

EVERYONE A SOLDIER

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a well-written essay by a constituent of mine, Silvio Laccetti of Fairview, New Jersey. Mr. Laccetti is a professor of humanities at Stevens Hoboken Institute of Technology where he is developing leadership programs. I ask that the text of his essay, "Everyone a Soldier," be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that all Americans may read his words. In the post-September 11 world, Mr. Laccetti captures the new reality that all Americans are in a sense, "soldiers". My hope is that Mr. Laccetti's piece helps us to gain an even greater appreciation for our freedom and our country.

EVERYONE A SOLDIER

(By Silvio Laccetti)

It may not always have been well observed, but for the last two centuries the wartime line between civilian and military personnel was pretty clear. Not any more.

In the 21st century, with wars fought against agents of terror, there is no clear distinction between a combatant and a non-combatant. Hijacked planes attack office towers. Anthrax arrives in postal envelopes. The government periodically issues high-alert warnings, suggesting imminent danger.

In America today, there is a sense that anything can happen to anyone at anytime. Everyone's a target, so everyone must be a soldier.

If we are all soldiers, what then are the "weapons" we carry? What will get us through these wars and how will traits that are especially American help us triumph?

First, we have to be fit. The old catchphrase "stick to your guns" applies in this case. For today's American, it means to focus anew under stress. So, go to your work, go to play, honor your obligations and dream about a better future as soldiers always have. And let's become inspired and energized to do the best we can ever do in our daily roles. Recall Dan Rather's own response to terrorism—a desire to produce the best journalism he has ever done. After the initial shock of 9/11, America seems now to be undergoing a resurgence of excellence. Excellence is a fitness that never fails.

Love of freedom and creativity stored in our arsenals of democracy will also empower each of us in our battle against terrorism. As Paul McCartney sang out in his original song dedicated at the Concert for New York, we will fight for our right to live in freedom. And in that fight we will employ the kind of creativity few soldiers or armies ever get to enjoy. When things are snafu'ed, the individual soldier finds a solution on his or her own. Witness the creativity of the heroes on Flight 93 who prevented another attack by giving their own lives. Acts of heroism, great and small, will mark the vigilance and determination of a free people. Freedom and creativity are the ordnance of our Free Americans.

All soldiers need leaders and to have faith in them. We've been blessed with great ones in this crisis. Mayor Giuliani and President Bush have been extraordinary. Others, like Colin Powell and Donald Rumsfeld have demonstrated reassuring leadership. But because we are in the unique situation of everyone a soldier, we must assume self-leadership. Each American must motivate himself/herself to take command of their fears and

hesitation. This means we must get on with life, today and tomorrow, and look for God's presence in the trenches. Self-leadership is always a good thing. If you are forever in fear and uncertainty, you already live in terror.

America. Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. We will lead lives undaunted and cling to the heritage and ideals that guide America in the war against terror. In this war, everyone is a soldier.

FAST TRACK AND ANY FREE
TRADE LEGISLATION MUST
REFLECT THE NEEDS OF RURAL
AMERICA

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, the House may soon vote on fast track legislation, to swiftly move another massive free trade bill through this body.

Mr. Speaker, I am not opposed to free trade.

In fact, I support any trade measures that increase production and commerce in our country, and create new jobs for our people.

But I am reminded of the old saying that goes: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me!"

I am concerned that any future trade agreement could have devastating consequences similar to those of NAFTA.

Since NAFTA was implemented in 1994, many American manufacturing plants shut down when they took their business elsewhere to take advantage of pitifully low wages and tax environmental laws.

They left thousands of dedicated American workers in the lurch and forced local small businesses to close.

Many of these plants are located in rural areas. Small rural towns depend on the success of one plant. If that factory closes, it destroys the economy of the town, or even an entire county. Workers have no place else to find work.

In rural areas, when a factory shuts down, there are no jobs to be re-trained for! Once-vibrant American communities become ghost towns.

In Mississippi, walk down the main streets in places like Prentiss, or Mendenhall, or Monticello, or my hometown of Bassfield, and you will see what I mean.

NAFTA took away jobs and tore communities apart. We must be mindful of the similar unintended consequences of any future free trade agreements, and not repeat this calamity.

We must protect the people and communities that might otherwise lose jobs if we do not build-in protections for them. We must not turn people into simple statistics. We should not leave any community behind in the name of progress.

