

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CAPTAIN GLEN
VETRANO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding public servant, Fire Captain Glen Vetrano of the Paterson Fire Department, who was recognized on Thursday, October 18, 2001 for his lifelong commitment to helping others.

Fire Captain Vetrano was chosen as the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson's 2001 Man of the Year. The enduring relationship between Glen and the Boys and Girls Club began long ago, when he was only 12 years old.

While enrolled in the old Hawthorne Boys and Girls Club, young Glen demonstrated his altruism and leadership by partnering with community leaders and parents in building a new, vastly improved facility. Even at such a young age, Glen's dedication and ability to lead was recognized, as he was named Youth of the Year for his efforts in the construction of the new building.

Glen Vetrano's desire to serve others certainly continued into his adult life as he chose a career in public safety. After being appointed to the Paterson Fire Department on June 2, 1986, he quickly rose into leadership positions, chosen by his peers as president of the Firefighters Association from 1992–1996 and as the current president of the Fire Officers IAFF Local 3860.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong resident and former Mayor of Paterson, I can definitively say that fire Captain Vetrano's capacity for giving is second to none. As a member of the Board of the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson, Glen has been instrumental in the Club's successful growth initiative. Chairing the Marketing Committee and hosting the Club's Annual Winter Beefsteak, Glen Vetrano's devotion and steadfast leadership have produced countless successes for the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson. He has touched countless lives.

No time of year better illustrates the character of my friend Glen Vetrano than the Christmas season. He takes a very special interest in aiding those who might otherwise be overlooked during the joyous holiday season. Glen has founded the Holiday Dinner for the Clergy. He pioneered this dinner to honor those who have devoted themselves to the needs of our residents all year long. Of course, Glen is a staple at the Boys and Girls Club Holiday Party, assisting Santa and helping young people enjoy the Christmas season.

I consider my friendship with Glen Vetrano a blessing, and believe honoring him in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, is absolutely necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson, the City of Paterson, Glen's family and friends, all those who have been touched by his altruism, and me in recognizing the invaluable service of Fire Captain Glen Vetrano.

HONORING LIA M. JELINGER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit for the RECORD an essay written by Lia M. Jelinger of my district. Such a kind woman, she serves as an example for all of us and it is important to share her story. Her message is timeless, though it need be oft repeated:

It all started in WWII, whilst suffering under the German Occupation. I was a teenager then, and experienced suffering, hate and destruction. I made a vow, as young as I was not to be part of all this evil, but to show love and compassion the rest of my life toward my fellow men.

It was in 1957 when I immigrated to the United States with 5 kids in tow. My first job opportunity was to work as a nurse in pediatrics in a local hospital. After that I proceeded to become a foster mother and took care all together of 25 foster babies. A few years later I worked for Special Olympics, sewing banners, flags, and ribbons at home so I could be there for my family. I received the "Service to Mankind Award" and personal awards from Eunice Shriver.

In 1990 with so many blessings given to me I started working for the VA here in Toledo 3 days a week under a senior program. Later I found myself with too much idle time on my hands, which could be utilized and decided to volunteer on my off days.

I am 73 years young now and still going strong. I reckon that there are days of achy cracking bones, but that does not stop me to spread love and compassion I have for my co-workers and patients alike being cheerful and to make their day.

I had always wished to some day meet a WWII veteran and one day the opportunity presented itself. A frail old man entered the office and asked for some help with his hearing aid and made clear he was a WWII veteran. I proceeded to ask him where he was in combat and he told me he was in the Netherlands, fighting in the Battle of Arnhem and in Germany. I was overwhelmed since I came from the Netherlands and asked him permission to hug him and so I did thanking him for his contribution towards our freedom. He then started to cry and told me that nobody ever did that to him.

I want to honor those who lost their lives and those who are still living. It was a horrible experience that we went through as civilians also, but the good thing about it for me is, that it formed character.

God bless this great country of ours and may God keep all those courageous men and women then and now safe with his protection and loving care.

TRIBUTE TO JOY BRYSON

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to undertake a sad, yet heart-warming mission—to honor a most cherished staff member, Mrs. Joy Bryson, on her retirement from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Joy has been serving for the past eight years as Administrator to the Minority. Pre-

viously, she served for nine years as Chief Clerk to the then majority—a position she devoutly wished to reclaim. Throughout all of these years she served all of the Members of the Committee and to staff with grace, uncommon ability, and a cheerfulness that always bespoke her name—with joy.

