

Passing away just a few days shy of his 48th birthday, Ron left behind a body of work that would have taken the average person several lifetimes to accomplish. With his trademark Panama hat, Ron gained prominence and respect as a Chamorro Rights' activist.

As the status of the former Trust Territories was being addressed in the last 1970s and early 1980s, Ron became involved with Guam's search for its own political status. He shared great concern for the Chamorro people—the indigenous inhabitants of Guam, who had never been offered the opportunity to decide their own political fate. Delving into the matter, Ron was introduced to a committee on non-self-governing territories within the United Nations that received regular reports from the United States on its administration of Guam. Always a man of action, Ron began to work towards voicing perspective and aligning himself with the Organization of People for Indigenous Rights (OPIR). Through OPIR, Ron requested and later gained approval to make presentations for Guam at the United Nations, together with similarly situated political jurisdictions that were working toward ending their colonial relationships with their administering countries. Ron believed that the United Nations' forum offered a reasonable and objective way to focus upon the Guam-United States relationship.

Whether it was in congressional hearings, presentations at the United Nations, village meetings in Guam, or simply talking with tourists on the beach, Ron's friendly manner and quiet dignity never faltered. He was sure and proud of his heritage and sincere in his advocacy of the Chamorro people. He never wavered in his sentiments and he always impressed friends and opponents alike. His name, his approach, his ideas will be written into the history books of Guam whenever there is a discussion about the political development of Guam's people.

Ron's commitment to his family was beyond reproach. He was a loving husband and father. He recognized the connection between his political advocacy, the well being of the people he came from, and the family which sustained him. His maturity, his dignity, his gentlemanly approach to dealing with difficult situations made him the anchor of his family and a highly regarded member of his extended family. His wife, Annie; his daughters Andrea, Faye, Cara, and Vanessa; his grandchildren, Erica, Aaron, Connor Reid, Taylor Raye, and Evan Reece have so much to be proud of and are very lucky to have shared his presence in the short time that he was with us. I know that his parents, his siblings, his aunts and uncles and cousins all share in this pride. I extend to all of them my most sincerest condolences.

Mr. Speaker, I can't begin to describe my deep sense of personal loss. He was a very close friend, a mentor, a supporter, and a brother. I join his family and the people of Guam in mourning this great loss and, at the same time, celebrating the life and work of a devoted husband, dutiful son, loving father, great friend, and staunch advocate of the Chamorro people. He will be greatly missed. Adios, Ron.

WALTER G. MORRISON, AN
AMERICAN HERO

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the terrible tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001, it is necessary that we honor and recognize the men and women who risk their lives on a daily basis to ensure the safety of others—our Nation's fire and emergency services personnel. It is also necessary to pause, reflect, and honor the over 300 fire service personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of public safety on the 11th. Remembering the events that transpired on the 11th conjure up horrific images, but also images that inspire—images of true dedication to others, devotion to duty and bonafide heroism. It also triggers memories of a fire-service veteran and true hero from my congressional district—Walter G. Morrison—an individual who would have, without equivocation, been nowhere other than at ground "0" assisting victims on that fateful day. Walter died on July 18, 1981, in the line of duty—selflessly attempting to help others. A fire and civil defense coordinator in Otsego County, Walter also served as Chief of the Fly Creek Fire Department, a board member of the Central New York Firemen's Association, and Secretary of the New York State Fire Service Council. Walter exemplified the fire service and all it stands for. He was 46. Today, it is fitting that he, along with four of his fellow firefighters from the great state of New York, and numerous others from around the nation, have their names permanently etched upon the National Fallen Firefighters monument in Emmittsburg, Maryland for all to see and remember. It is our duty—our responsibility to never forget that it is people much like Walter—a neighbor; a colleague; an friend; a father; a son; a brother; a mother; willingly placing themselves in danger for you—for all of us.

