post quotes as saying, "He was a very well-respected, reasonable, moderate legislator," and "a nice guy, a very good guy." Elmer had the honor of chairing the House Finance Committee and served on the Joint Budget Committee as well as on the Legislative Council.

His drive to serve others didn't stop there, however. In 1963, he began working as Manager of Revenue and Director of Budget and Management for the City of Denver. He also served on the Executive Board of the Colorado Municipal League and became president in 1970. Incredibly, he also found time to serve as a board member of the Regional Transportation District, and as a member of the Sons of Norway. In addition, his leadership stretched to serving for a term as the International President of the Municipal Finance Officers of the United States and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Elmer Johnson was a distinguished veteran, a devoted father and husband, and a selfless leader. Today, I would like to pay him tribute on behalf of Congress for his lifelong dedication and honest leadership to the people of the United States.

RECOGNIZING DR. J.R. TURNER,  
TROUP COUNTY, GEORGIA

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2001*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, a half-century of being on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is about to come to a close for Dr. J.R. Turner, of Troup County, Georgia. Dr. Turner's resume could boast of 2,500 baby deliveries, never losing a mother, never being sued, and countless house calls.

Raised in Gay, a small community in Meriwether County, Georgia, Dr. Turner grew up on a farm and was destined to go into agriculture, until a discussion with a medical student encouraged him to shift gears and go into medicine, "because he could borrow money for school." Not only were the finances appealing, but he felt being a doctor he could be his own boss, which is something he always wanted to do.

During his junior year in college he enrolled in a Navy program that paid for his tuition, in return for two years of service after completing medical school. Dr. Turner graduated from the Medical College of Georgia in 1944, and interned at Egleston Children's Hospital in Atlanta.

The end of medical school saw Dr. Turner serving his time for the Navy, stationed in Guam, and working in a leper colony. He started his private practice in July 1947 in Greenville. During that time he met and married Dorothy Allen; they had 11 children and were married for over 50 years, until her death.

The year 1950 saw the opening of Dr. Turner's LaGrange office, and soon afterwards his purchase of an EKG machine. He took time away from his practice to attend Harvard Medical School for EKG training, and in 1953 studied internal medicine at Grady Hospital in Atlanta.

Dr. Turner served as Chief of Staff at West Georgia Medical Center twice, and has also served on its board of directors. He represented Troup County as a delegate to the Medical Association of Georgia.

His free time from now on will be spent hunting, fishing, and just plain doing nothing. Thank you, Dr. Turner for the countless years of service you have given to the folks of Troup County and surrounding area, and for the thousands of lives you have brought into the world.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO REQUIRE FEDERAL AGENCIES  
TO IDENTIFY AND RECOVER ER-  
RONEOUS PAYMENTS MADE TO  
CONTRACTORS

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2001*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Erroneous Payments Recovery Act of 2001." This bill would require Federal departments and agencies to use a process called recovery auditing to identify and recover overpayments made to government contractors.

Overpayments occur for a variety of reasons, including duplicate payments, pricing errors, missed discounts, and fraud. They are payments that should not have been made or that were made for incorrect amounts. They are a serious problem. They waste tax dollars and detract from the efficiency and effectiveness of Federal operations by diverting resources from their intended uses.

Since most agencies do not identify, estimate and report their improper payments, the full extent of the Federal government's overpayment problem is unknown. However the General Accounting Office has reported that each year the Department of Defense alone overpays its contractors by hundreds of millions of dollars.

My bill would require Federal agencies procuring more than \$500,000,000 in goods and services each year to carry out recovery auditing programs. Agencies could either conduct recovery audits in-house, or they could use private contractors, whichever is most efficient. Part of the money recovered would be used to pay for the recovery audits and to credit appropriations accounts from which the erroneous payments were made. Amounts recovered would also be used by agencies to improve management practices and would be refunded to the General Treasury.

In the last Congress, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the "Erroneous Payments Recovery Act" would save taxpayers \$100 million per year by giving agencies the tools and the incentive to implement recovery auditing programs to detect mistaken payments. The bill passed the House in March of 2000, but it stalled in the Senate and didn't make it to the President's desk for his signature before Congress adjourned.

Recovery auditing is an established private sector business practice with demonstrated financial returns. It has also been successfully used in a few Federal programs. Also, President Bush has identified reducing payment errors as one of a series of management reforms to be pursued by the Office of Management and Budget.

The "Erroneous Payments Recovery Act of 2001" would expand the Federal government's use of recovery auditing to ensure that the hundreds of millions of dollars overpaid each year, that would otherwise remain undetected, are identified and recovered.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

---

IN MEMORY OF BOB PRIDDLE

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2001*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you and my colleagues a very special remembrance of a dear personal friend of mine, Robert B. Priddle, who passed away on April 13, 2001. I had known Bob Priddle for nearly 30 years; his wife, Elvi Hirvela Priddle, was my district secretary in Buffalo for nearly

20 years. It is my hope that anyone in this Chamber who has been blessed with the gift of a loyal and devoted friend will appreciate the sentiments expressed in the following eulogy given at the memorial service for Bob by my long-time district aide and close friend of Bob and Elvi Priddle, Becky Muscoreil.

