

pass H.R. 1098; No. 56 on motion to adjourn; No. 57 on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 93; No. 58 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1099; No. 59 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 802 as amended; No. 60 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 247 offered by Mr. TRAFICANT of Ohio; No. 61 on passage of H.R. 247; No. 62 on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 84; No. 63 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 801 as amended; No. 64 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 811 as amended; No. 65 on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 100; No. 66 on agreeing to the substitute amendment to H. Con. Res. 83 offered by Mr. KUCINICH; No. 67 on agreeing to the substitute amendment to H. Con. Res. 83 offered by Mr. STENHOLM; No. 68 on agreeing to the substitute amendment to H. Con. Res. 83 offered by Mr. FLAKE; No. 69 on agreeing to the substitute amendment to H. Con. Res. 83 offered by Mr. SPRATT; and No. 70 on agreeing to the resolution H. Con. Res. 83. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 69; and "nay" on rollcall votes 56, 57, 65, 68, and 70.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY CLEVELAND WHITMIRE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Jerry Cleveland Whitmire who passed away on December 19, 2000. Mr. Whitmire was a loyal servant of his community and of his country as an infantry officer in Korea and Vietnam. I believe the eulogy given by Reverend Charles M. Blackmon gives the most appropriate praise to this wonderful South Carolinian. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Mr. Whitmire.

EULOGY FOR JERRY CLEVELAND WHITMIRE DECEMBER 19, 2000

We are gathered, this afternoon, for a soldier's funeral. On his last journey in this world, Jerry Cleveland Whitmire—"Trigger"—will be draped in the flag of the United States of America, the flag for which he fought. And he will be escorted at each step by an Honor Guard, fellow soldiers of the United States Army.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have presided at more military funerals than I can possibly count. I am always impressed by the dignity and precision of the Honor Guard. I am also impressed by something else: These superbly trained soldiers are here for a specific purpose. They are here to remind us that it is not only family and friends who have come here to say farewell to Jerry. A grateful nation has also come here to say farewell. America is here to say farewell to a son, a dutiful servant, a hero.

It strikes me that to truly understand and appreciate this man, we need to look at his roots. We need to go back two generations to Jerry's grandfather and namesake, Jeremiah Cleveland Whitmire. Jeremiah was born in 1838. He was a blacksmith and yeoman farmer in the foothills of upper Greenville County. He did not own slaves—no Whitmire ever owned slaves. And when the legislature here in Columbia voted to secede from the Union, Jeremiah might not have agreed with all the reasons.

But Jeremiah was a man of duty and loyalty. When the war came, he hiked north to Ashville, where he mustered with the 14th North Carolina. In the ensuing years, he fought with gallantry in the Army of Northern Virginia: at Richmond, Spotsylvania Courthouse, Sharpsburg, Gettysburg, to the bitter end at Appomattox. At the conclusion of the war, his duty done, Jeremiah walked the hundreds of miles back to his beloved farm in Greenville.

Let me say this: Jeremiah would have been very, very proud of his grandson Jerry. He would have been proud that Jerry chose to go to The Citadel. He would have been proud of Jerry's decision to go into the infantry. He would have been proud that in the bitterest, coldest engagements in Korea, Jerry stood and fought at the point of maximum danger—as commander of rifle company on the front line. He would have understood Jerry's agony when a comrade fighting at his side, an African-American, sustained a terrible wound in the chest. Jerry cradled that man in his arms as he died.

Likewise, Jeremiah would have been proud of Jerry's combat service in Vietnam. He would have been proud that when the rest of America had become divided and uncertain—Jerry remained resolute and dutiful. Jerry was a soldier—he volunteered for a second combat tour in Vietnam.

And finally, Jeremiah would have been proud that at the end of the fighting, Jerry always returned to that same farm in upper Greenville County—land that Whitmires have farmed for more than two centuries. Jerry worked that land as a dairyman and cattleman throughout his adult life. He loved it with all his heart. Right up to the last, Jerry was happiest when he was tending his cattle, walking the bottomlands, jumping over creeks, climbing the highest hills. On that farm, Jerry Whitmire was at home.

Of course, for family and friends gathered here, we do not remember Jerry as a fierce warrior. We remember him as the gentlest of gentlemen—a man who was always full of laughter, a man who loved to make other people laugh. I'm told that, at the golf clubhouse at Fort Jackson, they serve a brew called "Trigger Beer" in recognition of his good spirits.

Jerry Whitmire was not a man of extraordinary virtues. He was a man of ordinary virtues possessed in extraordinary abundance. Kindness. Generosity. Charity. Honesty. Decency.

It's ironic. Jerry was a soldier who knew war intimately. But if the world did a better job of practicing those virtues that Jerry lived by, there would be no need for soldiers because there would be no war.

