

Other key assignments include Instructor and Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics at West Point; Executive Officer to the Director, Defense Nuclear Agency; Commander of 2d Battalion, 81st Field Artillery, 8th Infantry Division (Mechanized) with concurrent duty as Commander of the Idar-Oberstein (Germany) Military Sub-community. Following command, he was assigned as the 8th Infantry Division Inspector General. In 1987, he returned to Germany as Commander, 8th Infantry Division Artillery in Baumholder, and then became the Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff of the Army, Washington, DC, in 1989. In addition to Germany, his overseas assignments include Vietnam and Turkey.

General Pickler is a graduate of both the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and also the Army War College with duty as an Advanced Operational Studies Fellow at the Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal; the Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters; the Legion of Merit with Three Oak Leaf Clusters; the Distinguished Flying Cross; the Bronze Star with "V" Device; and the Meritorious Service Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters.

General Pickler and his wife, Karen, have one daughter, Nevelyn, and two sons, Andy and Jeff.

General Pickler attended his last parade as a soldier on Monday, 29 October 2001. I am proud to have had the opportunity to attend it and witness the retirement of a friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 499, H.R. 3379, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 375 Carlls Path in Deer Park, New York, as the "Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building." Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 500, H.R. 3054, to award congressional gold medals on behalf of the officers, emergency workers, and other employees of the Federal Government and any State or local government, including any interstate governmental entity, who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO CLIFTON E. ARMSTEAD, OUTGOING CHIEF OF THE WILMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today as a member of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus to honor

and pay tribute to a leader in the firefighting community—Clifton Armstead outgoing Chief of the Wilmington Fire Department. Clifton Armstead is an outstanding, dedicated and caring Delawarean with an abundance of accomplishments in this field. On behalf of myself and the citizens of the First State, I would like to honor this outstanding individual and extend to him our congratulations on his 36 years in the fire department.

Today, I recognize Clifton Armstead for his long and distinguished career in the Wilmington Fire Department. On January 4th 2002 Mr. Armstead will officially retire from a post that he has held since 2000, but from a fire department that he has been part of for over three decades. He has provided service in a manner that has brought distinction not only to himself but to the entire Wilmington Fire Department.

Family, friends and fellow firefighters can now take a moment to truly appreciate the world of difference Clifton Armstead has brought to the firefighting community. He has served for many years as a member of Engine, Ladder and Rescue Companies as well as the Training Unit. Mr. Armstead was promoted to Lieutenant in 1983 and appointed Deputy Chief of Operations in 1993 where he served for seven years before being appointed Chief of Fire in January of 2000.

Clifton E. Armstead has spent all of his life helping the community of Wilmington and all of Delaware. Mr. Armstead graduated with the Class of 1962 from Wilmington High School. He also attended Delaware Technical and Community College, the National Fire Academy and the Delaware State Fire School. Of particular interest are the many supervisory and management classes that have helped him to become such a successful and important leader to the City of Wilmington.

Mr. Speaker, with his wife Dawn at his side, and his daughter Jaye, the Armstead family proudly and unselfishly contributes every day to the quality of life at home in their community and our entire state.

Mr. Clifton E. Armstead's contributions cannot be commended enough. As he retires from the Wilmington Fire Department we can be sure that his contributions will not end. His commitment to fighting fires and saving lives has earned him a permanent place in Delaware's fire service history.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES K. REES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a most exceptional California Inland Empire community leader, friend and great American—Mr. James Rees.

Calvin Coolidge, America's 13th President, once said, "No person was ever honored for what he received; honor has been the reward for what he gave." And Jim Rees gave much during his years of military service and banking career.

