

It is time to make this relationship part of the Postal Service's regular activities. It should not be an exception, it should not require luck or extraordinary political action, and there should be no variation in the commitment to providing the finest examples of being a part of each and every community.

There has been a recent report from the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service that is going to prompt more discussion and analysis of postal operations. Now is the time to act on this key element that is the most important single item that this Congress can do to guarantee the Postal Service is a better partner. Congress has the opportunity to set the tone for the Postal Service and federal government to become a full partner in the livability of our communities, leading by example so our families are safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JIM DIEHL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I pay tribute today to Jim Diehl of Craig, Colorado. Jim recently risked his life in order to assist members of the Craig police department in the evacuation of a burning apartment complex. It was in this time of dire emergency that Jim's gallantry shone through and he proved himself a true hero. I am proud to call Jim's extraordinary acts to the attention of this body of Congress.

On September 17, Jim found himself outside the flame-engulfed Alpine Apartment complex in Craig. Realizing lives were in danger, Jim ran into the burning building to search for people trapped inside. Throughout the fire, Jim ran from room to room removing tenants from harm's path. For his brave and selfless act, the Craig City Council awarded Jim a Citizen Commendation.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to rise and pay tribute to a man whose actions are the very essence of all that makes this country great. Jim Diehl risked death in order to save the lives of fellow Americans. His acts are the embodiment of heroism and it is with a great deal of pride that I stand to honor him today.

FOAM FIRE SAFETY ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by three of my colleagues in introducing the "Foam Fire Safety Act" to reduce the injuries, deaths, and property damage that result from polyurethane foam fires. This sensible legislation directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to implement a rule within one year that ensures that polyurethane foam products meet a new open flame standard. The new level of protection will decrease the destructiveness of fires in homes and buildings around the country and prevent unnecessary tragedies.

Polyurethane foam is found in mattresses, upholstered furniture, carpet padding, sound-

proofing insulation, and many other common objects. It is also one of the most flammable consumer products, and firefighters refer to polyurethane foam as "solid gasoline." Between 1980 and 1998, mattress, bedding, and upholstered furniture fires killed almost 30,000 people in the United States. During the same period, these fires injured more than 95,000 people.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) first began looking into creating stricter flame retardancy standards for foam in 1993. Ten years later, the process continues without results, and Americans are left without common sense standards similar to those already in place in California and Great Britain. My legislation requires foam to meet a new "open flame" test, which is equivalent to having a candle right next to the foam. Currently mattresses and furniture must only be able to withstand the equivalent of a lit cigarette.

Polyurethane foam serves as kindling for fires, and a stricter standard would prevent deaths and property damage. In my district, polyurethane soundproofing foam contributed to the deaths of 100 people at the Station nightclub fire in West Warwick, Rhode Island, on February 20, 2003. Because of the abundance of foam, the building was engulfed in flames within 3 minutes, and firefighters who were located just down the street could not arrive in time to save everyone.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the other co-sponsors of this bill to reduce the risk of polyurethane foam fires. Please co-sponsor this responsible measure, and help make American homes and workplaces safer.

NEW TOOLS NEEDED TO SUPPORT UROLOGIC HEALTH

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, each fall, the American Foundation for Urologic Diseases sponsors Prostate Health Month to remind people about the importance of maintaining good urologic health.

Prostate Cancer Awareness Week was held September 14–21 and urologists around the country offered free screenings for prostate cancer, the second leading cause of cancer deaths in men. Encouraging reports indicate these cancers are being found at an earlier and more curable stage, resulting in a decline in prostate cancer death rates. Sadly, we also know that prostate cancer screening tests are not perfect and that the causes of other prostatic diseases, like prostatitis, still elude our full understanding.

This problem is not limited to prostate diseases. Many other urologic conditions, such as painful bladder disease and interstitial cystitis, require further research. No gender, age or ethnic group is immune to these diseases.

