

The face of battle is changing with this new war, and America's military has already demonstrated it is prepared to meet this challenge. From precision air strikes to special operations troops riding horseback in the mountains of Afghanistan, we've seen our military's flexibility and commitment to its mission.

I'd like to mention a book that came out recently, one that I think bears mentioning today. It's called *War Letters Extraordinary*. This volume contains hundreds of letters by American military personnel from the Civil War up through the Persian Gulf War, Somalia and Bosnia. It's part of something called the Legacy Project, a nonprofit effort to preserve war-time letters.

Many of these letters mailed home from the front to loved ones were the last letters ever sent by these troops. That makes for emotional reading. But for those who have never experienced the total terror and uncertainty of combat, these letters are a chilling lesson in what's at stake when we send our forces off to battle—precious lives, connected to loved ones at home, in peril.

One of the more interesting similarities in the letters, regardless of the time period, is the attempt of letter writers to reassure loved ones back home of their safety. It says something of the spirit of these men and women when their courage and optimism shine through like that.

These letters are full of concern for younger siblings and other relatives. They are full of desire to help boost home-front morale. And, as you can imagine, letters to parents and sweethearts alike conclude with very open expressions of love.

The book's editor Andrew Carroll of Washington, DC, describes in his introduction how these individual letters spanning 140 years create a very personal narrative. "It is the story of immeasurable suffering and astonishing violence," he explains. "But it is also a story that encompasses tales of heroism, perseverance, integrity, honor, and reconciliation."

He describes how these letters were written from a variety of circumstances: filthy trenches, flooded foxholes, the sweltering islands of the Pacific, muddy battlefields of Europe, the frozen mountains of Korea, the jungles of Vietnam and other places far from home.

I would like to close by mentioning that these one million men and women made the ultimate sacrifice at the request of their nation. Their legacy will continue to live in our memory, and we honor them as we will honor those who will come after them.

It is our task—the task of this generation—to provide the response to aggression and terror. We have no other choice, because there is no other peace.

The contributions of our soldiers given willingly and without hesitation, demonstrate their profound and abiding devotion to this nation. On our behalf, they take risks, they go into harm's way, they shed blood—prepared to give their lives if necessary—and some have paid to preserve peace and freedom and our way of life. They continue to make incredible contributions and even more incredible sacrifices. We must never forget the service and sacrifice—enduring legacy—of these brave souls who gave their full measure for all of us.

Thank you for sharing your time today in honor of these special Americans—those who

paid the ultimate price in demonstrating that freedom is not free. God bless you and God bless America."

HONORING COAST GUARD HEROES FROM WORLD WAR II

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Coast Guard personnel at Group-Air Station Atlantic City as they honor two World War II veterans. The two former Coast Guard aircrew from New Jersey flew many homeland security missions together from bases in Florida between 1943 and 1945, protecting convoys moving along the East Coast and searching for German U-boats.

Donald T. Daughenbaugh was born in Atlantic City, NJ in 1920. Harry D. Mount was born in Riverside, NJ in 1922. Donald Daughenbaugh joined the Coast Guard in 1941, became a boat coxswain in 1942 and was designated an Aviation Pilot #71 on April 16, 1943. He began operational flying shortly afterward at Air Station Miami. Harry Mount left college early to join the Coast Guard in the summer of 1942. He was sent to Radio School in Atlantic City, NJ and then reported to Air Station Miami as an Aviation Radio operator.

Together these two Coast Guard heroes flew the OS2U-3 KINGFISHER, a scout observation plane, searching for German submarines and protecting the convoys along the East Coast. This plane carried two depth charges and a 30 caliber machine gun. They also flew missions in the PBV, PBM, PH2, JRF and J4F protecting convoys and doing Air-Sea Rescues from many airfields along the Florida coast.

True to form, these two proud veterans, and Coast Guard legends, are not going to just stand by to receive praise from today's Coast Guard aviators. They are going to honor the newest Coast Guard aircrewmembers by pinning them with their newly earned aircrew wings.

Let the record show that Donald T. Daughenbaugh, Enlisted Pilot #71 and later Commissioned Coast Guard Aviator #216, at 82 years of age, is still flying 60 years later and flew his own airplane to Coast Guard Group-Air Station Atlantic City. This act makes proud all that have worn the "Wings of Gold" throughout the long history of Coast Guard aviation.

These two great men and their wonderful families should be very proud. May God bless them richly as they continue to give to their country and to their wonderful service, the United States Coast Guard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday June 4 and Wednesday June 5th, I missed Rollcall votes 207, 208, 209 and 210 due to my primary election being held in Alabama. If

I had been present I would have voted AYE on each of these votes.

MICROENTERPRISE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important legislation.