Future trade agreements need to address the needs of rural America. I stand ready to work with advocates of Fast Track and other trade agreements if we know they reflect these needs.

But if they don't, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that my colleagues from rural America and I won't be footed again!

DENNIS KOONS: BANKING ON THE
FUTURE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my close and longtime friend Dennis Koons as he prepares to end the chapter of his life as Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Association of Realtors. Dennis has led many battles during his tenure, but in doing so he has always equally earned the respect and friendship of those on his side as well as those with other viewpoints.

I have known Dennis since our early days as staff members in the State Legislature and it comes as no surprise that his organizational and leadership skills have been instrumental both in his success and in the success of the Michigan Association of Realtors. Dennis has guided this 26,000-member statewide trade association with a steady hand and an eye to the future. His efforts to develop long-range strategic planning will provide untold benefits for the association for years to come.

Dennis has worked hard over the past six years to identify achievable goals and to put the full force and influence of the organization's membership to work in advocating for legislative initiatives to improve the business climate for realtors throughout the state of Michigan. His achievements include drafting the Land Conservation Plat, which set the standard for land use discussions in Lansing, and writing the Detroit Title Report for Governor John Engler in an effort to help revitalize the thousands of vacant land parcels in the city of Detroit.

However, the workplace is not the only place to which Dennis has spread his involvement and enthusiasm for quality. He has done significant work on behalf of many boards and associations, including Michigan Habitat for Humanity, the People and Land Advisory Board and the Board of Directors for the Employers' Unemployment Compensation Council. His wife, Linda, and children, Brian and Kevin, also deserve credit for providing the love and support so necessary to his professional success and to his dedication to volunteer efforts in the community.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to applaud Dennis Koons for his years of commitment to the Michigan Association of Realtors and to the state of Michigan, both professionally and outside of the office. He has served his profession and his community well, and he will be sorely missed by his friends and coworkers. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dennis and in wishing him the very best in his new position leading the Michigan Bankers Association.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM F. HIZNAY

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of the citizens of the 17th Congressional District of Ohio, it brings me great pleasure to pay tribute to William F. Hiznay, as he receives the rank of Eagle Scout.

Ryan is a member of Boy Scout Troop #44 in Poland. He is not only an outstanding young man and dedicated Eagle Scout, but he is also a dedicated student at Youngstown State University majoring in Engineering.

I join with the citizens of my district in saluting William F. Hiznay, and I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING
OF THE AS-SIDDIQ INSTITUTE
AND MOSQUE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Shaykh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani and recognize the grand opening of the As-Siddiq Institute and Mosque. The Institute will be opened to the public at a ceremony to be held on November 18th in Burton, Michigan.

Shaykh Kabbani has worked tirelessly to build bridges of understanding between Muslims and persons of other faiths. He has endeavored to provide insight into the beauty and peace of Islam. As a nationally recognized spokesperson, Shaykh Kabbani has been interviewed by various news media and has advised the political leadership of our country. He has brought a warmhearted perspective of Islam to thousands of persons who had had no previous exposure to the religion. Shaykh Kabbani commands the respect of elected officials at every level of government. President Bush invited him to the prayer service at the National Cathedral on September 14th where he joined with our nation's leaders and clergy of many faiths in petitioning Allah (swt) to bless the United States.

In keeping with Shaykh Kabbani's commitment to promote mainstream Muslim values and traditional Islamic teachings of religious tolerance, and condemnation of terrorism, he is opening the As-Siddiq Institute and Mosque for the public. The Institute will house an outreach center, research library, adult learning center, community meeting place and center for interfaith cooperation. The center will serve as a resource for both Muslims and non-Muslims alike to learn the tenets of Islam—moderation, tolerance, peace and justice. I am pleased that Shaykh Kabbani chose to locate this center of education and worship in my Congressional district.

Housed in a former Episcopal Church, the building will remain a house of worship with the opening of the Mosque. Many Islamic communities around the world, including those in the republics of the former Soviet Union, have donated artifacts and handwritten Korans to grace the Mosque. The faithful will be able to draw inspiration from these symbols of their faith handed down through the generations.

Stressing the common religious heritage of Muslims, Christians and Jews, Shaykh Kabbani will be joined at the opening ceremony by Cardinal Adam Maida, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, Rabbi James Michaels of Temple Beth Israel, Reverend George L. Cleaves of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church and many other guests of honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in asking that God continue

to bless Shaykh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani and the As-Siddiq Institute and Mosque as they carry on the work bringing spirituality and dignity to all persons.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2500,
DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support of language in the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Conference Report for FY 2002 directing the Department of Justice to fund the building of a jail facility for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. I would like to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member SERRANO for including language in the conference report to address the law enforcement needs of the Choctaws.