Prior to joining the Committee, Joy served as Office Manager for our late distinguished Chairman, Jim Howard. More importantly, Joy served for 14 years the people of the Third Congressional District of New Jersey as if they were her own family, in the process earning their gratitude and affection.

In recognition of her abilities, Chairman Howard asked Joy to take on the important position of Committee Administrator. She continued in this position under the following three Chairmen, Glenn Anderson, Bob Roe, and Norm Mineta, and filled a similar position when we became the minority in 1994. I know that Chairman Roe and Secretary Mineta share my gratitude for Joy's many important contributions to the effective operation of the Committee and its staff.

Joy has been the Committee's expert on the intricacies of the rules governing the Congressional Administrative process; such as our internal budget rules, and our rules on travel, ethics, and retirement. As a former congressional staffer I know well the complexities involved. When someone knows the rules and procedures as well as Joy does, she can anticipate and solve problems of which Members and staff may be blissfully unaware. I know of many occasions when Joy's expertise saved Members and staff much time and effort, and ensured that administrative actions were done right, the first time.

Although Joy knows all the rules and procedures, she is anything but a "green eyeshade" type of public servant. Her professional talents include considerable literacy skills. She has a graceful writing style and a good sense for the telling anecdote—told with a special Southern charm. Joy's talents were particularly well displayed when she helped Members prepare speeches, letters and extensions of remarks, expressing our appreciation for distinguished public service, or our thanks for assistance we received.

Joy was also an excellent recruiter for the Committee. Through her efforts, the Committee consistently attracted an exceptional group of staff assistants, who were highly competent, enthusiastic team players; invaluable for the successful functioning of the Committee.

Joy's greatest contribution to the Committee flowed from her personal qualities—her cheerfulness, her interest in her colleagues, and her maturity and common sense. Joy worked with a number of Staff Directors most of whom had little supervisory experience. She took it upon herself to carry out the sometimes thankless task of breaking them in to the human side of the job, their responsibilities in dealing with personal and work problems of the staff. Joy's dedication to this task, her empathy for the perspective of the administrative staff, and her charm and perceptiveness, gave her great influence, and made the Committee a much better place to work.

Supplementing her public service, Joy has been an active volunteer in community service. I particularly appreciate her dedicated service on behalf of the Jo Oberstar Memorial Lecture Series on Breast Cancer Awareness,

sponsored by the George Washington University Hospital Breast Care Center in memory of my late wife. Joy played a major role in organizing last year's highly successful lecture and fundraiser.

Mr. Speaker, at this time we are in the midst of an Olympic season. If medals were bestowed in the halls of Congress to those staffers who most deserve the title of "champion", Joy Bryson would be one of those on the dais with a medal of gold. As Joy returns to her beloved family, her husband Lit and her children, Chris and Jeni, she carries with her out gratitude for her service, and our prayers for her well being and, most of all, for her happiness.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES OF AMERICAN SAMOA INCOME TAXES

HON. ENI F.H. FALDOMAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. FALDOMAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will repeal a provision in the Internal Revenue Code which requires certain federal employees in American Samoa to pay more in income taxes than a citizen with the same taxable income but who is not a federal employee.

By way of background, U.S. citizens with incomes above a certain threshold and residing in a U.S. possession are required to file tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service or a territorial government on their world-wide income. In the past, U.S. citizen-residents of American Samoa were able to claim a dollar for dollar tax credit for all taxes paid or owing to the territory. The taxpayers claimed a foreign tax credit on their federal return, and the amount of the income tax collected by the IRS was either covered over to the American Samoa Government, or was returned to the taxpayers to be paid to the local government. Either way, U.S. citizens paid income taxes at the federal rates to the American Samoa Government.

Section 931 of the Internal Revenue Code sets forth the general rule on income from sources within American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The general rule is that income derived from one of the specified possessions shall not be included as gross income for federal tax purposes. On its face, Section 931(d)(1) creates an exception to this general rule for federal employees who reside in one of these three territories, although the section is currently applicable only to American Samoa. Under this exception, a federal employee's income is considered as part of gross income. As incomes have risen in recent years, more taxpayers are not coming within the laws governing the alternative minimum tax (AMT). Under Section 59 of the Code (one of the AMT provisions), taxpayers can only claim 90 percent of their foreign tax credit against the taxes they owe to the federal government.