IN MEMORY OF BOB

We are gathered here this morning not to mourn, but to celebrate the life of our friend, husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, nephew, Robert Bruce Priddle. We are here to share wonderful memories with each other that will help sustain us in the days ahead and to hold onto him, each in our own way. I know I can't hold a candle to Bob's oratorical ability to tell great stories, the way he could keep you spellbound and believing every word until, with a perfectly straight face, he would lay it on you and you would realize you'd been totally taken in, bamboozled. But I will try my best to draw a picture of this fine man who we all loved so much because he gave so much of himself to us. Thank you, Elvi, for giving me this honor today.

Bob was born on September, 23, 1931 on Crowley Avenue at his parents', Robert (a salesman) and Genevieve's home. They moved to Grant Street in Lockport, where Bob's Dad passed away in 1935, shortly after Donnalee was born. Then his mother moved Bob and Donnalee to North Buffalo and about 5 years later married Orvard Seeburg when Bob was 9. Bob attended Kensington High School (this is where he met the love of his life, Elvi Hirvela in geometry class) but dropped out to join the Navy in his senior year. He served as an electrician on the communications ship, USS *Mount Olympus* and traveled to the Mediterranean region and Cuba at the

After the Navy, Bob returned home and courted Elvi and they were married at Elvi's mother's home on April 17, 1954, Bob was 22 and Elvi claims she was 12 or so. Karen was born in 1955 and Sue and Sandy in 1958. Bob went back to night school to complete his high school education and began working at Schuele & Co. in their warehouse, but his talents were soon recognized and he was promoted to sales where he remained for about 7 years until he moved on to work for Cook & Dunn and after that as an assistant sales manager at MacDougal & Butler. Later, he joined up with his uncle and became manager of McCormey's Decorating Center in Lockport. Prior to his retirement in 1991, he worked for Ellicott Paint and Wallpaper.

I think we will always remember Bob's captivating charm and when you added that to his uncanny sales ability, he would have made a great politician. But instead, he became involved in politics when he met his match, John LaFalce, through the Jaycees. Bob was a Democrat of the Roosevelt/Truman/Kennedy legacy and he devoted himself to John's campaigns, giving all the time he could to ensuring John's first election to state office and on through the early Congressional campaigns. He drove John to the ends of the district and eventually learned the locations of every bowling alley, bingo hall and fire hall in four counties. He and Jim Pries would be up and out by 5 a.m. or earlier every election day putting up poll signs, checking on voter turnout and crunching numbers after the polls closed. During those early campaigns, Bob was known as

the "General" and Jim as the "Colonel"—one of the first things the young, green campaign workers learned was that you didn't mess with those two. They were the 'body guards' and Big Guy's confidantes. They were to be feared in a respectful way.

Jim remembers the first time he met Bob over the fence that separates their back yards. And within minutes, Bob had him joining the Jaycees and working with him on the campaigns. He was convincing and compelling and it was always difficult to say "no" to him. Jim said that "life was never the same after meeting Bob"—on that, we can all agree.

As you know, Bob was very active locally and nationally in the Jaycees and the Jaycee Senate—there were years when we always had to refer to him as "Senator." He joined

Jim Pries recalled an interesting trip to a Jaycees convention in Atlanta in 1971 to which he and Bob and John LaFalce traveled together. Bob decided to take his camper-trailer to save on their hotel costs, but unfortunately, when they arrived at their destination, the camper blew over and they couldn't get it upright. John said not to worry, he had a friend in the area who was a priest and he would call him to see if he could help find them a place to stay. Lo and behold, the priest welcomed them to stay at a local convent overnight and you can only imagine how much fun Bob had with that story. He told them he couldn't wait to get home and tell his strict, Baptist mother where he had spent the night.

Every person in this room today, in remembering their relationship with Bob, has a story to tell that will make us laugh and shake our heads knowingly, saying, "yep, that was the Bob we knew" with that devilish grin and a sparkle in his eyes that couldn't help but draw us to him. Over the past few days, I've collected a few of these stories that epitomize the character and personality of this wonderful man we will never forget.

Karen remembers when she was about 14 or 15 and babysat for one of Bob's Jaycee friends, David Shenk, on Parkhurst Blvd. She came home about 3 a.m. and went to her room to get ready for bed and as was her habit, shut and locked her door. When she tried to open it to go to the bathroom, the door handle just kept turning around and around and she couldn't get out. She started banging on the door and yelling "Mom, Dad, help, I can't get out" and after a few minutes both Elvi and Bob came to her door and tried and tried to open it from the outside without success. Finally, Bob decided the only thing he could do was to go and get the ladder and either get Karen out through the window or at least get in and try to get the door open from the inside. So here it was, about 4:30 in the morning, Karen opens her window and Bob is climbing up the