It has taken the Tribe over 4 years to reach the point of obtaining funding after the Congress directed the Department of Justice to fund the design phase of the detention facility in the FY 1998 Commerce, Justice, State Conference Report. The Choctaws have encountered many obstacles as they sought to satisfy both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Justice Department through compliance with their varying jurisdictions, regulations, and interpretations of law enforcement for Indian tribes. These delays have resulted in a deterioration of law enforcement, disrespect for the tribal courts and an escalation in the costs of the facility. Further delay will only exacerbate these problems. The Choctaw Tribe is firm in its view that detention is essential to the maintenance of law and order on the Choctaw Reservation. The detention facility currently being used was built in 1973 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a temporary holding facility designed to hold 18 prisoners for up to 72 hours. Today, an average of 33 offenders are being held daily. Due to the lack of space, only the most serious and repeat offenders are incarcerated to serve time. The lack of space has also hindered the courts and law enforcement officials because judges have to rely on "deferred sentencing." Simply put, the current facility is inadequate to meet existing needs, not to mention the projected law enforcement needs of the Tribe and its growing population.

I would also like to point out that two studies performed in 1992 found the facility to be "not fit for human habitation" and "structurally flawed and essentially inoperable." The first study was completed in October 1992 by the National Institute of Corrections, U.S. Department of Justice. The second was completed in December 1992 by the U.S. Public Health Services, Office of Engineering Services, in New York, New York. Tribal funds were used to correct the most egregious life safety code violations and to renovate a small portion of the facility to house more juveniles. Yet with these and other continuing efforts, the current facility still poses a threat to inmates, staff, and the public.

To ensure the Choctaws can exercise fully and fairly its sovereign responsibility to protect

all people and property on its reservation, they have sought funding from the U.S. Department of Justice for construction of a new jail facility to house both adults and juvenile offenders. The conference language will allow the Department of Justice to expedite the allocation of FY 2002 funds to the Choctaws so construction on the new detention facility can begin as soon as possible.

The Mississippi Choctaws have worked tirelessly to preserve the integrity of the Tribe's law enforcement services on the reservation, despite the lack of an appropriate detention facility. I am pleased that my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee have recognized the great need to fund this important project. I look forward to working with the Mississippi Choctaws and the Department of Justice to ensure the Tribe's law enforcement needs are addressed.

RECOGNIZING "BIG DADDY" DON
GARLITS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an American from Marion County, Florida who embodies the competitive spirit. "Big Daddy" Don Garlits is the undisputed king of World Championship Drag Racing. Just four months shy of his 70th birthday, Garlits broke the 300 mph speed barrier reaffirming his stature as the No. 1 driver in National Hot Rod Association history. He is a true testament to the indomitable American spirit, and with that said Mr. Speaker, I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the highlights of "Big Daddy" Don Garlits' career as excerpted from the Daily Sun newspaper of November 12, 2001.

MARION COUNTY LEGEND VOTED TOP DRIVER
IN NHRA'S FIRST 50 YEARS OF DRAG RACING

After a successful career, most men who turn 69 usually take life a little easier, enjoying an occasional afternoon nap, a leisurely round of golf and maybe a cold beer on the lanai.

But then most men wouldn't dream of strapping into an 8,000 horsepower missile and catapulting themselves down a narrow, quarter-mile strip of asphalt in less than five seconds.

That's because most men are not racers, because racers really never retire. They just wait for the next opportunity to race. Just ask "Big Daddy" Don Garlits.

Garlits, a native of Tampa who now resides in Marion County, is the undisputed king of drag racing. He's won 144 national races, 17 world championships and every major honor that exists in the sport. And he's not finished. In his backyard garage, Don built "Swamp Rat One," the first in a series of 34 all black rail style racecars.

"Swamp Rat One remains today as my favorite race car of all time. It had 750 horsepower and cost me \$1000 to build," Garlits said.

He started racing the car in 1956 and a year later set his first world's record, pushing the car to a top speed of 176.40 mph in 8.79 seconds. In 1958, man and machine won their first national championship.

In 1963, Garlits drove the second generation Swamp Rat to a win at the NHRA Winternationals in Pomona, California. This