

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

Saddam Hussein, this administration has failed to implement an adequate plan to win the peace. This Administration has failed to level with the American people and the Congress about the true costs and duration of the ongoing war in Iraq. The American people and their Representatives in Congress deserve true and honest presentation of the facts, especially on such weighty matters of war and peace. Before the Administration comes back to Congress with another request for more funds, I want to see an honest assessment of the duration and costs of the operations in Iraq and a realistic plan for a lasting peace in that troubled region of the world.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would prefer that the House could act on amendments to address this conference report's shortcomings, but we were not given that option. Despite my reservations, I will support this bill because it is the best option we have before us to win the peace in Iraq. I will support this bill on behalf of the people of North Carolina's Second Congressional District and the men and women in our armed forces.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIRE
CAPTAIN FRANK NEMICK

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. Fire Captain Frank Nemick recently announced his retirement from the Pueblo Fire Department. For his selfless dedication and many years of service, I am honored to pay tribute to Frank here today.

From the time he was a young boy, Frank always wanted to be a firefighter. He joined the Pueblo fire department in 1964 and served at Station 4 in Bessemer. Over the years, he worked hard and quickly advanced up the ranks. Frank has dedicated his life to helping the citizens of the Pueblo community. Whenever someone was in trouble or in need of assistance, Frank was always ready to come to their rescue. His enthusiasm and dedication are infectious, and he has influenced several members of his family to follow him into a career as a firefighter.

Mr. Speaker, for thirty-nine years Frank Nemick selflessly served his community and his neighbors, and he will retire as a Captain from Station 10 at Pueblo Memorial Airport. His hard work and dedication are truly an inspiration. As he prepares for his retirement, I am honored to join with my colleagues in thanking Frank for all his hard work and in wishing him all the best in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 2003 DALLAS
VETERANS DAY PARADE AND
PARADE GRAND MARSHALL HON.
SAM JOHNSON

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2003 Dallas Veterans Day Parade

and the Parade Grand Marshall, our friend and colleague Congressman SAM JOHNSON (Texas-3rd). We are honored to be here alongside our proud veterans and their caring supportive families who have made their country proud time and time again. It is important to recognize our veterans today. However, veterans should be honored everyday for their selfless sacrifices, not just simply only on Veterans Day.

The 2003 parade will pay special tribute to the 30th Anniversary of the return of Prisoners of War from Vietnam. Dallas CAN! Academy has prepared a special float in honor of these Vietnam POWs. In addition to the return of the Vietnam POWs, the 100th Year of Flight and the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Korean War are also given special recognition in the parade.

The 2003 Dallas Veterans Day Parade is also proud to welcome home and honor our nation's latest veterans. Today we pay tribute to many of the fine men and women that served in combat during military Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and that have safely returned home. During this critical and turbulent time for our world, we continue to pray and ask for the blessings of our servicemen and woman who are currently serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and throughout the rest of the world in service to our beloved nation.

We would like to congratulate our colleague Congressman SAM JOHNSON for serving as the Parade Grand Marshall for this outstanding annual Dallas tradition. Honoring a great American hero like Congressman SAM JOHNSON is especially appropriate with the Parade's special tribute to the 30th Anniversary of the return of our POWs from Vietnam. Congressman JOHNSON, after graduating from Southern Methodist University, began his 29 year career with the United States Air Force. Our colleague flew 62 combat missions during the war in Korea and was shot down on his 25th sortie during Vietnam. Sam was captured and held as a prisoner of war for over 7 years, with half of this time being spent in solitary confinement. His courage and strength serves as an inspiration to our veterans and current servicemen and woman, and we are proud to serve with him today in the House.

The Parade's military keynote speaker, Lieutenant General Thomas P. Stafford is a veteran astronaut and we are delighted to hear his remarks. General Stafford went into space on two Gemini missions and later commanded Apollo Ten. General Stafford served as the U.S. Commander for the Apollo-Soyuz rendezvous in 1975.

We would like to thank one of our favorite native sons for being with us here today for the Parade, General T. Michael "Buzz" Moseley, Vice Chief of Staff for the United States Air Force. General Moseley is a loyal Aggie alum, having served in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M. He is a distinguished officer and aviator, and is a true leader for the Air Force.

We appreciate the assistance of current military units that will be participating in the parade all of the local business and community leaders for their financial support. Thank you Congressman JOHNSON for your service to America, and God Bless our current men and women in uniform and all those that have preceded them in service to the country.

NATIONAL CEMETERY EXPANSION
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1516—because it keeps a commitment, a sacred commitment to the men and women of our military.

As a country we honor our veterans for their service, their commitment, their sacrifice.

Our veterans did not serve to become heroes. They did not fight because they enjoyed battle. They went to war because this country asked them to go to war. They served to defend our freedom.

This supreme dedication deserves supreme recognition.

Mr. Speaker, Florida has almost 2 million veterans and only four veterans cemeteries. One is full. One only accepts cremated remains. The other two are at least half a state away from my district. This leaves no option for Northeast Floridians who served without question.

Veterans want this cemetery. Veterans need this cemetery. Veterans deserve this cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased this House is acting.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HUGH
THACKABERRY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise and pay tribute today to a remarkable man from my district. Hugh Thackaberry of Fruita, Colorado, a fine man and devoted citizen, was wounded many years ago in service to our nation. I am proud today to bring his valor, courage, and patriotism to the attention of my colleagues here today.

Hugh was a squad leader in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division during the Korean War. In May of 1953, Hugh was injured in battle in North Korea's Chorwon Valley. After being removed from the battlefield, Hugh was transported to a mobile field hospital. At one point during Hugh's recovery, the hospital was overcome with American casualties. Although injured, Hugh selflessly climbed from his bed to render aid to his fallen countrymen. This action epitomizes the integrity and self-sacrifice that defined Hugh's service to his country. For his bravery, Hugh was awarded the "Wharang Distinguished Military Service Medal" by the government of South Korea.

Recently, the United States awarded Hugh the Purple Heart, recognizing his many sacrifices for his country. I am proud to have the privilege of presenting him that medal for his honorable service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise and pay tribute to the heroism of Hugh Thackaberry. His personal sacrifice and patriotism are an illustration of the spirit of a great American. I am extremely proud and honored to recognize