

Fred Amore, Commander of the Suffolk County Veterans of Foreign Wars and Dorothy Holland. Mrs. Holland and Commander Amore were pen-pals while he was serving in the Vietnam War. They remain close friends today.

WARTIME LETTERS A LIFETIME BOND
DETENTION OFFICER, VIETNAM SOLDIER HAVE
FORGED LASTING RELATIONSHIP
(By Rob Morrison)

When Fred Amore, Commander of Suffolk County Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), looked into the crowd during the Cow Harbor Day Parade last weekend, he was searching for the face of a friend who has stood by him through years of war and peace.

As she does every year, Dorothy Holland, 75, of East Northport stood along the parade route waiting to catch a glimpse of Commander Amore, 55, also of East Northport, marching along. Seeing him brought back many memories of her years working for the Northport-East Northport School District and the year-long period she and Commander Amore were pen pals while he was serving in the Vietnam War.

The two met in 1965. Mrs. Holland had just begun her tenure at the old Northport High School building on Middleville Road as the detention officer. It was during the spring of that year when Commander Amore, then only a teenager, was given detention for cutting class with his high school sweetheart.

"From that day on Fred and I were friends," Mrs. Holland told *The Observer* during an interview in her home Tuesday.

While the two remained friends, Commander Amore graduated the next year, in 1966, and attended Suffolk Community College. But in the spring of 1967 Commander Amore received his draft notice. On June 13, 1967, he went into the United States Army as an Infantryman. Before he left, she went to all the boys "who were leaving," Mrs. Holland said. "I had tears in my eyes and I said 'I will write to you but you have to write to me.'"

Commander Amore returned home from boot camp for Thanksgiving in 1967, then he left for Vietnam December 10 of that year. That Christmas, knowing he would not have a tree of his own, Mrs. Holland sent Commander Amore a photograph of herself in front of her Christmas tree. It was not until January 1968 that Commander Amore said he wrote his first letter to Mrs. Holland.

"I remember saying to Walter, my husband, 'Oh, he'll never write,'" Mrs. Holland said.

But Commander Amore said he became very homesick during his time in Vietnam, especially during the holidays. Commander Amore wrote as often as he could from his military post in Soc Trang on the Me Kong Delta.

"He only said 'I'm so lonely' and 'It is a horrible war,'" Mrs. Holland said. "That's when I started getting worried."

But her fears of the worst became stronger when she stopped getting letters from him. It was February 1968 and Commander Amore was in the thick of battle, attempting to hold off the North Vietnamese during the Tet Offensive. Commander Amore said the three-month ordeal mostly took place at night and forced him and his fellow servicemen and women to live in their foxholes.

"We knew it was coming," Commander Amore said. "It was all over the constantly being bombarded by mortar attacks. The South Vietnamese military was supposed to be protecting the base and the members of the 1st Aviation Battalion, of which he was a part. When the North Vietnamese attacked, however, the South Vietnamese dropped their weapons and fled, leaving Com-

mander Amore and his colleagues stranded. He had been on base for 90 days and still did not have a weapon.

"I had to wait for someone to leave or die to get a weapon," Commander Amore said.

While many soldiers on base were killed during the offensive, Commander Amore said all of the 25 men in his unit survived.

Commander Amore spent several months hoping he would live to see his home again. In the meantime, Mrs. Holland waited to hear news from Commander Amore and the rest of the Northport High School graduates she knew were in Vietnam.

"My heart went out to all the boys," she said. "The stories were just horrible [in their letters]. They knew they weren't accepted back home. That was the worst for them."

After coming out of Vietnam unscathed, Commander Amore was disturbed to hear the negative public opinion of the Vietnam War.

"I knew the feeling of the people before I left and I knew the feeling when I came back," he said. "I didn't want to talk about it."

It was not until 1991 when Commander Amore decided to get involved in veterans activities and build up pride for his service during the war. He joined VFW Post 9263 in Elwood and Commack. In June, he was appointed commander of the Suffolk County VFW after serving as commander of his own post for five years.

"I had no intention of joining the VFW when I got out," he said. "I didn't want any part of it for a lot of reasons."

He always remembered, however, the letters of support that Mrs. Holland wrote him. Despite the nationwide disdain for the war, Mrs. Holland was a proud supporter of the boys who left high school to fight in Vietnam.