The key to addressing these and other challenges to good urologic health is more and better research. Of particular importance is research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Congress has doubled the NIH budget over the last five years, providing our best scientists new resources for attacking these problems. Given the widespread impact of urologic diseases, however, the basic science research effort continues to lag.

H.R. 1002, the Training and Research in Urology Act, was introduced to provide urologic scientists the tools they need to find new cures. It will create a Division of Urology at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the home of the urology basic science program, and expand existing research mechanisms, like the successful George O'Brien Urology Research Centers. This will give NIH new opportunities for investment in efforts to combat and vanquish these diseases.

Millions of men and women are afflicted by these diseases. I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of H.R. 1002.

TRIBUTE TO MANUAL HERNANDEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to Manual Hernandez of Grand Junction, Colorado. Manual's selfless and courageous acts demonstrated tremendous heroism when he came to the aid of a fellow Coloradan. I am proud of Manual's extraordinary valor, and believe it appropriate to pay tribute to his actions before this body of Congress and this nation.

While eating breakfast in a Grand Junction restaurant, Manual heard a cry for help. Without hesitation, he rose to his feet and went to the rescue. Outside, Manual found an eight-year-old girl trapped beneath the tire of a car. He quickly recruited two additional men to help lift the vehicle. The men, fueled by a desire to save the young girl, raised the vehicle with Herculean strength and pulled her to safety. She is now recovering in a Grand Junction hospital.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise before this body of Congress and this country, to pay tribute to Manual Hernandez, a humble and remarkable human being who risked his own life to save another. I join my colleagues in thanking Manual for his tremendous act of heroism.

TRIBUTE TO PERKINS T. SHELTON

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Perkins T. Shelton, a relentless fighter for equal rights and equal representation.

Perkins Shelton came to St. Petersburg thirty years ago and was a driving force in our community ever since. A leader in the St. Petersburg branch of the NAACP, he was elected secretary of the branch at the age of 88. Mr. Shelton was a mentor to numerous black leaders in the community and was a constant voice encouraging blacks to become active in the political process.

Most notably, Perkins Shelton left an indelible mark on our voting system. After successfully fighting to replace Florida's multi-member legislative districts with single-member districts, Mr. Shelton worked to obtain equal representation in Pinellas County. A driving force

for fair representation for all voters, Mr. Shelton was a leader in securing four single-member district representatives on the Pinellas County Commission.

An advocate of continuing education, Mr. Shelton went back to school to become a paralegal, specializing in elder law. Working for Gulf Coast Legal Services, he fought discrimination against the elderly. Mr. Shelton never gave up the fight—he was even writing letters on behalf of the St. Petersburg Commission on Aging at age 91.

Mr. Shelton was a Walter Mondale delegate to the 1984 Democratic National Convention. He served on the Environmental Development Commission, Housing Authority and Fair Housing Board and was a chairman of the legislative committee of the St. Petersburg Council on Human Relations. In 1988, the City of St. Petersburg gave Mr. Shelton a Senior Hall of Fame Award in honor of all his contributions to our community.

St. Petersburg is undoubtedly a better place to live thanks to Perkins Shelton. On behalf of our community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Shelton's family. His impact will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND MASTER
CHIEF ROBERT CONKLIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an American hero. Command Master Chief Robert Conklin stands as a fine example of our fighting men and women of the Armed Services who have dedicated their lives to protecting their nation and their fellow citizens. Master Chief Conklin has given thirty-four years of service to his country, and I am honored to pay tribute to his accomplishments here today.

Robert Conklin enlisted in the Navy in 1969, and has accomplished a long and distinguished career. He has served as Command Master Chief, the highest rank for an enlisted man, on the USS *Conolly*, the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*, and the USS *Bataan*, and currently serves aboard the USS *Ronald Reagan*. Through his service, Master Chief Conklin has earned numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Good Conduct Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, Command Master Chief Robert Conklin is the kind of dedicated and devoted serviceman who young recruits look to for guidance and encouragement. He has enjoyed a stellar career, and has earned the admiration of his fellow shipmates, as well as the respect of the citizens of the country he has committed his life to serving. I am deeply honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing the tireless work and dedicated service of Master Chief Robert Conklin here today.