DISPLACED WORKERS' RELIEF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on September 21, Congress approved the Air Transportation Stabilization Act to provide \$15 billion to help stabilize our nation's airlines, save jobs and moderate the negative economic impact of the September 11 attack. Helping our ailing aviation industry was important; helping the workers affected by the economic impact of this national tragedy is equally as important.

Over 100,000 people who worked in the airline industry have become unemployed as a result of the terrorist attacks, and even more are expected to lose their jobs in the future. If Congress does not act quickly, these men and women will be unable to pay for the necessities of life, such as food and rent. These workers need help now.

I encourage the leadership to work with Democrats, who have a plan to provide re-training programs, health insurance, and un-

employment benefits to displaced workers and their families. This proposal will give critically needed assistance now, while providing workers with the tools necessary to find new employment and rebuild long term economic security for themselves and their families.

I supported the Air Transportation Stabilization Act not only because it was needed to help stabilize the airline industry and our economy, but also because congressional leaders committed to quickly bring forth legislation to address the needs of displaced workers, who deserve the same attention and quick action Congress gave to the aviation industry. The time has come to make good on that promise.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to provide \$25 million for child nutrition programs. These programs provide funding for our nation's schools to purchase commodities for their National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

The National School Lunch Program serves more than 27 million children every day, slightly over half to children who live at or near the poverty level in this country. More than 85% of the 7 million breakfast served in schools each day go to poor children. For these children, our federal school meal programs are their most secure link to good nutrition. These commodity food programs also allow school districts to offset the costs of lunches for children who do not participate in the program. In essence, these programs benefit the child receiving the free or reduced cost meal as well as the child who pays full price.

Research has confirmed a link between nutrition and children's cognitive development, cognitive performance, and ability to concentrate. Preschool and school age children need to receive proper and adequate nutrition. Studies also show that those nutritional programs have contributed positively to scores on test of basic skills, reduced tardiness and absenteeism.

Also clear is the link between our federal nutrition programs and our agricultural communities. The United States began providing agricultural commodities to our schools more than a decade before we started grants in aid to schools to provide meals, and three decades before we recognized the special needs of our poorest children through the free and reduced price meal subsidies. In 1994, Congress amended the National Lunch Act to require that at least 12% of all federal support for schools meals must be in the form in commodities. However, in 1998 the Congress again amended the National School Lunch Act to count bonus commodities, food products purchased under separate authorizations and for a very different purpose, to meet the 12% statutory requirement. While some thought this

was merely an accounting change, the effect was a real cut in support for our school lunch program. The commodities, which will not be purchased under the entitlement authorization, are the ones best suited to meet the menu and nutritional requirements of our school meal programs. The impact of the change was not felt last year or this because Congress yet again passed another statute that correct the error, but only for 2000 and 2001. But our schools will lose more than \$55 million dollars in entitlement commodities in 2002 unless we act to correct the problem. Over the next eight years, this cut will exceed \$440 million. That is a very real and significant cut to our school programs. Make no mistake, this is a school lunch budget cut—this is more than \$55 million per year that schools will not receive. It is also a \$440 million cut in the amount of agricultural commodities purchased by USDA.

I have spoken with several of my colleagues and they share my interest in this matter. After all, this money is used by USDA to purchase agricultural commodities, and these purchases have a significant impact on producer incomes. The magnitude of this cut is even more dramatic when you consider the amount of food that it represents. This cut means that USDA will reduce its overall purchases by 660 million pounds.

One of the best ways we can move forward as a society is to meet our obligations to our children. The Federal Government must follow through on its commitment to work in partnership with states, schools, and the agricultural community to administer a major program designed to improve children's diets and, in turn their overall health and well being. We can be proud that these school meal programs promote the well being of some of our Nation's most vulnerable children by providing them with the nourishment they need to develop healthy bodies and sound minds. Nutritious meals help students reach their full potential by keeping them alert and attentive in the classroom. As both common sense and extensive scientific research confirm, a hungry child cannot focus on schoolwork as well as one who has been fed a nutritious meal.