"The letters would pick you up," Commander Amore said. "That would get you to the next mail call. I really figured when I went into the service I wouldn't hear from her again. She knew how to keep your morale up and keep you going."

"While working at the high school I met the greatest students," Mrs. Holland said. "I haven't forgotten them and they haven't forgotten me. That school was the happiest part of my life."

THE UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN
CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, imagine being a 9-year-old girl trying to escape abusive parents that eventually abandon you. Imagine having no choice but to escape to America with relatives who eventually get angry and turn you over to the immigration authorities at the age of 14. Then imagine being detained for over 6 months in a juvenile jail as you are represented by an unscrupulous attorney who doesn't even care to show up to your immigration hearing, leaving you to defend yourself with no knowledge of the law or any adult guidance. Then imagine finding out that the immigration judge orders you to leave the country and you have nowhere to go, nobody to help you, and through it all, you're all alone. This was the plight of Esther—a Honduran victim of abuse, abandoned by her parents and relatives, and left to face a complex immigration system at the tender age of 14.

The sad reality is that Esther is not the only child that has suffered this terrible fate. This is

the plight of many young girls and boys who travel hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles alone in seek of refuge in the United States. Some of these children are treated in a manner that our country usually reserves for criminals, not helpless victims, like fourteen-year-old Esther.

It is true that Congress last year transferred care, custody, and placement of unaccompanied alien children from the Department of Justice to the Department of Health and Human Services to improve the treatment children receive when encountered at our borders. This is certainly a big step in the right direction and I commend the Department of Health and Human Services for taking important steps to improve the care and custody of these vulnerable children. Unfortunately, Health and Human Services inherited a system that relied upon a variety of detention facilities to house children and was given little legislative direction to implement their new responsibilities. As a result, some children from repressive regimes or abusive families continue to fend for themselves in a complex legal and sometimes punitive system, without knowledge of the English language, with no adult guidance, and with no legal counsel.

Now is the time for new legislation to complete the positive steps we have already taken to ensure that unaccompanied alien minors are not locked up without any legal help or adult guidance. This is why I have introduced the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2003. It will ensure minimum standards for the care and custody of unaccompanied children and require a smooth transfer of minors from the Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Health and Human Services. It will also ensure that children receive adult and legal guidance as they navigate through our immigration system.

Mr. Speaker, no child should be left to fend for herself in a complex immigration system that even you and I would fear. We need to pass the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act. I urge this body to swiftly consider this important legislation.

FAREWELL TO CHARLIE "CHOO-CHOO" JUSTICE

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay respect to one of the most distinguished athletes in North Carolina's history. Last Friday morning, October 17, 2003, North Carolina bid farewell to Charlie "Choo-Choo" Justice, who passed away at the age of 79.

The people of North Carolina remember Charlie from his days of playing football at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1946–1949. In his four seasons Charlie scored 234 points, accounted for 64 touchdowns, and rushed for 2,634 yards. In 1948, and 1949, Justice was runner up for the Heisman Trophy, which recognizes the best college football player in America. Many people who saw Charlie play say that he was the most exciting football player they have ever seen.

After college, Charlie went on to play professional football from 1950–1954 with the

Washington Redskins. Although he only played for a short time, his retirement from football brought him many honors. In 2002, he was selected as one of the Redskins 70 greatest players of all time. He was also bestowed with the great honor of being the first athlete inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame where greats such as Michael Jordan are now honored.

Charlie "Choo-Choo" Justice will be remembered long after his death for his talents and skills on the football field. However, the people who knew him in his hometown of Cherryville, NC will remember him for his commitment to improving the community, helping others, and his love for his family.

NATIONAL MAMMOGRAPHY DAY
DURING NATIONAL BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the National Mammography Day during this month of National Breast Cancer Awareness. In 1993 President Clinton proclaimed the 3rd Friday in October of every year as National Mammography Day. Our Celebration of this day and month is a step forward in finding a cure for Breast Cancer in the United States and the world as a whole.

National Mammography Day is a day for many people in the United States who have not had mammogram screenings or do not have the opportunity to get the screening, to get them free or at a discount price at different participating facilities in their areas. This day gives hope to people in the United States who may have or are at risk of getting breast cancer. Studies have shown that having mammogram screening helps with early detection and treatment, thereby saving the lives of many people. Between 1989 and 1995 there was a significant decline in the death rate from breast cancer, where it dropped by 1.4 percent each year, and between 1995 and 1998 the decrease accelerated to a decline of 3.2 percent annually. Studies have shown that these improvements are due to early detection and improved treatment, which would not have been possible without mammogram screening.