With true valor and love of country, Mr. Rees voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army in 1942 and became an Officer in 1944. Like many other members of the Greatest Generation he served in World War II in both

the European and North African/Middle East theaters. After the war, Jim returned to the United States and in 1948 enlisted in the Air Force. He quickly rose among the ranks and in 1957 achieved the rank of Major. Jim served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars, and in 1968 voluntarily retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. He has been honored with numerous medals ranging from the WWII victory medal to the National Defense Service Medal as well as the Air Force Longevity Service Award with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

After a distinguished career in the Air Force, Mr. Rees established himself in Riverside and went into the banking business. He served the community with the same care and dedication he had served our country. An avid golfer, Jim was instrumental in the revitalization of the March Air Force Base golf course. Jim has also been active in the Strategic Air Command Group of Veterans and has always been proud to call himself a team player.

A love of country can only be matched by a love of family. Mr. Rees has four children, Christine, Susan, Laura, and David, five grandchildren, Amy, Jennifer, Jim, Ian, and Susan and great-grandchild, Samuel who all refer to him as their hero. No greater honor can be bestowed on a man who has selflessly and wholeheartedly served our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, looking back at Jim's life, we see a man dedicated to military service and community—an American whose gifts to the Inland Empire and California led to the betterment of those who have the privilege to come in contact or work with Jim. Honoring him today is the least that we can do for all that he has given over the past 80 years of his life.

RAYMOND M. DOWNEY POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 3379 introduced by Congressman ISRAEL, I also rise in strong support of the Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building Designation Act. This legislation is a small, but fitting, tribute to one of New York City's bravest fire chiefs.

Chief Downey was the most decorated member of the New York City Fire Department and leader of the department's special operations unit. At age 63 with 39 years on the job, Chief Downey was a "firemen's fireman" as they say in the fire service. He was a national expert on urban search and rescue and led a team of New York City firefighters who responded to the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Chief Downey even testified before a House committee in 1998 on the topic of weapons of mass destruction, sharing his valuable knowledge with our colleagues. He truly defined what is meant by calling New York City firefighters the "world's bravest."

As I watched the events of September 11th unfold in my Washington office with my staff, I remember thinking, God be with the firefighters who are going in there to save lives. As a true leader Chief Downey was on the front lines with his personnel directing the rescue efforts. As he had done in the first World

Trade Center bombing in 1993, Chief Downey's efforts saved thousands of lives. Sadly, with 343 of his men, Chief Downey made the ultimate sacrifice on that tragic day.

It is said that a firefighter's first act of heroism is taking the oath to become a firefighter. From there on, the rest is just part of the job. As we recognize Chief Downey today, it is important to remember not only his heroic deeds of September 11th, but his extraordinary firefighting career as well. His wife Rosalie commented, "He never complimented himself. He always did what he had to do." We as a nation are forever grateful for what Chief Downey and his fellow firefighters did on September 11th. We are also grateful for what our nation's firefighters continue to do everyday in this country, saving lives and property. The spirit of Chief Downey will continue to live on through this post office in Deer Park and in the fire service forever.

JESSICA CAROLINE AITON (1983–2001), 2000–01 YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (LOUISIANA NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION)

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, Jessica Caroline Aiton of Greenwell Springs, LA died on Monday, December 17, 2001, at the age of 18, following a tragic car accident. Jessica served as the 2000–2001 Youth Leadership Council Representative from her state for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. This means that she was one of the best and brightest students from rural America and from Louisiana.

Every year, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), through its nearly one thousand member cooperatives, hosts the Washington, DC Youth Tour. This program brings 1,300 high school students from across rural America to visit their Nation's Capital to learn about their heritage, and about their electric cooperatives. On average, Louisiana brings 25 students each year. From this group, the state association selects one outstanding individual to be its youth spokesperson for the year and to serve on the NRECA national Youth Leadership Council. Jessica was selected as the representative for the 2000–2001 school year. She was one of just 41 nationally appointed to this honor.

