

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RALPH R. "RONNEY" SNELL

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Ralph R. "Ronney" Snell, CPO, FAAOP, who passed away in Memphis, Tennessee, on May 11. Mr. Snell's death is a great loss to his family, his friends and members of the Orthotic & Prosthetic field.

Ronney dedicated his career to improving the quality of life for his patients and contributed greatly to the success of many Orthotic & Prosthetic companies. As a third generation Orthotic & Prosthetic practitioner, Ronney presided over his family's business, Snell's Limb and Braces, Inc., for 16 years.

Ronney served on the board of directors of Durr Fillauer Medical Inc., he served as president of Prosthetics and Orthotics Development Inc., and as director of research and development and production for Florida Brace, Inc. In addition, Ronney served as director of prosthetics and orthotics at Baptist Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Ronney founded his own company, C.F.I. Prosthetics & Orthotics in Memphis, and later worked as area manager for J.E. Hanger in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Ronney earned his certification in prosthetics in 1957 and orthotics in 1975. He made countless contributions to his profession, and he shared his knowledge and experience with everyone he met by serving as president of every major Orthotic & Prosthetic organization. Ronney was president of the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics in 1969, and he helped organize the American Academy of Orthotics and Prosthetics. Ronney became the Academy's first president in 1971 and was named a fellow member in 2002. Furthermore, Ronney served two terms as president of the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association, the first in 1974–1975 and the second in 1998–1999.

Perhaps, Ronney will be remembered most as a mentor and teacher. Ronney held a number of teaching positions to pass along his knowledge and expertise to others. He served as a clinical instructor at the University of Tennessee's Department of Physical Therapy; he was an assistant professor of orthopedics for the University of Tennessee's rehabilitation engineering program and served as an instructor of Orthotics & Prosthetics at Northwestern University.

Ronney's life-long passion was dedicated to helping others and making a difference in their lives. His generosity and loving nature were evident in his active participation with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the donations he made in support of his ideals.

With all the lives he touched and the contributions he made, Ronney earned a wealth of accolades, including American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, the Academy's Titus-Ferguson Award for a lifetime of achievement and a special tribute created by American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association, American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics, and the Academy to recognize his leadership in all three organizations.

Ronney Snell leaves behind a long legacy of selfless servitude to the field of Orthotics and Prosthetics, and to his family and friends. Ronney set an example for all of us to follow, and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring a distinguished public servant, an outstanding citizen and my friend, Ronney Snell.

PERSONEL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 21, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 398, "yes" on rollcall No. 399, and "yes" on rollcall No. 400.

HONORING LARRY ALLEN

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Allen, a retired police officer from my hometown of Tarpon Springs who offers free computer classes to children in my congressional district.

Mr. Allen retired from the Tarpon Springs Police Department earlier this year after thirty years of dedicated service. He joined the force after high school because he wanted to serve the community in which he was raised. Mr. Allen, however, wanted to continue serving the community he once protected after his retirement. Consequently, he devotes much of his time to the Department's Cops and Kids program, which teaches children how to use, repair, and take care of computers.

The program, which allows six youngsters to participate on a rotating basis every six weeks, enables its participants to get individualized instruction that they may not otherwise receive at school. This attention allows the students to learn how to use computers as educational tools and learn more than they would without the benefit of those skills.

I am pleased that many individuals and businesses from my congressional district have supported this effort by donating computers to the program. These machines are refurbished and loaded with current software which allows the students to take computers home to assist with their school work.

Mr. Speaker, the Cops and Kids program is a shining example of what can be accomplished by dedicated individuals who care about their community. Larry Allen is one such person; a man whose career in law enforcement made Tarpon Springs a safer place to live and work and whose concern for his community has improved the lives of many children in it. I am proud to represent Mr. Allen in Congress and commend him both for his police career and his service in the Cops and Kids program.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the National Association of Town Watch and its National Night Out program for supporting the National Child Identification Program (NCIDP), a joint partnership between the American Football Coaches Association and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide identification kits to parents and guardians to help locate missing children. In addition, I applaud the AFCA and the FBI in their efforts to register 2 million more children in the NCIDP by August 5, 2003, the same day that National Night Out will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW), a national nonprofit community-crime prevention association located in Wynnwood, Pennsylvania, organizes the annual National Night Out. The National Night Out program develops relationships between local community and law enforcement officers in order to build safer and more secure neighborhoods to reduce crime, decreases local violence, and lowers the demand for drugs. NATW provides information, program support and technical assistance to local citizens and communities to support community-crime prevention. The National Night Out campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from 9,850 communities from all 50 States and U.S. territories. In all, 33 million people participated in National Night Out in 2002.