Microenterprise is an effective and proven means of U.S. foreign aid that has successfully offered nearly 20 million of the world's poorest people the hope of economic independence and self-reliance.

Loans, often averaging less than \$150, allow people to start and expand very small businesses without depending on money-lenders who demand exorbitant interest rates.

Access to the tools and credit needed to succeed allows poor people to reap the benefits of their skills and hard work.

Extra money earned is used to obtain better food, housing and education.

High repayment rates for microenterprise lending programs allow capital to be recycled into new loans; interest income allows programs to eventually cover their costs.

This bipartisan legislation provides a substantial but responsible incremental increase in funding for microenterprise programs from its current level of \$155 million to \$175 million in fiscal year 2003 and \$200 million in fiscal year 2004.

The bill also educates Peace Corps volunteers about the benefits of microenterprise programs and urges them to utilize this as a resource in their sites.

This important legislation will impact the lives of many families while empowering the world's most impoverished.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bipartisan bill.

TRAFICANT TRIAL: A RAILROAD OF JUSTICE

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the government presented a ten-count indictment against me on May 4, 2001. And convicted me on those ten counts, Thursday, April 11, 2002.

Count One—Anthony Bucci. Anthony Bucci testified that he "owned" me by performing \$12,000 of work at the Traficant farm (which is not and was not owned by me). Facts in this count are simple and right to the point. . . . Anthony Bucci perjured himself and the government suborned his perjury.

The most appalling underlying issue behind Anthony Bucci's testimony is that it was given as part of Mr. Bucci's third federal plea agreement and currently the government is working on another deal with Mr. Bucci that would allow Anthony's brother Robert to return to the United States, after having fled the country to escape federal charges.

Anthony Bucci's contention is that he and his company provided \$12,000 in materials

and services and that these acts let him "own a Congressman" was refuted and impeached by five defense witnesses.

First, the majority of the work performed at the Traficant farm was done by Mr. Greg Tyson, who was scheduled as the government's witness to testify under immunity, but was never called by them. Subsequently, I called him to the stand.

Under oath, Mr. Tyson testified that not only was he accused and threatened with an indictment by the government for performing services at the farm as a favor to me, he also testified that he was PAID for his services.

Mr. Tyson was a partner with Anthony Bucci and Joe Sattarelle in a concrete company and I did arrange for the first ever minority loan to be made to Mr. Tyson to finance this investment; Mr. Tyson being a black man and not a 'front-man' for minority access to contracts.

Mr. Sattarelle, who was a government witness, testified that Anthony Bucci was such a liar that if Anthony Bucci said his name was Anthony Bucci, he (Sattarelle) would not believe it and that Anthony (Bucci) would lie about anything to avoid problems.

Mr. Sattarelle further testified that "Yes, Jim Traficant helped [their] company, he helped everybody."

Even an employee from ODOT testified that I did help the Bucci's as I helped any and all local companies. During this testimony the ODOT official stated that I received more federal money for my district than any other congressional district in the state of Ohio.

The truth is that the work Anthony Bucci offered to do at the farm ended up creating significant damage to the property, including causing the main bank barn to almost collapse, and costing my father, James A. Traficant, Sr. a tremendous amount of money to make repairs.

With regard to Bucci's alleged work at the farm, Sandy Ferrante testified that the main bearing stone wall of the barn had caved in and the barn was near collapse and that Anthony Bucci feared a lawsuit over this incident.

Another witness and contractor, Harry Manganaro, testified that he "helped Jim Traficant jack up the corner of the barn because the barn was literally going to collapse" because of the destruction to the property by Anthony Bucci.

Perhaps the most damaging testimony in this count came from Susan Bucci, Anthony's sister-in-law and widow of Anthony's brother, Dan.

Dan and Susan owned a farm across the street from the Traficant farm. Susan Bucci testified that I didn't like Anthony and never did and that my friend in the Bucci family was Dan. She further testified that Dan and I would go riding cycles together and shared bedding and equipment for livestock on a neighborly basis and that "Jim Traficant performed farm services at no cost to our family that far exceeded any of the so-called work that the Bucci brothers offered to do. And, that if anyone was owed money for materials and services, Jim Traficant was owed money by the (Bucci) brothers."

Additionally, Susan Bucci also stated under oath that Anthony (Bucci) was a "liar" and lied to her and took advantage of her and her family when her husband (Dan) died by "taking money" that was due to her and her children when the Bucci company was dissolved.

Susan Bucci's affidavit supports her assertions and reads in pertinent part:

AFFIDAVIT BY SUSAN BUCCI, FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 1, 2002

I hereby swear that the following statement is the truth:

1. Jim Traficant brush hogged 40 acres of land at our farm on Route 165 in Green Township, Mahoning County, Ohio, for seven years.