His brothers, James and Charles, will always remember him as an alter boy at Christ Episcopal in Greenville. Countless times they watched their baby brother Jerry carrying the tall silver cross down the center aisle. Jerry was—to the core—a Christian man. If he had one role model from the Gospels, it surely must have been the Good Samaritan. When it came to helping people and animals in need, Jerry knew no boundaries. He would always stop and help.

In the Gospels, Christ admonishes his followers to give away their possessions, including the shirts on their backs. On so many occasions, Jerry followed that command almost literally. He was constantly giving his time and money to other people. He was quick to forgive debts.

This same generosity applied to the dogs, cats, and cattle that had the good fortune to have him as their master. For several decades, now, Jerry has spent more money on hay and upkeep for his cows than he ever made by selling them at market. Truth is, Jerry never owned the cows—the cows owned him. And that was just fine with him.

The result of this lifetime of generosity and giving is that Jerry did not die a rich man. Money was not what drove him. Jerry understood that we make a living by what we make, but we make a life by what we give. He was forever giving: himself, his labor, his money. As a result he takes to the grave the only wealth that really matters: the wealth of a life well lived . . . the wealth of our respect and admiration and love.

Of course, for Jerry, his greatest wealth was his family, especially Tweetie, his beloved wife and partner of nearly a half century. Yes, Jerry had a powerful love for his daughters Laura and Marguerite. And yes, he loved his grandchildren. But truth be told, in his last years, he had a very, very special place in his heart for the youngest: his great-grandson Daniel.

And as Danny grows up to be a teenager and then a man, he will have the enormous privilege to learn more about Trigger, the great-grandfather he loves so much. Daniel will do well to live by his great-grandfather's example.

There is an old expression: Sometimes life is not as simple as it seems—it is even simpler. And so it is with people. Sometimes their lives can be captured best in the fewest, simplest words. To capture the essence of Jerry's life, I once again go back to his great-grandfather, Jeremiah. Jeremiah is buried at Ebenezer Baptist church not far from the Greenville farm. And on the gravestone, his epitaph is exactly eight words long. It says: "Confederate Soldier, Christian Citizen, Faithful to Every Trust."

With one necessary amendment, those same words can now sum up Jerry Cleveland Whitmire's life: American soldier, Christian citizen, faithful to every trust.

We will remember him with love.
May he rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL HONOREES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Officer Edward Ryan, Firefighter Brian O'Sullivan, and EMT Lt. Raymond Branagan, all of whom will be honored by the Knights of Columbus on March 31, 2001.

For the past eight years, The Fourth Degree Assembly 675 Knights of Columbus of Bayonne, New Jersey has honored officers from the city's three branches of service. The award honors both individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty and the departments that employ these brave men and women.

Police Officer Edward Ryan is being honored for evacuating the occupants of two burning buildings. On January 22, 2000, Officer Ryan was dispatched to a call regarding a fire at 86 W. 16th Street. Upon arrival, Officer Ryan found the building engulfed in flames with the fire spreading to the adjoining residence. Despite a rapidly spreading fire and severe smoke conditions, Officer Ryan heroically evacuated all residents from both buildings, allowing the fire department to immediately concentrate on fighting the fire, rather than on performing a search for trapped residents.

Firefighter Brian O'Sullivan is being honored for recently saving a life. He is a member of

Bayonne's Engine Company 6. In December 2000, Engine Company 6 was dispatched to Marist High School in response to a call about an unconscious female. Upon arrival, Firefighter O'Sullivan recognized that she was not breathing, so he used an automatic external defibrillator and a bag valve mask to save her life. Brian O'Sullivan became a firefighter in 1999, and was a member of the first class trained as both a firefighter and an EMT.

Lieutenant Raymond Branagan is an EMT, and is being honored for his administrative and instructional work with McCabe Ambulance. He is currently the lead instructor and administrative assistant to the Director of the McCabe Institute of Emergency Preparedness. Lt. Branagan is in charge of arranging courses on CPR for the American Heart Association, on First Aid for the National Safety Council, and on OSHA/PEOSHA blood and airborne pathogens for the Bayonne Police and Fire Departments, the Bayonne Board of Education, and Bayonne Head Start.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Officer Ryan, Firefighter O'Sullivan, and Lt. Branagan for their courageous contributions to their community.

SHAVER RETIRES AS CHIEF
DEPUTY CORONER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joe Shaver, who is retiring after 32 years as chief deputy coroner of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Joe was born in 1934 in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, graduated from Wyoming Memorial High School in 1952, and graduated from the McAllister School of Mortuary Science in 1953. He began his long career by helping out parking cars and handling other chores at Metcalfe's Funeral Home in Wyoming while he was still in high school, and he served an apprenticeship at the Luther M. Kniffen Funeral Home in Wilkes-Barre from 1954 to 1957.