Jessica had been an honor student at Central High School where she graduated third in her class. This past fall, she started her freshman year at LSU. She began as an Accounting major and then changed to Chemical Engineering. Next spring, she had planned to take some political science classes, with an eye toward law school and politics. As she once said of her future in an email to one of her former YLC counselors, "All I know is that I want to go to law school and eventually become a Senator. That much is clear." Jessica was also an active member of the Denham Springs Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, loved to run and ride horses, and had just recently joined the College Republicans. With a heart for God, an incredible desire to serve,

and the poise, charisma, and dedication rarely seen in a young woman of her age, Jessica was well on her way to being a great Senator. The State of Louisiana, her electric cooperative family, and America will miss her.

As her high school graduating class motto said:

The past is but the beginning of a beginning,
and all that is
and has been is but the twilight of the dawn.
(H.G. Wells)

May the light of that dawn shine upon Jessica Caroline Aiton forever more.

IN TRIBUTE TO MARILYN HUGHES
GASTON, MD

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, after a twenty-five year career in the U.S. Public Health Service, Marilyn Hughes Gaston, MD, Director of the Bureau of Primary Health Care, within the Health Resources and Services Administration, is resigning and making her transition into the private sector.

Dr. Gaston began her career as a physician. She received her medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and completed a residency training in pediatrics. Her work over the years has been marked by staunch advocacy for the betterment of the health status of minorities, women and children. Dr. Gaston is an internationally recognized leader in sickle cell research and her contributions to the field have resulted in significant changes in the way the disease is treated and managed in children.

She is the first African American woman to direct a U.S. Public Health Service Bureau and she commands a primary health care budget that reaches \$5 billion. Under her leadership millions of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations nationwide are assured access to quality, culturally and linguistically competent, primary and preventive health care. Along with her numerous other accolades, she is a former Assistant Surgeon General and the second African American woman to reach Rear Admiral, the highest rank in the U.S. Public Health Service.

Recently, Dr. Gaston co-authored "Prime Time," a health and wellness book for African American women in the midyears. She is a phenomenal leader and mentor. Her work has touched the lives of many and her presence in the Public Health Service will be genuinely missed!

NEED FOR ECONOMIC STIMULUS

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, there's been a lot of talk here about the need to get our economy jump-started and about the best way to get that done.

We've heard talk of tax cuts for big business that will eventually trickle down to the rest of America.

We've heard talk of tax breaks for wealthy individuals.

Well, I'm here to tell you that won't work for the community I represent!

Some of the cities in my congressional district are facing unemployment levels as high as nine percent. Nine percent!

People who are being laid off need help now—not in the future.

They need to make sure their unemployment benefits last long enough to help their family make it through the new year.

They need to make sure their health care doesn't disappear, leaving their families in the lurch.

I urge the leadership of this House to do the right thing for American families and pass a real economic stimulus plan which gives hard-working families a real boost!

HONORING EMERGENCY SERVICE
WORKERS DURING LOCAL
HEROES WEEK

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is particularly fitting, in the wake of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001 and the courageous and selfless acts of heroism by New York's police, firefighters and rescue workers which were witnessed and acclaimed by the world, that we extend our gratitude to police, fire and emergency service workers in all of America's communities. The citizens of Bell County and Copperas Cove, Texas in my congressional district are honoring these public servants, from November 18–24, during the 10th observance of Local Heroes Week.

This expression of appreciation to our local public safety workers for their service to Central Texas, which has grown every year since its inception in 1992, raises funds from area businesses and organizations to endow scholarships at Central Texas College for their immediate families.

As a community, we owe a special thanks to the police officers, fire fighters and emergency workers we honor and our sincere appreciation to those who organize Local Heroes Week. The recent tragedies at the World Trade Center in New York and at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia remind us that every day, in every city and county in the country, these men and women put their lives on the line to protect us from harm.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring these local heroes, in Copperas Cove and Bell County, and across the nation. They define the spirit of public service and we are grateful.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST
JOHN JOSEPH EDMUNDS

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the great state of Wyoming in this House of Representatives.