

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOMETOWN HEROES SURVIVORS BENEFIT ACT OF 2002

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's public safety officers.

Each community in America is blessed to have its own unique group of hometown heroes; the firefighters, law enforcement officers, and others who keep our streets safe, protect our families and possessions from fire, and are the first to respond to an emergency. They are dedicated and prepared, and when we call on them, they risk their lives for us.

Last year, Congress improved the Public Safety Officers Benefit, which provides a one-time financial benefit to the families of public safety officers who die because of an injury sustained in the line of duty. However, despite our efforts there are families who are prevented from receiving these benefits because of a technicality in the law.

Heart attack and cardiac related deaths account for almost half of all firefighter fatalities (between 45–50 firefighter deaths per year), yet the families of these fallen firefighters are rarely eligible to receive this benefit. Fighting fires is dangerous, exhausting, and stressful work. A firefighter's chances of suffering a heart attack or stroke greatly increases when he or she puts on heavy equipment and rushes into a building to fight a fire. The families of these hometown heroes should receive this benefit when their loved ones die of a heart attack or other cardiac related death while they are on duty selflessly protecting us from harm.

Today, along with several of my colleagues, I am introducing a bill to correct this unfortunate loophole in the Public Safety Officers Benefit. The Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefit Act will allow the families of public safety officers who have died from a heart attack or stroke while on duty, or within 24-hours after participating in a training exercise or responding to an emergency situation, to receive this benefit.

Our hometown heroes put their lives on the line for each of us everyday. This legislation shows them our support and appreciation for their extraordinary bravery and heroism. I invite every Member to join us in this effort by cosponsoring this important legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARJORIE CREEN

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I offer congratulations to my constituent, Marjorie A. Creen, of Chisago City, Minnesota. Marjorie, a senior at Chisago Lakes High School has been named winner of the VFW 2002 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis and Judy Creen and was sponsored by VFW Post 7267 in Lindstrom, Minnesota.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct a Voice of Democracy audio/essay competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. The theme of this year's audio/essay contest was "Reaching Out to America's Future."

Marjorie, on behalf of a very proud constituency: "Congratulations on a job well done."

REACHING OUT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

(By Marjorie Creen)

Will is a small boy. He is in first grade and is 6 years, 8 months old. Besides playing tetherball and riding bikes, Will's favorite thing to do is color. He draws pictures for his mom and dad, and for his grandma and grandpa. Recently, Will was coloring a picture of an American flag when he noticed that he didn't have a red crayon. Will is a smart young boy and knew that he needed red to finish his drawing. He searched through his pack of crayons, then on the table, and finally looked to the floor. Low and behold, there was his crayon. Will was quite happy to see it lying a few feet from his desk. He reached out for it, but it was too far away. Frustrated he stretched even more to get it, but still, he could not pick up his red crayon.

As odd as it may seem, the United States is much like Will. Just like the young boy, we are trying to create something beautiful and perfect for all of us to enjoy. However we too are missing something that we need to make our dream come true. This child has one up on us, though. Will knows what he is missing, therefore he can reach out in order to achieve it. What exactly are we missing? I figured out what I thought we were missing by looking at what the finished drawing should look like.

When I think of what the United States should be, I think of a place where racial differences do not exist. I see a place where there are no "bad streets" in major cities and where people can feel safe to walk alone at night. I want a place where people are less self-absorbed and when a cashier says, "Have a good day!" she actually means it. I see a place where the veterans of World War II, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf are praised and honored for protecting the rights that many people today don't realize we have.

What all of these things add up to is respect. I feel that that is something major our beautiful country lacks. The reason I think respect is so crucial is because it leads to other effects. Once a country has respect, it then has unity, pride, love, happiness, harmony—the list is endless!

To show respect, people could stop swearing at each other, gain more patience in rush hour, allow someone with less items to go in front of them at the grocery store, and remember to stand when the National Anthem is played. Respect is America's red crayon.

Soldiers, sailors, and airmen fought hard to give their children, and their children's children the freedoms we have. It is hard for us to appreciate these things because we have never seen what is like to not have them. My generation has never known a time where we couldn't voice our opinion, sue someone we were unhappy with, or practice the religion of our choice. These freedoms we enjoy have always been there, and hopefully WILL always be there. I just pray that in the future, my fellow peers will learn the true value of the things that we take for granted. Perhaps we need them to be taken away from us, so then one day we can realize what we had and how truly great it was. Sadly, that will be the day that we finally give the veterans of war the respect they deserve.