2. Jim Traficant mowed, raked and bailed hay for us on 25 acres for four years, with his own equipment and provided his own fuel.

3. Jim Traficant, at his expense, repaired our hay wagons regularly.

4. My husband, Dan (deceased) told me that when we stopped farming, to "give Jim the hay wagons."

5. Jim Traficant would not take any hay wagons without paying.

6. Jim Traficant gave me a check for one thousand dollars.

7. Jim Traficant said, "\$400 for the wagons and \$600 for anything I may owe."

8. Jim Traficant did not have to do that, but I believe he did that to help me, because I was having a difficult time financially.

9. The family had asked Jim Traficant to help get Tony Bucci into a halfway house.

10. Jim Traficant did that, and it was common knowledge that he would help anybody.

11. Jim Traficant would not accept anything, even though the brothers wanted to pay him.

12. On occasion, they got Jim some sawdust that my husband also used; my husband would take old hay and straw to bed our cows.

13. There was a time when Jim asked for help to borrow jackhammers to break up concrete in big, old bank barn.

In closing, I believe that Jim Traficant was owed money by the family.

Sworn before a notary on February 1, 2002.

Aside from the contracts my office assisted with, there were letters written on behalf of Anthony Bucci when he was a resident at a halfway house, Community Corrections Association (CCA). It is evident, through the testimony of Dominic Paolone, Jr. that these letters were not done as a favor to Anthony but as a standard procedure by my office when a family member contacts one of my district offices.

Mr. Paolone stated that he was a resident of CCA while Anthony Bucci was there and admitted that Mr. Bucci was upset because I wouldn't help him unless he followed office policy, which meant a family member must make the request on behalf of the individual incarcerated. Eventually Anthony's brother contacted me to submit a letter to CCA on Anthony's behalf. And, according to his testimony, Mr. Paolone was provided with the same assistance when his (Paolone's) father contacted my office.

Obviously, the jury was misled by Anthony Bucci's uncorroborated testimony and overlooked five truthful witnesses simply because the government submitted circumstantial evidence in the form of advocacy letters from my office to help the Bucci brothers and their respective companies. These letters were not in return for favors but because these companies employed up to 100 of my constituents and when these companies received local contracts, subcontracting and spin-off employment affected over 200 families in my district.

Did I help the Buccis—Yes. I helped hundreds of companies in my district, which had a 22 percent unemployment rate when I took office. Any member of Congress would have done the same thing.

As of Tuesday, June 4, 2002, Anthony Bucci, who would have faced 21 months in

prison for defrauding Uncle Sam, instead got a slap on the wrist in the form of 6 weeks home detention and two years of probation for his participation in my trial.

At this point, it's obvious what kind of deals the government is willing to make to get their #1 target—Jim Traficant, the only one to ever defeat the government, pro se, in a RICO trial.

For the record, the purported services occurred in the early 1990's, thus the imposition of a RICO charge was used by the government to extend the statute of limitations to accommodate for these ludicrous allegations.

The government provided no physical evidence, no wiretaps, no tapes, no hidden microphones and no fingerprints on more than 1,000 documents. How is it possible to reach a conclusion beyond a reasonable doubt with only circumstantial evidence and the testimony of felons? In a RICO case, no less.

Shove count one up their asphalt. Tomorrow, railroad stop two. . . . I mean count two. Sugar coated extortion, prosecutorial misconduct, subordination of perjury and other related governmental atrocities.

RON GNATKOWSKI: LAYING A
STRONG FOUNDATION FOR STUDENTS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ron Gnatkowski as he prepares to retire after 29 years as a public school teacher with Saginaw Township Community Schools. Ron deserves our highest praise and gratitude for his devotion to teaching and for consistently displaying the patience and understanding children need to blossom in and out of the classroom.

The sixth of seven children, Ron grew up in Saginaw, Michigan. After serving in the U.S. Army, Ron earned his bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University in 1972. He later earned a master's degree from Central Michigan University and another master's degree from Saginaw Valley State University. He has worked for Saginaw Township Community Schools since 1973.

As a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at Plainfield Elementary School for the past 19 years, Ron has been a top-notch role model for students, parents and colleagues. Historically, few men have accepted the challenges of teaching kindergarten and first-grade, but Ron never let such perceived barriers hold him back. As a result, his passion for teaching those early elementary years and his great success in doing so has inspired other male teachers to follow his path.

However, Ron's gender was not the only thing that set him apart. Throughout his tenure, Ron has always led by example. His work ethic and innovative ideas for teaching young boys and girls set a high standard at his school and throughout the district. In addition, Ron's unparalleled classroom skills and his commitment to children have made him a perfect mentor to younger colleagues and a valuable resource for others working to become better educators.

It also is noteworthy that Ron extended his expertise to improve schools beyond his professional responsibilities by serving on the