

of 2001, Mr. Desai was finally elected to serve as Ward 3 Alderman of the City of Canton, Mississippi.

Many referred to and knew Mr. Desai merely as S.K. Mr. Desai was known as a hard working man that loved his job. He was regarded as a person who took great pride in being an elected public servant. Mr. Desai made a point to be present at City Hall everyday and make himself accessible to the citizens of Canton.

Mr. Desai is survived by his wife, two sons, and his parents.

HONORING LILLIAN WOOD FOR
FIFTY YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me today to recognize an extraordinary Pennsylvanian who has dedicated herself to the service of her country for more than half a century.

Ms. Lillian Wood, born in East Millsboro, Pennsylvania, graduated from Brownsville High School in 1951. She began working as a civilian clerk-typist for the Marine Corps in February 1952. "Lil," as she is known to generations of Marines, quickly demonstrated a commitment and dedication and was recognized with a rapid series of promotions in several divisions within Headquarters, United States Marine Corps.

Based on her superb performance in support of the Personnel, Aviation, G-4, and Reserve Affairs divisions, Lil was selected as the Branch Supervisor for the newly created Special Correspondence Branch of the Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department in 1966. Lil was charged with supervision of 28 employees, both military and civilian, and was responsible for providing updates and responses to all Congressional inquiries into Marine Corps affairs.

"The Few and the Proud" is not just a recruiting slogan, and it applies as much to Marines in combat as to the civilian Marines who make it possible for them to deploy and come home safely. The success of Marines in battle throughout the history of our great nation is due, in no small measure, to the support they receive from civilian Marines and families back home.

Lil Wood stands as a shining example to all Marines, civilian Marines, and civil servants throughout the government. Lil and I both began our service to our country in 1952, both in the Marine Corps. Her accomplishments and fifty years of dedication to the Corps and to our country are remarkable and commendable. The Marine Corps is losing a valuable asset, and I offer Lil my best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

CARE 21

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to restore our Nation's historic commitment to insuring lifetime health care for retired coal miners. Joining me in introducing this bill is the distinguished gentleman from Ohio, BOB NEY. Indeed, last year the House of Representatives passed the legislation we are reintroducing today. However, the other body did not take action on it prior to adjournment of the 107th Congress.

Enactment this year of CARE 21, the "Coal Accountability and Retired Employee Act for the 21st Century," is essential if we are to avoid seeing a curtailment in health care coverage for thousands of retired coal miners and their widows. This would not be the first time that Congress acted in this matter. In 1992, in what is known as the "Coal Act" enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act, Congress established the UMWA Combined Benefit Fund (CBF) combining the union's 1950 and 1974 benefit plans. This action came in response to changes in the coal industry which created a large class of "orphaned" miners whose benefits were no longer being paid by an active coal company. A key feature of the Coal Act was the financing of orphaned miner health care costs through an annual transfer of a portion of the interest which accrues to the unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Simply put, in restoring abandoned coal mine lands we must not abandon the retired coal miner.

The Coal Act has worked well with health care for retirees whose former employers could be identified financed by premiums paid by those companies while providing for a transfer of reclamation fund interest to finance orphaned miner care.

However, a barrage of litigation, adverse court decisions and skyrocketing health care costs is now threatening the financial integrity of the program. The result: Without a new source of funds, the CBF faces a deficit which if it continues could force curtailments in health care coverage for some 50,000 retirees and widows whose average age is 78.

CARE 21 takes a relatively simple and straightforward approach to addressing this impending crisis: It would lift the restriction in current law that reclamation fund interest can only be used for orphaned miner health care. Instead, it would allow interest transfers to be made for the purpose of offsetting any deficit in net assets in the CBF.

One of the key features of CARE 21 is that the general taxpayer is not being called upon to pay for retired coal miner health care, but rather, the coal industry itself would provide for this coverage through the interest which accrues to the fees it pays into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I noted earlier there is a historical commitment to providing health care for retired coal miners. This is a unique situation in that what would normally be a matter solely for the private sector is not in this instance. The genesis for this situation dates back to 1946 in an agreement between then-UMW President John L. Lewis and the federal gov-

ernment to resolve a long-running labor dispute. At the time, President Truman had ordered the Interior Secretary to take possession of all bituminous coal mines in the country in an effort to break a United Mine Workers of America strike. Eventually, Lewis and Secretary Julius Krug reached an agreement that included an industry-wide, miner controlled health plan.

In fact, the 1992 Coal Act itself was formulated partly on the basis of recommendations from the Coal Commission, established by former Labor Secretary Libby Dole, which in 1990 recommended a statutory obligation to help finance the UMWA's Health Benefit Funds.