Respect for the fine soldiers who worked hard to preserve our freedom is a giant leap in the right direction. I think that once we show respect for these brave men and women, we will understand the meaning of the National Anthem. The words will no longer be a simple song that is played before the start of a basketball game, it will be the heroic hymn that defines what people have sacrificed to give us our liberty.

We need to be like Will, the young boy who needs a red crayon. We, the people of this great country, must reach out with arms stretched to the future. Not only must we reach, but we need to stand up, proud and strong, and show respect for the people who fought and died to give us our rights. Respect is what this country needs. Respect for all who live in it, and respect for all who fought for it, so that we could live with freedom, rights, and pride.

A TRIBUTE TO MARTIN MATICH
ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Martin Matich, a very good friend and a man who has earned a reputation throughout California as a builder of flawless public works and community leader. Mr. Matich reaches his 75th year this month.

The Matich Corp., which Martin Matich ran for 40 years until his retirement as chairman in 1992, is one of Southern California's largest heavy construction companies. It builds freeways, bridges, runways, flood-control channels and dams. The San Bernardino County company, founded by Matich's father John, has built more than 1,000 miles of roads and freeways in California, Nevada and Arizona, and constructed runways and aprons at 40 military and civilian airfields.

Under the leadership of Martin Matich, the company became known for its top-quality work and innovation. The Matich Corp. developed continuous-slip forms that allowed 90-foot-deep intercontinental ballistic missile silos to be built at Vandenberg Air Force Base in one step, making them stronger and faster to finish. It also pioneered continuous-pour concrete paving machinery, which allows long stretches of highways to be built without elaborate forms.

The company, which is now run by Matich's son, Steven, has completed more than \$1 billion in projects in its 85-year history. Six members of the family's third generation are still in company management. It's latest endeavor is to repave and improve hundreds of miles of highways in Mexico, which will help that country meet the challenges of trade with the United States.

Martin Matich has been so involved in local and regional community affairs that the local press often calls him the most influential non-elected person in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, an area known as the Inland Empire of Southern California. His advice and counsel is sought by presidents, senators, House members and most local officials—and he provides it, without regard to party affiliation. He knows the mood of Inland Empire residents, and he is dedicated to putting their interests first.

He has served in a wide variety of community positions, including mayor and City Council member of Colton, a member of the California State Water Commission, member and former president of the National Orange Show board of directors, chairman of the National Orange Show Foundation and St. Bernardine Hospital Foundation. He was president of the Inland Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America and chairman of the Water Resources Institute at California State University, San Bernardino. He was appointed to the statewide California Advisory Council on Economic Development and the Commission of California's advisory council.

Over the years, Martin Matich has been honored with many awards, including the Engineering Honor Award by his alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, and Citizen of the Year by both the San Bernardino Board of Realtors and the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Speaker, it would be hard to imagine someone who is more exemplary of the designation community leader than Martin Matich. His 75 years in the Inland Empire have made his hometown community—and mine—a better place to live and work. Please join me in congratulating him on his 75th birthday, and wishing him and his wife Evelyn the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROSH HASHANAH—THE JEWISH NEW YEAR

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. SHAW Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year. As with the secular new year, Rosh Hashanah is often a time of resolutions. Jews from around the world reflect on the year that has passed and look forward to the year to come with a sense of renewal and of hope. According to tradition, on Rosh Hashanah the Book of Life is opened and observers are given a chance to atone for the sins and weaknesses of the past year.

As we approach the anniversary of September 11th, I hope that we can all join together with our Jewish neighbors and friends in the same spirit of solemn reflection. While we look back upon the extraordinary year that has passed, let us resolve to adopt our own resolutions of "tikkun" or healing. We honor the age old Jewish tradition of making amends with each other and repenting for the hurts and misunderstandings that we have caused one another through the year.

While Jewish communities gather and recommit themselves to God and to each other during this holiday season, let us take a page from this ancient religion's teachings and strive to live by the tenant that we should avoid doing to others that which we deem hateful to ourselves. The world would most certainly be a safer and more peaceful place if we strived to achieve this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Rosh Hashanah and wish all who observe a safe and happy holiday.

INTRODUCING THE "CHANCE TO SUCCEED ACT"

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Chance to Succeed Act." This legislation is aimed at helping disabled Americans and those struggling with barriers to employment move from welfare to work. I'm proud to be joined in this effort by 43 of my colleagues. I'm also thankful to Senators Wellstone and Kennedy, who are working to pass companion legislation in the Senate.