I have participated in National Night Out several times and seen first hand its effectiveness in creating and supporting community crime watch programs. National Night Out has a greater presence in my State of Texas than any other state in the nation and the one in The Woodlands, Texas, my home town, has been named a national community-watch award winner for several years running.

As we all know, child safety and child protection have grown as important priorities for communities in recent years. Throughout its history, National Night Out has used its community crime-prevention message and its community-based networks to address major crime-related issues. National Night Out has proven to be a powerful tool for building stronger, safer neighborhoods, reaching more than 33 million Americans in nearly 10,000 cities and towns in 2002, making it the Nation's largest grassroots crime-prevention program.

This year, National Night Out will support the NCIDP in its efforts to provide parents with I.D. kits to collect and keep specific information, such as fingerprints, that would give authorities vital information in cases of missing children. While more than 800,000 children a year are estimated to be missing each year, less than 2 percent of all parents had a copy of a child's fingerprints to use in case of emergency. This initiative can change that reality and help protect children.

Mr. Speaker, supporting the NCIDP is just one example of the value of the National Night Out program and the important role of NATW.

National Night Out, which receives part of its funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant program, is one of the fastest growing, cost effective community anti-crime programs in the nation. I understand the value of National Night Out and, as a result, have asked appropriators on the Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Appropriations Subcommittee to support National Night Out funding.

Mr. Speaker, for consideration by my colleagues, I have enclosed a memorandum on the NCIDP from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to mayors across the United States explaining this year's National Night Out initiative in more detail. I respectfully request that it be included in the RECORD.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
Clarksburg, WV, April 11, 2003.
Re community call to action.

LETTER TO ALL HONORABLE MAYORS

According to a U.S. Department of Justice study, about 58,200 children are abducted each year by non-family members with about 45 percent of those incidents being perpetrated by strangers. This startling statistic caused the American Football Coaches Association (NFL, NCAA, and high school coaches nationwide) to launch the National Child Identification Program (NCIDP). The FBI has partnered with the Coaches Association in this not-for-profit program with the goal of providing inkless fingerprint identification (I.D.) kits for all 60 million children in the United States.

The FBI is separately partnered with National Night Out which recently has also partnered with the AFCA's National Child ID Program in an effort to further increase awareness for child safety. The National Association of Town Watch introduced National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," in 1984 and continues to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in anticrime efforts throughout communities nationwide. National Night Out, the NCIDP, and the FBI hope to set a record on August 5, 2003, for the most ID kits distributed within a single day in history.

In an effort to reach our goal, we are encouraging every city across the U.S. to participate in the National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5, 2003. Information for obtaining NCIDP's inkless fingerprint ID kits for the National Night Out may be found at its website <http://www.nutw.org/nno/>. The National Night Out website provides you with complete information on how to plan your event, as well as a way to obtain supplies, including the child ID kit. Registration for the event is free and once registered, you will receive an organizational kit filled with "how to" materials such as: promotional ideas, guidelines, tips, Q&As, camera-ready art, sample news releases, and proclamations. Act quickly so that you do not miss this opportunity to communicate the issues of safety with your community on August 5, 2003. Registration is easy and can be completed online by following these four easy steps: Identify a Contact Person; go to the National Night Out website <http://www.nutw.org/nno/>; register online, it's free; and publicize your event.

Many law enforcement agencies and corporations are currently combining the distribution of the NCIDP kits with other prevention, drug awareness, violence education, and community outreach programs. For more information on the NCIDP and how you can help protect children in your community, visit their website at www.childidprogram.com or call (234) 630-2245.

It is paramount that we do all we can to ensure the safety of our children. Your orga-

nization can be a prime vehicle in that endeavor. Thank you for your help in this important cause.