Mr. Speaker, the people covered by this health care program spent their careers producing the energy which powered this Nation to greatness. We must not forsake them. We must not cast them adrift in their later years, robbed of the health care they so desperately need.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: KENT &
LESLIE TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise today to pay tribute to Kent and Leslie Taylor, founders of the Texas Roadhouse. This family steakhouse restaurant chain remains very popular throughout this country for its great food and distinctive atmosphere. As Texas Roadhouse celebrates their tenth anniversary, I would like to recognize this milestone, and the Taylor's success before this body of Congress and this nation.

Kent and Leslie Taylor's success represents the entrepreneurial spirit of the American dream. Their persistence in forging an idea into a dream, and their commitment to that dream, is truly inspirational. Their product, market, customers, and most importantly, their employees, have all come together to create a winning formula. What began as a simple idea has now grown into an organization employing thousands. They have become an essential contributor to many communities throughout this country, and I would like to commend them for their outstanding success.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Kent and Leslie Taylor before this body of Congress and this nation for their enduring commitment to realizing the American dream. Businesses like these are the backbone of our economy and the heart of our neighborhoods. The Taylor's dream has become a successful and enduring enterprise, and I wish all the best to Kent and Leslie in all of their future endeavors.

REGARDING THE DEATH OF HELMUT "BROWNIE" BRAUNSTEINER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, December 29th, Pierce County,

Washington State and our nation lost a true hero, Helmut "Brownie" Braunsteiner, due to complications surrounding his battle with cancer.

It is difficult to describe Brownie's life without resorting to superlatives, but the evidence speaks for itself. From his birth in 1926 to his escape from Nazi-controlled Austria to America in 1939, Brownie never failed to display his particular brand of zest for life that so characterized his 75 years with us.

In 1944 Brownie began his decorated 27-year career in the United States Army, serving in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Because of his fluency in German, he later served as an interpreter at the Nuremberg war crime trials.

For thirty years, Brownie was a full-time volunteer for veterans organizations, coordinating Veterans of Foreign War volunteers for the VA Hospital and chairing the Pierce County Veterans Advisory Council. In 1987, he helped found Fife's Veterans Independent Enterprises of Washington to rehabilitate homeless drug- or alcohol-dependent vets and help them become self-sufficient.

After he developed diabetes, Brownie dedicated countless hours to the Diabetes Association of Pierce County, conducting diabetes screenings without charge to residents of Pierce County. Brownie was known for both helping people detect their diabetes and begin to manage the condition. He would frequently go so far as to check in with people after their initial diagnosis to make sure they'd seen a doctor about their condition even three weeks after the test.

But these jobs and titles don't begin to describe either who Brownie was or the depth of his commitment to life. A man with a big heart, Brownie fought for issues he believed in. After serving our nation with a decorated career in the Army, Brownie worked tirelessly for the rights of veterans. Brownie was a passionate, dedicated citizen. He was patient and kind in teaching me not just about veterans and military issues, but also a wide range of other concerns close to his heart.

I was fortunate enough to work with Brownie on veterans issues ranging from concurrent receipt to VA health care to continuing education and reform of the Montgomery GI bill. It was always an honor to stand in the same room as him and I will always cherish the opportunity I had to call him both a colleague and a friend.

Brownie's outstanding contributions, selfless volunteerism, patriotism, and endless devotion cannot be sufficiently acknowledged. Everyone in the veterans' community, every elected official, everyone in Pierce County knew him and admired him. His tireless work earned him not only the respect, but also the love of everyone he touched.

Brownie Braunsteiner's passing is a loss to all who knew him and we extend our deepest sympathy to his family in their great loss. I will miss his friendship and his counsel.

IN MEMORY OF COLD WAR HERO
WILLIAM G. GEIMER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, 2002 another chapter of the Cold War with the

Former Soviet Union ended with the passing of William G. Geimer. Bill was the visionary founder and longtime president of the Jamestown Foundation, a non profit organization devoted to promoting liberty and fighting totalitarianism most notably in the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

I had the privilege of working with and learning from Bill as he waged the good fight against the oppressive regimes of the Soviet Union that sought to crush the human spirit. Through his instrumental role at the Jamestown Foundation, Bill's leadership and vision helped bring down the Iron Curtain. Mr. Speaker, I will insert following these remarks a press release from the Jamestown Foundation that describes how Bill made a tremendous difference with his life.