Too many Americans find themselves trapped on welfare because of a disability. Others are simply ill equipped to overcome very real barriers that stand in the way of achieving meaningful employment.

The "Chance to Succeed Act" creates broad new guidelines for states to better serve the needs of the disabled and the severely disadvantaged. It empowers states to improve employment opportunity for welfare recipients with physical and mental disabilities. It also addresses other proven barriers to employment, such as a low level of education, limited English proficiency, and domestic abuse among others.

A recent General Accounting Office (GAO) study found that welfare recipients with disabilities were half as likely to leave the welfare rolls compared to recipients without impairments. The same GAO study found disabled recipients who did move off welfare were much less likely to gain employment.

An Urban Institute study found that 46 percent of welfare recipients that returned to welfare were in poor mental or physical health. The same Urban Institute Study found that 38 percent of welfare recipients that returned to welfare had less than a high school education. Perhaps most disturbing is a Wisconsin Study that found that 30 percent of welfare recipients responding to their survey reported that they had been fired or lost a job because of domestic abuse.

My bill provides a framework for states to institute new screening and assessment programs that identify and provide specialized services to these recipients. It encourages them to create individual "personal responsibility plans" that outline goals necessary for each recipient to obtain stable employment. It also provides funding for state-level advisory panels to evaluate and improve these efforts. And it allows States to follow through with this process without being penalized under current Federal work requirements.

Some states have already taken steps along these lines. This bill continues to give states flexibility to determine how best to meet the goals set out in this legislation. This is critical in giving families the tools they need to meet the individual challenges they face. By making clear that involvement in state programs tailored toward employment barriers will be counted as a work activity, states can fully follow through in this critical effort.

Please join me in supporting the "Chance to Succeed Act" to provide new hope and opportunity to Americans struggling to lift themselves out of poverty.

HONORING THE LIVES OF JOHN WALTER REDFUD AND PETER DAUTERIVE

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, this past August, two distinguished citizens and close friends of mine passed away. I would like to honor their lives by submitting their obituaries into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN WALTER REDFUD

John Walter Redfud, born September 20, 1914, in Houston, Texas, was the second of four children born to John Walter Redfud, Sr., and Lillie Livingston Redfud. His parents, sister (Kathryn) and brothers, (Augustus and Paul) preceded him in death. He was reared in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He graduated from Second Ward High School.

John graduated in 1938 from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with a B.S. in Liberal Arts. In 1947 he received a M.A. Degree from the University of Southern California (U.S.C.) and an Accreditation for School Administration from California State University.

As a college student, John sang in the mixed glee club. He was a talented athlete, lettering in two sports for three years. In his senior year, he was captain of his football team and co-captain of his basketball team. In 1990 he was inducted into the Southern University Sports Hall of Fame for both sports.

Later, he assisted the Los Angeles Kappa Chapter in earning many trophies during the early years of Inter-Fraternity Basketball Tournaments.

After graduation from Southern University, John was employed for four years as a classroom teacher and coach of the football and basketball teams of Central High School in Bogalusa, Louisiana. Two of his football teams were State champions. He also coached football and basketball at Webster Parish High School in Louisiana.

John arrived in California in 1948 where his employment included: service as a Deputy Probation Officer (recurrent) for ten years; counselor for the California Youth Authority, Juvenile Hall and Avalon Community Center; and various assignments in the field of education.

He retired in 1983 as principal of Adult Education in the Compton Unified School District after thirty-three years, seventeen of those years as a classroom teacher at Willowbrook Junior High and Centennial High School and sixteen in Adult Education Administration. (Note: John Redfud's ability to remember names was phenomenal. His participation in the first three years of the graduation ceremonies at Centennial High School would show case this remarkable ability. He called each graduate to come forth and receive their diploma by their name without the use of any notes or papers.)

He taught principles of Adult Education for the University of California at Los Angeles, (UCLA) extension and received the Freedom Foundation Award from Valley Forge Pennsylvania for classroom teaching.

A devout Catholic, John was previously a member of St. Paul Catholic Church, serving as an usher for twenty years, and was a member of St. Peter Claver, serving two years as president. He joined St. Eugene Church in 1975.

On August 10, 1944, John married Genevieve Taylor, his beloved wife of fifty-eight