

HONORING DEBORAH A. CHAMBERS, CRNA, MHSA PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding resident of South Carolina, Deborah A. Chambers. Ms. Chambers will soon complete her year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that one of South Carolina's own was tapped as the 2001–2002 president of this prestigious national organization.

The AANA is the professional association that represents over 28,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Founded in 1931, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists is the professional association representing CRNAs nationwide. As you may know, CRNAs administer more than 65 percent of the anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia provider in over two-thirds of rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization capabilities. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; ambulatory surgical centers and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

Debbie has been a nurse anesthetist since 1981. She received both her anesthesia training and Masters of Health Service Administration at the Medical University of South Carolina, in Charleston, SC. She has been a solo practitioner since 1993 at the Microsurgery Center in Anderson, SC, as well as in both Greenville Memorial Medical Center and Saint Francis Bon Secours Hospital System in Greenville, SC. In addition to her role as a solo practitioner, she was the Clinical Coordinator at the Medical University of South Carolina School of Nurse Anesthesia at Greenville Memorial Medical Center from 1988–2000. Even with her demanding schedule as a practicing nurse anesthetist and AANA president, Debbie has continued to be active as a CRNA representative for pharmaceutical advisory panels such as Pharmacia and Glaxo Smith Kline since 2001 in order to advance the practice of anesthesia.

Debbie has held various leadership positions in the AANA as regional director, vice president, and president-elect before becoming the national president of the AANA in 2001. Ms. Chambers has actively served within the SC Association of Nurse Anesthetist as a District Representative on the board of directors and then in 1994 as state president. Since 1994, Debbie has taken her experience and knowledge from the work place and her AANA leadership roles to lecture on political and academic anesthesia related topics before different professional groups and societies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing Ms. Deborah A. Chambers, CRNA, MHSA, for her notable career and outstanding achievements. Congratulations Debbie.

STATEMENT COMMEMORATING THE PASSING OF AMVETS FOUNDING MEMBER ALBERT C. GEREMIA

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the recent passing of a former constituent of Rhode Island's Second District, Albert C. Geremia, native and longtime resident of the City of Providence. Mr. Geremia passed away on June 4th at Hickory House Nursing Home in Honeybrook, Pennsylvania. Mr. Geremia was a Navy veteran of World War II and had a long and distinguished career in management for two Providence firms. As a Navy veteran, Mr. Geremia was a founding member of the Congressionally-chartered veterans service organization, AMVETS, of which Mr. Geremia was the last surviving founder.

Mr. Geremia was one of eighteen individuals who began AMVETS. He worked to secure its Congressional charter and to establish an office in Washington, DC. For his efforts, AMVETS awarded him the organization's "Ray Sawyer Award" at their 1952 National Convention. Since its founding in 1944 in Kansas City, AMVETS has worked tirelessly on behalf of America's veterans and the community at large. Veterans across the nation owe men like Albert Geremia a debt of gratitude for all they have done to keep and protect those benefits promised to our veterans.

Our nation can never have too many men the caliber of Albert Geremia. By helping to found AMVETS, he strove for something larger than himself. A man should not be remembered for the wealth and possessions he earned in life, but rather, for what sort of man he was and what he did to make the world a better place.

Mr. Geremia is survived by his wife, Anne, a daughter, Linda, and son, Paul. I offer them my deepest condolences at this time of great loss, and I hope they will take great comfort in knowing how fondly Albert will be remembered by those whose lives he touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, due to commitments in my home state of Michigan, I was unable to cast votes on Monday, June 24. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall 249, on agreeing to H.R. 3937; "yea" on rollcall 250, on agreeing to H.R. 3786; "yea" on rollcall 251, on agreeing to H.R. 3971; and "yea" on rollcall 252, on agreeing to H.J. Res. 95.

HONORING DR. WALTER L. BUSTER, Ed.D.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Walter Buster upon his retirement as Superintendent of Clovis Unified School District. Dr. Buster was honored at a dinner among his colleagues, friends, and family.