The net result of Section 59 and 931 as they are applied to federal employees residing in American Samoa is that the federal employees have to pay the usual tax at federal rates, which is paid over to the territorial government. Some federal employee-taxpayers then pay an additional tax to the IRS. If the tax-

payers were not federal employees, their federal wages would not be included in their gross income and they would not have to pay this additional tax.

The legislation I introduce today will make Section 931(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code inapplicable to American Samoa. When this section is changed, these U.S. citizens will still pay taxes, and they will still be subject to the alternative minimum tax like any other taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, I see no reason we should require our federal civil workers to pay more in taxes than any other citizen does just because he or she has chosen to serve our government. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP SIMON GORDON

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Bishop Simon Gordon, Pastor of Tiedstone Full Gospel Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. Bishop Gordon was ordained in 1987 and since that time, God, through him, has made and continues to make a difference in many lives. Under his leadership and vision, Tiedstone's membership has grown to over 1,300 and its ministries have grown from the original 13 to 38. Bishop Gordon's untiring service, faithful dedication to the community and strong leadership have earned him the deserved respect and admiration of all whose lives he has touched.

Bishop Gordon has been instrumental in shaping the future of the community, state and country. He formed the Ministerial Alliance to train ministers and deacons to become and operate effectively as leaders of the church. I applaud his leadership and commend him for toiling so long to provide the type of guidance which has empowered so many to make meaningful contributions to the community. His accomplishments are far too numerous to list but I applaud him for each and every one of them and for having the dream and desire to use his faith as a vehicle to effect social, political and economic change. He is a true testament to his faith and an asset to our country. I commend Bishop Simon Gordon and wish him many more years of exemplary service to the Lord.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RONALD L. OWENS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Reverend Ronald L. Owens residing in the Sixth District of New Jersey. He is celebrating his 25th year in the ministry.

Reverend Owens is currently the Senior Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church of Metuchen, New Jersey. On Friday, April 12, 2002, his church will recognize his illustrious

career and dedication to Metuchen and surrounding communities.

Rev. Owens graduated from Northeastern Bible College in Essex Falls. He also has earned a degree from the Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. Presently, he is a candidate for the Doctorate in Ministry from Andersonville Baptist Seminary in Camille, Georgia.

At the New Hope Baptist Church he has the unique honor of pastoring the church he attended in his youth. The church has grown to more than five hundred active members, with more than thirty active ministries serving the community.

Rev. Owens has a noteworthy career. It includes serving as a member of the Board of Supervisors for Field Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary and the Ad-Hoc Committee for Minority Recruitment for Robert Wood's Medical School at Rutgers University. Additionally, he has acted as the president of the Metuchen/Edison Clergy Association and former Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Party of Middlesex County in the State of New Jersey. Lastly, he was President and CEO of the House of Hope Community Development Corporation of New Jersey.

Outside of his career, he spends time with his adoring wife of thirty-years, Cheryl Owens, and his two daughters, Tracey and Kimberly. He also enjoys spending time with his four grandsons, Adam II, Joshua, Blair, Jr. and Brandon.

Through his ministry he spreads the word of God and provides spiritual leadership. Now entering his twenty fifth year of service, I would like to congratulate Reverend Ronald L. Owens on this momentous occasion.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY NICHOLS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to serve and protect the citizens of the State of Colorado. Sheriff's Deputy Gary Nichols of the Moffat County Sheriff's Department has faithfully served his fellow Coloradans for years. After a long and successful career as one of Colorado's finest, the Advocates-Crisis Support Services, an organization created to handle and provide crisis support services to victims of crime, named Gary the "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year." As he celebrates his recent achievement, I would like to take this time to highlight Gary's service to his community.

Gary has faithfully served the Moffat County Sheriff's Department in various capacities throughout his career, but it was his ability to provide emotional support and attention to those in need that has led to this award. In every criminal situation, there is always someone who is directly affected by the crime, either a victim or bystander. Part of a law enforcement officer's duty is to not only protect our citizens from harm, but to also provide compassionate and caring assistance to those in need. Gary has repeatedly demonstrated