VERNON CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the members of Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church of Flint, Michigan, to congratulate them on their successful completion of a \$2 million expansion/renovation project. The church will hold a dedication ceremony to celebrate this blessed achievement on Sunday, November 9, 2003. Bishop Philip R. Cousin, the Presiding Bishop of the Fourth District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, will be the guest preacher and will preside over the dedication.

The expansion of Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church started with a vision 10 years ago and now that vision has come to life. Proverbs 29:18 states that "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Vernon Chapel A.M.E. church is definitely alive, and growing by leaps and bounds. One proof of that growth is their newly constructed 8,700 square-foot family life center. The church and community will utilize the facility for wedding receptions, recreation events and banquets. Inside the church, seven new classrooms were added along with four offices, an elevator, and six restrooms. They have also added a day care and health care site. The church's purpose in starting this project was to give back to the community. They saw a need and they fulfilled it. With the newly expanded facility, the church will be able to spread the Gospel to more people in different ways. Reverend Darryl Williams, Pastor of Vernon Chapel for 13 years, stated to me that completion of this project is a testament to their faith, their progressive attitude and their desire to serve the people of Flint and Genesee County in a greater capacity. The members of Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church are beyond doubt dedicated to the work of the Lord.

Mr. Speaker many people in Genesee County have greatly benefited from Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church outreach. This church consistently thrives to make the community a better place to live and worship. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating this fine Christian community on a job well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
"SARGE" BROWN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. William "Sarge" Brown of Grand Junction, Colorado is an active member of the skiing community and a great citizen. For his years of hard work and many contributions to Colorado's ski industry and his local community, I am honored to pay tribute to Sarge here today.

Like many of his generation, Sarge heeded his country's call, serving in the Army during World War II and the Korean War. At the end

of the Korean War, Sarge directed a mountain and winter warfare program for Dartmouth College's Reserve Officer Training Corps. He retired from the military in 1966 as a Sergeant Major, and began work at Vail Mountain where he worked his way up the ranks to become Mountain Manager. While at Vail, Sarge worked to help make the resort the world-class destination that it is today. Sarge retired from Vail in 1989, and was inducted into the National Ski Hall of Fame in 1990. Today, Sarge remains active in the skiing community by serving on the board of the Powderhorn Recreation and Development Company.

Mr. Speaker, William "Sarge" Brown has dedicated many years to serving his country and his community, first in the Army, and then as Mountain Manager at one of Colorado's most beloved ski resorts. His hard work and contributions to his community are an inspiration, and I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing the work of William "Sarge" Brown here today.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DE-
FENSE AND FOR THE RECON-
STRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AF-
GHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 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. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I will reluctantly support this Iraq Supplemental Appropriations bill conference report for our troops and their families.

I will support this bill because we must support our troops and we must continue to engage the effort in Iraq to its successful conclusion. I have the honor of representing the Army's Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base and many Guard and Reserve units in North Carolina. Many of them are serving in Iraq while their families here at home pray for their safety and speedy return. This bill increases funds to purchase body armor for our troops and to contract for the clearing of unexploded ordnance. The bill provides funding for the contracting of security guards to replace reservists currently performing these duties. The Army has indicated this provision would permit the demobilization of 7,000 to 10,000 reserve component soldiers. The bill also includes a provision to continue the increased monthly rate of hazardous duty pay and Family Separation Allowances through September 30, 2004. These provisions are very important to the military families in my district because they have a very real impact in relieving some of their financial burden. I am proud my Democratic colleagues in the House and I have successfully led the fight to secure these needed funds.

I have serious reservations about this vote because despite the brilliant and valiant action of our soldiers to defeat the evil regime of