From 1957 to 1963, he served in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps, including active duty in West Germany from 1957 to 1959. In 1959, Joe became a partner in the business that was renamed the Metcalfe & Shaver Funeral Home, and he became the owner in 1986. He was recalled to active duty with the Army from 1960 to 1961 due to the Berlin crisis and served an additional year at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

In 1969, Dr. George Hudock Jr. was appointed coroner following the death of the previous coroner, and his first act was to appoint Joe as his chief deputy. At that point, Joe had already served as a deputy coroner for six years and had been assisting Dr. Hudock with autopsies for three years. In Joe's 32 years as chief deputy coroner, he has assisted in more than 2,800 autopsies.

While Joe's memberships and affiliations are too numerous to list them in full, a few examples will serve to show his long history of community involvement. He is a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Kingston and has served on its council for several years, in addition to having served in the choir. He is a member and past president of the Rotary Club

of Wyoming and a Paul Harris Fellow, a member and past president of the Wyoming Business Club, a life member of Wyoming Hose Company No. 1, and a member of VFW Post 396 in Wyoming, Irem Temple in Wilkes-Barre and Mountain Grange 567 in Carverton.

Joe and his wife, the former Janice Ludwig, were married in 1962. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the long history of Joe Shaver's service to the community, and I wish him and his wife the best in his retirement.

2001 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, during the month of March 2001 we celebrate Women's National History Month. This year's theme is "Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision."

All across this country, Americans are promoting community, school and workplace celebrations honoring women's accomplishments, contributions, courage and vision.

In the Nation's Capital, the District of Columbia Commission for Women will participate in the national observance of Women's History Month to recognize the courage and vision exhibited by women of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, women of every race, creed, color and economic background have contributed to the growth and strength of our community. For more than three decades, programs of the District of Columbia Commission for Women have provided all our citizens with opportunities to bring attention to the creative, civic and professional accomplishments of women.

This year as part of its Women's History Month observance, the District of Columbia Commission for Women will establish a scholarship at the University of the District of Columbia to support women in pursuit of their academic and career endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all our colleagues to join with me in commending the District of Columbia Commission for Women and its members for their dedication, courage and vision.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERNEST
PEPPLES AND HIS SERVICE TO
THE U.S. TOBACCO INDUSTRY

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an individual, Ernest Pepples, for his significant efforts on behalf of a valuable yet ever more challenged industry. Ernie has had a distinguished and honorable career within the global and U.S. tobacco industry and deserves the recognition of Congress at the time of his retirement.

Mr. Ernest Pepples joined Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation in 1972 and was appointed vice president and general

counsel and became a member of the company's board of directors in 1975. He was named senior vice president in 1980. At the time of his retirement, he was responsible for the company's legislative representation and government affairs efforts including its relations with Congress.

Prior to joining Brown & Williamson, he was partner in the Louisville, Kentucky, law firm of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs. A native of Louisville, Mr. Pepples is a graduate of Yale University and the University of Virginia Law School. He also is a member of the American, Kentucky, and Louisville Bar Associations.

Throughout his career, Ernie has served in leadership positions for a variety of boards and councils including the board of directors of the Tobacco Merchants Association of Princeton, New Jersey, and the Kentucky Tobacco Research Board of Lexington, Kentucky.

Now, in recognition of his retirement from Brown & Williamson and the tobacco industry after 30 years of service, I believe he should be duly recognized by this body for his integrity and personal efforts to find common ground on many difficult issues. Indeed, Ernie developed a reputation as a leading expert on regulatory and business issues involving not only tobacco manufacturers but also tobacco growers, suppliers, consumers, wholesalers and retailers. My district in Georgia has been a direct beneficiary of Ernie's talent.

It is with this background that I say thank you Ernie for his dedication and service over the years and congratulate him on an outstanding career. He has worked hard for his home state of Kentucky, Georgia and the entire tobacco community within our country. Those of us who have been privileged to work with Ernie will miss his hard work, honesty, and dedication. We will also miss his great smile.

Congratulations Ernie on an outstanding career and best wishes to you and your family upon retirement.

HONORING OSCAR FELDENKREIS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my very great pleasure to warmly congratulate Oscar Feldenkreis on being honored for receiving the National Community Service Award by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Oscar Feldenkreis has become a successful entrepreneur and civic leader in the South Florida community. Following the wonderful example of success established by his father, Simon Wiesenthal Center Trustee and Miami leader, George Feldenkreis, Oscar diligently worked to build his empire in the apparel field. He began his career while still a student in high school, first in retail sales and then working at the headquarters of Supreme International, the company his father started. He has been President and Chief Operating Officer of Perry Ellis International since 1992.

Oscar is actively involved with the State of Israel Bonds for which he has served as president of the Cuban Hebrew Division. He has devoted his time and attention to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Temple Menorah and the Lehrman Day School and is currently