JOHN S. HOOKS, JR.,
Deputy Assistant Director,
Policy, Administrative and Liaison Branch.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2357, LEGISLATION EXTENDING HEALTH CARE BENEFITS TO FILIPINO VETERANS

SPEECH OF
HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, Filipino veterans have waited nearly 60 years for Congress to take the first steps to undo an injustice inflicted upon them. I was pleased to see our Nation finally begin to take those steps by passing H.R. 2357.

When the United States asked the Philippines to help America fight the long and difficult battles of World War II, nearly 200,000 Filipinos responded. They responded without hesitation to defend their homeland and to answer the call for help. In return, President Roosevelt promised that Filipino veterans would become U.S. citizens and thus have the same benefits given to all other U.S. veterans. In October 1945 General Omar Bradley, Administrator of the Veterans Administration, reaffirmed that they were to be treated like all other American veterans and would receive full benefits.

Yet, in 1946, the U.S. Congress broke this promise to the Commonwealth Army and the recognized guerrilla forces by enacting the Rescission Act (Public Law 79-301). Congress broke the same promise made to the New Philippine Scouts when it passed the Second Rescission Act (Public Law 79-391). The Rescission Acts stated that the World War II service of Filipinos would not be treated as recognizable military service. These acts took away their benefits.

I am pleased to add my voice to those in this Chamber, both today and for decades past, that want us to face up to this injustice. The legislation (H.R. 2357) passed by the House on July 21, 2003 authorizes the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide hospital and nursing home care and medical services to certain Filipino World War II veterans of the Philippines Commonwealth Army and former Philippines New Scout veterans who permanently reside in the United States, in the same manner as provided to U.S. veterans. The bill would provide health care benefits to approximately 14,000 Commonwealth Army and New Philippines Scout veterans who are permanent and legal residents of the United States.

I support this legislation, but it is time for this Congress to turn its attention to the approximately 30,000 Commonwealth Army and New Philippines Scout veterans living in the Philippines who served alongside American soldiers, risked their lives during World War II, yet were denied the veterans' benefits that were promised to them. The passage of H.R. 2357 does not release the United States from its moral obligation to provide Filipino veterans, regardless of where they live, the benefits that were unfairly taken away from them in 1946.

Filipino veterans are now in their 70s and 80s, and we lose approximately five Filipino veterans each day. They are in desperate need of health care. It is time for this Congress to do the right thing and provide them with the benefits they earned during the World War II campaigns.

I thank my colleagues for passing H.R. 2357, and urge them to continue to push toward full equity for Filipino veterans.

HONORING JOSEPH F. ZABALDO,
RECIPIENT OF THE GOLD LIFE-
SAVING MEDAL

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor Mr. Joseph Zabaldo, World War II hero and Oregon resident. While in service, Mr. Zabaldo was a radioman in a B-29 bomber over the Pacific Ocean, near Japan. On or about July 1, 1945, Mr. Zabaldo's plane went down, crash-landing in the ocean. As the crew assembled in a life raft near the sinking B-29, Mr. Zabaldo noticed a fellow soldier tangled in ripped cable and wiring inside the wrecked bomber. As the soldier, who could not swim, frantically tried to untangle himself, Mr. Zabaldo went to his rescue, at great risk to his own life. Freeing the frantic soldier from the sinking plane, Mr. Zabaldo swam him to safety.

For his efforts, he was awarded the Coast Guard's prestigious Gold Lifesaving Medal. However, in the mix of World War II, Mr. Zabaldo never actually received the medal. His grandson, Jared, contacted my office and informed us of this situation. Now, 58 years later, it is my pleasure to be able to secure the actual medal for Oregon's hero. On Wednesday, July 23, 2003, Joseph F. Zabaldo will be awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal for his heroic act in World War II.

ROAD TO PEACE IN SUDAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as you are keenly aware, the Road to Peace for the people of Sudan has been long and perilous. Yet the prospect for a lasting peace may finally be at hand. Negotiations among the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) have been ongoing over the past 10 months under a renewed commitment to peace and with a determination to resolve the important issues that remain.

I observed today, the debate on H. Res. 194 regarding the importance of international efforts to abolish slavery and other human rights abuses in Sudan. Mr. Speaker, I share the concerns of my distinguished colleagues and their desire to see an end to slavery and human rights abuses, be it Sudan or elsewhere in the world. But while we cannot condone or ever forget the past, in my view the