Many people are becoming aware of the importance of mammogram screening including Congress. In 1992, Congress established the Mammography Quality Standards Act, requiring all mammography facilities to meet quality criteria in order to operate. Federal funding for breast cancer research has grown 600 percent, from \$92.7 million in 1991 to \$660 million in 1999. States also understand the need for health insurance coverage for mammogram screening. In 1985, Illinois the state I represent and Virginia required that health insurers cover the cost of mammogram screenings. As of 2002, 46 other states have followed suit by requiring insurance coverage for mammogram screenings.

We need to continue to make people aware of the importance of early detection and that it helps to save and prolong life, and one way to do this is via mammogram screening. People need to be aware that breast cancer does not discriminate based on sex; both women

and men are at risk of getting breast cancer. Breast cancer does not discriminate based on color or ethnicity, Caucasian-Americans, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, American Indians, Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives are all susceptible to breast cancer. Breast cancer also does not discriminate based on age, people as young as 20 years old and as old as 80 years old are at risk for breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, progress is being made in finding a cure for the disease and we should not give up hope. I have hope that we will find a cure soon for breast cancer. I want to commend those who have been doing research in finding a cure for the disease, providing emotional and financial support and treatment for people with the disease. Mr. Speaker, we should continue to recognize the importance of this day and month because the battle in finding a cure for breast cancer is not over, there is much work to be done.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE JOHN PAUL II'S
ASCENSION TO THE PAPACY

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 20, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 400 to honor the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II.

Karol Józef Wojtyła, known as John Paul II since his October 1978 election to the papacy, is one of the most famous and beloved people on Earth. Inspiring hundreds of millions of people including those beyond the Catholic faith to strive for world peace and prosperity, John Paul II has counseled religious and world leaders during 38 official visits and 700 audiences held with Heads of State.

The hallmark of John Paul II's leadership has been his message of hope, reconciliation and redemption. His indelible mark on the world is an unshakable faith in human goodness and benevolence, and the advancement of peace, forgiveness and human rights for people of all faiths.

In his book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," John Paul II wrote that "Man affirms himself most completely by giving of himself. This is the fulfillment of the commandment of love." His constant and selfless commitment to peace and dedication to all mankind during his extraordinary 25 year papacy is why we should honor him as a living example of "the commandment of love."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, including 112,000 Polish Americans and 131,000 Catholics in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to Pope John Paul II.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3289. It has been 6 months since American forces toppled Saddam Hussein's regime, but there are still traces in Iraq of what one author referred to as a "psychopathic crime family", a family that terrorized its own people and stood as a daily threat to the region and the world.

I supported President Bush's request because it is vital to our own national security; it is an exit strategy; and it will help establish a safe and secure Iraq and prevent the region from becoming an incubator for would-be terrorists.

This funding is an investment in our lasting security, and comparatively it is a fraction of what we spent in World War I, World War II and the Korean War. It will go where it is needed most: getting our troops the supplies they need and rebuilding the critical infrastructure depleted by 3 decades of a dictatorial regime.

Our troops have succeeded on every front. They have secured the air, the land and the surrounding water. They have served our Nation well, and once again stand as liberating heroes to an entire people.

Yet, with the cost of the wars in Iraq and against terrorism continuing to rise, many are now wondering: should we send additional support? Are we really safer today than yesterday? Is the price tag worth it? The answer on all fronts is "yes."

If you have doubts, just think for a moment about the cost of inaction, the cost of turning back now.

Chief weapons inspector Dr. David Kay recently delivered an update to Congress and stated that Iraq had a secret network of biological laboratories, live botulinum toxin, and an advanced program for prohibited long-range missiles. This is just what we have found at the halfway point of his investigation.

The positive difference for the United States is clear. No longer does the Iraqi government harbor, support or sponsor known terrorists. The country that once housed individuals like Palestine Liberation Front leader Abu Abbas, whose organization committed the 1985 hijacking of the cruise ship Achille Lauro, is now charting a new course—a course less threatening to the safety and stability of the world.

While the coalition has accomplished much in the last 6 months, we are still building upon that foundation. We must not falter in our response; we must not rest until our families are safe and secure. This funding is critical to our success in the war against terrorism and preserving our freedom here at home.