Mr. Chairman, recognizing the many needs being addressed in this bill, I will withdraw the amendment, but would like to draw attention to how we, the representatives of our pre-school and school age children across America, have neglected them. And in the spirit of National School Lunch Week, which begins the second week of October every year, I would also like to express my interest in working together with members of both the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Education and the Workforce to explore this issue and seek ways to support our nation's pre-school and school age children by providing additional agricultural commodities. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues who share my concern to amend this problem and provide for our pre-school and school age children at home first. Thank you.

IN MEMORY OF SAMANTHA EGAN,
LISA EGAN, MICHAEL CURTAIN
AND JOANNE AHLADIOTIS

HON. FELIX J. GRUCCI, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of four constituents from the community of Rocky Point in my district who lost their lives at the World Trade Center in the tragic events that occurred there on September 11, 2001.

The tragedy that struck our great nation on the morning of September 11 has been an immense source of sorrow and mourning for our country, touching the lives of nearly every citizen in our country. This is especially so in Rocky Point, where the lives of four alumni of Rocky Point High School High School were taken on that fateful morning. This community will gather together this Sunday, October 7, to celebrate their lives and show their unity as a community.

Samantha Egan, a graduate of Rocky Point High School in 1992, spent much of her time involved in student activities. She played on the soccer, basketball, and softball teams. She was a member of both the Singing Santa's and Leaders Clubs. Samantha was also an adept musician.

Lisa Egan, Samantha's younger sister, was a graduate of the class of 1988, also spent her time studying and playing music. An ambitious young woman, she remained heavily involved in the Peer Leadership Program at her school where she spent much of her time.

Michael Curtain, a graduate of the class of 1975, retrained both the attributes of a scholar and an athlete. Michael occupied his time in the Thespian Society while at the same time holding the office of Vice President of his class. Michael played for the soccer, basketball, and baseball teams. He also involved himself in the Varsity Club. His guidance counselor once reflected upon Michael's career goals, stating, "I hope Mike will be given a chance to attain his goal as a police officer".

Joanne Ahladiotis, a graduate of the class of 1992, was regarded as a well-rounded and dynamic person. Her interests were diverse, ranging from the study of Modern Greek and playing on the field hockey team, to performing in the High School musical and working on the school's yearbook.

Those who lost their lives and those that gave their lives in the line of duty at the World Trade Center have shown themselves to be heroes. Their lives, like the lives of many other Americans that day, are a shining example of what makes this country as great as it is.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Egan, Curtain and Ahladiotis families, and join the Rocky Point community in honoring the memory of these four young people.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND WORKING FAMILIES

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the urgent need to provide imme-

diately economic stimulus to this country in the form of a payroll tax rebate for working families.

The United States is facing a crisis, and it is not merely a security crisis. There is a visible, pressing need for economic stimulus and worker relief.

We should move quickly to jumpstart the economy by putting money into the hands of the tax paying lower wage workers that are more likely to spend it immediately.

My bill, the Working Families Tax Rebate Act will do just that.

This bill will provide an immediate payroll tax rebate of up to \$300 to people who didn't benefit from the tax cut signed into law in June.

The dramatic decrease in travel and tourism not only affects those workers employed by the airline industry.

Working men and women in the hospitality industry and service sector are also facing massive layoffs.

These people need immediate help with buying their groceries, preparing for the holidays, and paying their heating bills. Our shop keepers need consumers back in the stores.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3015. Because this country needs economic stimulus now.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber when the following rollcall votes were taken, rollcall vote 336, rollcall vote 337, rollcall vote 349 and rollcall vote 350. I want the record to show that had I been present in this Chamber I would have voted "yea" on each of these rollcall votes.

VERMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

I am asking that these statements be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

ON BEHALF OF BLAKE KINKAID, CRAIG STEVENS, AND BRITTANY CHANDLER

REGARDING TOBACCO PREVENTION—MAY 7, 2001

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Now we are going up to the Northeast Kingdom and the Northeast Kingdom Youth Services. Who is going to begin?

BLAKE KINKAID: Blake Kinkaid.