Bill's efforts and advocacy with the Jamestown Foundation influenced Members of Congress, government officials and the general public exposing the corrupt and immoral nature of Soviet communism. Bill will be truly missed as this nation confronts other totalitarian regimes, but his life and vision can serve as a legacy for others continuing the fight against evil.

IN MEMORIAM, WILLIAM W. GEIMER: AUGUST 18, 1937—DECEMBER 1, 2002

JAMESTOWN FOUNDATION FOUNDER AND COLD WAR HERO DIES

WASHINGTON, DC.—With deep sorrow, the Jamestown Foundation announces the death of William W. Geimer, its visionary founder and longtime president.

Mr. Geimer, 65, established the Jamestown Foundation at a critical point in the Cold War as a source of first-hand accounts of the inner workings of the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries. From its founding in 1984, the foundation has become the leading force for disclosing to the world the knowledge and insights of those in the top reaches of closed totalitarian societies, including high level defectors from the Soviet Union and its client states. For creating a safe haven for high-ranking officials from behind the Iron Curtain with the courage to tell the world the true nature of communism, Geimer was recognized by President Ronald Reagan as a key figure in the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Geimer was inspired to launch the foundation following his work with Arkady Shevchenko, the highest-ranking Soviet official ever to defect when he left his position as undersecretary general of the United Nations. Asked by the State Department to serve as Shevchenko's attorney, Geimer recognized that Shevchenko could provide a unique and invaluable insider's view of Soviet policymaking, arms control negotiation strategies and the workings of the top reaches of the then-secret Soviet government. Geimer was instrumental in the publication of Shevchenko's writings, most notably, the bestseller "Breaking with Moscow," in which Shevchenko acknowledged, as well as the close personal friendship between them, "the countless hours, days, years of himself" that Bill Geimer had given to "bring me into a new life."

Following the end of the Cold War, Geimer moved the foundation aggressively into monitoring the Soviet transition away from totalitarianism by publishing daily analytical reports on events in the region. The Jamestown Foundation's research and publications have become the leading source of information on the war in Chechnya, and on political, military and economic trends in the states of the former Soviet Union and in China.

"Bill was an American patriot who devoted his life to promote freedom and democracy

worldwide," said Barbara D. Abbott, the Jamestown Foundation's vice chairman and now president. "From the Evil Empire to the Axis of Evil, he never wavered in his belief that an attack on the secrecy of closed societies is one of the greatest weapons in a democracy's arsenal. Bill's vision, wisdom, kindness and humor will be missed, but his work will continue at the Jamestown Foundation."

"Geimer was a visionary," long-time Board member and former Central Intelligence Agency director R. James Woolsey observed. "He had an enormous impact on our national security efforts. As the Soviet Union began to collapse, Bill was one of the first to foresee that the instability brought about by that dissolution might result in rogue groups more difficult to deal with and potentially more of a threat to freedom than the USSR, which is precisely the situation we face with Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida."

Zbigniew Brzezinski, Jamestown Advisory Board member, recalls that "Bill Geimer was a patriot with a vision, an idealist with a program, and a leader who knew how to get things done."

Vice President Dick Cheney, a former Jamestown Foundation board member who attended Wednesday's funeral services, stated, "The Jamestown Foundation has played an important role in alleviating suffering and in furthering democracy."

A native of Chicago, William W. Geimer received his bachelor's degree from Marquette University and his law degree from Northwestern University. He served on President Ronald Reagan's Export-Import Bank transition team, and in top-level positions in the Nixon and Ford administrations, including as deputy assistant secretary of state for international trade. He maintained a private law practice in Washington, DC from 1976 to 1984.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER
OF BASEBALL LEGEND GARY
CARTER

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a constituent of mine, Mr. Gary Carter of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, for his election to baseball's most coveted fraternity, the Hall of Fame. Over a successful 19-year professional career, Gary Carter exemplified what it takes to be a big league ball player. Playing the difficult position of catcher, Gary compiled an impressive array of statistics and accolades. In 1975, his first full year with the Montreal Expos, Gary exploded onto the big league scene. Seventeen years later, Gary returned to Montreal, after stints in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, finishing his career where it all started. What a ride it had been. Following the 1992 season, Gary retired with numbers that foretold an eventual trip to Cooperstown. Games played: 2,296; Hits: 2,092; Home Runs: 324; Runs Batted In: 1,225 and a batting average of .262.

Each year, Gary's teammates and fan club always count on his durability and consistency. Season after season, Gary's presence in a big league lineup made opposing pitchers fear his bat and power. In 1986, Gary lead the New York Mets to a seven game World Series win over the Boston Red Sox. Although that series is remembered for a series saving