Dr. Buster has dedicated his life to education and has served many communities throughout California. Walter's colleagues agree, regardless of his position, he contributes vision, leadership, and ingenuity to his team. He has orchestrated many programs in the Clovis Unified School District in the seven years he has been there. Four of his top programs illustrate his unique ability to visualize current needs with respect for the future. He implemented "Laptops for Learners," a joint venture with Microsoft and Toshiba to supply all students with laptops to perform their daily classroom activities. Dr. Buster saw another of his visions come to fruition with the development of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology. The center will provide up to 1,800 11th and 12th grade students with advanced project-based training in 12 different technology based laboratory environments. Walter realizes the importance of reading to students, and put into action yet another program, called "Community of Readers." Volunteers from the community dedicate one hour per week to read with the students. Always keeping in mind the importance of being an influential citizen within the community, Dr. Buster started "Character Counts!" a program that teaches students six core principles: responsibility, respect, fairness, caring, citizenship, and trustworthiness.

Dr. Buster's contributions to the Clovis education system are obvious, but he has also made a tremendous impact on the community. He serves on many state and local education and business committees. The State Board of Education recently appointed Dr. Buster to the WestEd Board of Directors, a non-profit research, development and service agency dedicated to improving education and other opportunities for children, youth and adults.

AN AMERICAN COWBOY LEGEND:
BEN COOPER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the voluminous and noteworthy acting career of Ben Cooper, a performer whose work in the Western genre has informed and entertained generations of youngsters about the history and the myths of the Old West. Many fans may recognize that Ben has always had a special place in his heart for the Western, but perhaps not everyone knows that he met his wife, Pamela, while working on the "Wagon Train" series with Ward Bond.

While Ben is perhaps best known for his role in the non-western drama, "The Rose

Tattoo," he made his mark in many terrific Westerns, including "Johnny Guitar," with Joan Crawford and Sterling Hayden. He also had prominent roles in "Jubilee Trail," "The Last Command," "Outlaw's Son," and as Johnny Shattuck in "Duel at Apache Wells." In 1965, Ben starred with Audie Murphy in "Gunfight at Comanche Creek" and "Arizona Raiders."

Before moving to Hollywood, Ben was already an extremely successful performer with 3,200 radio broadcasts and 250 live television shows under his belt. His first film credit was for his work in the Republic Studios film, "The Thunderbirds." While the bulk of Ben's big-screen work was in the 1950s and 1960s, his career has covered more than fifty years, including two 1971 Westerns, "One More Train to Rob" and "Support Your Local Gunfighter," in which he played Colorado Magee. Over the years, Ben appeared in various movies and had many guest appearances on hit television shows, including "Kung Fu: The Legend Continues," "The Fall Guy," "Bonanza," and "The Rifleman." He also had a longrunning part in "The Misadventures of Sheriff Lobo" with Claude Akins from 1979 to 1981.

In the 1960s, Ben formed Celebrity Speakers, a group that booked actors on the lecture circuit. Ben's belief that the magnificent and hard-working character actors cast as sidekicks, saddle tramps, bank robbers and in other essential supporting roles were equally capable of acting as goodwill ambassadors for Hollywood has given us all a better understanding of film-making.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Ben Cooper for exhibiting the true spirit of the American cowboy-hero. Whether Ben wore a white or a black Stetson, his characters were memorable and we should tip our collective hats to Ben Cooper, another legendary hero of the Old West.

TRIBUTE TO NADINE MILFORD,
NEW MEXICO MADD STATE CHAIR

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding New Mexican, my friend, Nadine Milford. On June 30, after a successful three-year term, Nadine will step down as the Mothers Against Drunk Driving State Chair. I will take this time to pay tribute to Nadine for her efforts to eliminate the scourge of drunken driving and to improve the lives of countless New Mexicans.

When tragedy strikes, we can do one of two things. We can either allow it to defeat us or we can use the experience to empower us to become an effective advocate for change.

People living in New Mexico in 1992 will never forget that December. What started out as an ordinary holiday season was soon changed into one of devastating heartbreak. It was Christmas Eve and there were pockets of snow across the country. There was a sense of electricity in the air as there usually is during the holidays. At one home in Albuquerque, Bob and Nadine Milford were especially excited about spending the holiday with their children and grandchildren. On Christmas Eve, 1992, gifts were waiting under the Milford's

Christmas tree—gifts that never were to be opened.

Across town on that fateful night, Paul and Melanie Cravens picked up Melanie's three daughters—Kandyce, Erin and Kacee Woodard—at their father's west-side Albuquerque home. They decided to go see the lights from Nine Mile Hill, west of the city on Interstate 40. But before they topped the hill, they were struck by a pickup driving down the wrong side of the highway.

Melanie and the three girls were killed instantly. Paul Cravens somehow survived, as did the driver of the pickup. Blood tests later showed that the driver was well over the legal alcohol limit. Mr. Speaker, I will not go into the legal debacle that ensued on this case for the next several years, other than to say it was painful and finally created the traction necessary for stronger drunk driving laws.

New Mexicans were inconsolable that Christmas Eve when the local news began reporting what had occurred. Then they got mad. Our citizens demanded action to combat the state's DWI problem—and they got it.

I have been fortunate enough to be a firsthand witness to Nadine's many accomplishments. At the time, I was proudly serving as the Attorney General of New Mexico. Earlier that year, I had appointed a DWI Task Force to study what our state could do to fight drunk driving. We issued our report to the State Legislature as they convened in January.

Throughout the next few years, we worked to lower the legal blood-alcohol limit, toughened penalties for drunk driving and set aside millions of dollars to fund local anti-DWI efforts. The state also began widespread use of sobriety checkpoints and passed a "zero tolerance" law that strips minors of their licenses when they are caught drinking and driving.

Throughout all of this, there was one person in the spotlight who became the focal point of this crusade, and that was Nadine. She could have sunk under the depression that engulfed her. Instead, she leaned on her deep faith and the love of her family and seemingly overnight transformed herself into the new face of DWI reform. Nadine could never have imagined that she would one day be tapped to lead such a worthy fight. Ultimately, I cannot think of anyone better to have done it.

When Nadine was selected as the Mothers Against Drunk Driving State Chair in 1999, she was totally devoted to fighting for MADD's mission to stop drunk-driving. She has also comforted countless numbers of families who have been affected by a drunk driving death. Being so modest, I doubt that Nadine even realizes the positive impact that she has had on New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I have touched only on a small list of Nadine's many personal and professional accomplishments. Vera Nadine Fuchs Milford was born in Los Angeles, California and has resided in New Mexico since 1961. Her husband, Robert, still owns Bobby Joe's Auto Sales. In addition to Melanie, she has four other children—Terrell, Celeste, Pauline and Lance. After graduating from Victory Bible College, Nadine taught school for a time. Of everything she has done, I know how proud she is of her family. She has been a wonderful wife and mother.

New Mexicans feel as though they know Nadine because they have shared so much of her grief over the years. Nadine's motto is "persistence wears resistance." Without a

doubt, she has lived this motto throughout the years that have passed since Christmas Eve, 1992. She has stood tall and is truly a hero to many.

Much of my admiration for Nadine Milford stems from her enduring commitment to fighting the good fight. Her values are reflected not only in the way she lives her life, but also in her intelligence and honesty. She will undoubtedly be missed at MADD, but her legacy will endure, and she will never stop advocating for the elimination of drunk driving.

Nadine, I wish you well in whatever future endeavors you pursue.

VETERANS' BENEFITS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on an issue that is very important to our nation's veterans. If you were to ask Americans if they knew that their veterans were being denied benefits to which they earned in an effort to save money, there would be outrage. Well Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say that that is exactly what has been occurring for many years.

Today, veterans who served our country and retire after 20 years but endure a service-connected disability, have their disability benefits offset dollar-for-dollar by a reduction in their retirement pay. This unfair practice is a disgrace for those who selflessly served our country and sacrificed so much on our behalf. These offset dollars are taken away from veterans seeking to make a better life, send children through college or have an opportunity to spend time with grandchildren.

Well Mr. Speaker, there is good news. After many years of trying to correct this problem, I am very proud that my committee, the House Armed Services Committee, included a provision granting concurrent receipt for our most severely disabled retirees in H.R. 4546, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003. This provision provides \$5.8 billion to phase in, over a five-year period, an elimination of the concurrent receipt offset for disabled retirees with a disability rating of 60 percent or greater. Though the offset is not eliminated completely for all disabled veterans, it is a first step. This measure passed the House on May 9, 2002, by a vote of 359–58.

Mr. Speaker, there is still more work to be done. It is my understanding that, like the House, the Senate has included a concurrent receipt provision in their authorization bill and I plan on working actively with them on this issue when this bill is brought to conference. Our veterans earn their retired pay by committing themselves to the defense of our country and I believe there is no better way to honor America than to give our nation's veterans all the benefits to which they are entitled.