

error at first base, many fans remember Gary's clutch hitting when he was needed most. In the end, Gary had his World Series championship and ring.

Mr. Speaker, the baseball writers across the country paid tribute to Gary's career by bestowing on him the highest honor in professional sports. To be a member of the Hall of Fame means more than just another accomplishment; it means having the ability and dedication to rise above the hundreds of other noteworthy players and become one of baseball's greatest players of all-time. In the 100 year history of American baseball, players have come and gone. However, baseball fans, young and old were thrilled to watch Gary Carter play the game he loved throughout his 19-year playing career. His teammates bestowed upon him the nickname "The Kid." A fitting tribute to a man always eager to play an adult sport with a childlike enthusiasm.

Mr. Speaker, Gary Carter becomes the newest member of baseball's Hall of Fame on July 27, 2003. Congratulations to, "The Kid."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: FRED LEE
HOWARD, JR.

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the life and passing of Colonel Fred Howard of Grand Junction, Colorado. Colonel Howard served in the United States Air Force with the honor, courage and integrity that Americans have come to expect from our nation's military. Sadly, Fred passed away in November and, as his family mourns his loss, I would like to pay tribute to his lifetime of service before this body of Congress and this nation.

The day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Fred enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an Air Force Cadet and served in Europe during World War II. During the war, Fred served as a pilot, dropping paratroopers behind enemy lines. Fred received numerous medals of commendation for his efforts including the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star. At the age of 22, Fred was promoted to the rank of Captain, where he continued to exhibit the leadership and courage that became his hallmark.

After the war, Fred continued to contribute his leadership and expertise to the United States Air Force. During the Korean War, Fred was called once again into active duty. During the Vietnam War, he served as Director of Scheduling, where his responsibilities included the "in-air" refueling of all aircraft entering and exiting Vietnam. Upon retiring from the military, Fred served as an inspector for the Federal Aviation Administration, inspecting all domestic airlines in the Western United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is with earnest respect that I recognize the life and passing of Colonel Fred Howard before this body of Congress and this nation. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife Mildred, son Fred, daughters Cheryl, Susan and Betty, and his many grandchildren. Colonel Howard served our country with great honor and distinction through a period of global uncertainty, and his remarkable courage serves as an inspiration to us all. His loss will be deeply felt and grateful nation will be forever in his debt.

SUPPORTING H.R. 163, THE
UNIVERSAL NATIONAL SERVICE ACT
OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am an original cosponsor of the Rangel/Conyers bill, the Universal National Service Act of 2003 (H.R. 163), which would reinstate a national draft. I would like to explain my support for this legislation.

I ardently oppose war with Iraq. The evidence simply does not exist to warrant sending our nation's young people to sacrifice their lives in Iraq. I believe America ought to be an advocate for peace, not imperialism.

Yet, war is on the horizon. The President is intent on invading Iraq whatever the cost. Thanks to the President's brand of hotheaded bully diplomacy, war with North Korea may also be imminent. The only real question that remains is whether or not Americans are ready and willing to bear the cost?

I commend my colleagues Mr. RANGEL and Mr. CONYERS for their wisdom in authoring this bill. I'm honored to be an original cosponsor.

This bill requires all young Americans—men and women between 18 and 26—to perform a two year period of national service in a military or civilian capacity as determined by the President. For those who conscientiously object to war, the bill assures that any military service would not include combat. Otherwise, there would be no preferences, no deferments, no chance for the well-off or the well-connected to dodge military service for their country, as did our President.

Reinstituting the draft may seem unnecessary to some. But, it will ensure all Americans share in the cost and sacrifice of war. Without a universal draft, this burden weighs disproportionately on the shoulders of the poor, the disadvantaged and minority populations.

It is my understanding that out of the 435 Members of this House and the 100 members of the Senate, only one—only one—has a child in active military service. Who are we to know the pain of war when we ourselves will not directly bear the brunt of that action? It won't be us mourning the loss of a child or loved one. Maybe some of you in this Congress would think twice about voting for war in Iraq if you knew your child may be sent to fight in the streets of Baghdad?

If our nation is to go to war, it is only right that all Americans share in the sacrifice of war. It is time we truly comprehended the consequences. I urge my colleagues to support a universal draft which I believe will make votes for war much more real for many of my colleagues.

INTRODUCTION OF CIVIC PARTICI-
PATION AND REHABILITATION
ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Civic Participation and Rehabilitation Act of 2003, along with additional cosponsors. At a time when our Nation faces record low voter participation, this legislation

represents an historic means of both expanding voting rights while helping to reintegrate former felons into our democratic society.

The practice of many states denying voting rights to former felons represents a vestige from a time when suffrage was denied to whole classes of our population based on race, gender, religion, national origin and property. Over the past two centuries, these restrictions, along with post-Civil War exclusions such as the poll tax and literacy requirements, have been eliminated. It is long past time that these restrictions be relegated to unenlightened history.

Unfortunately, the United States continues to stand alone among the major industrialized nations in permitting an entire category of citizens, former felons, to be cut off from the democratic process. It is time that the United States restored these fundamental rights and join the community of nations in this regard.

Denial of suffrage to these individuals is no small matter. A recent study by the Sentencing Project reveals that some 3.9 million Americans, or one in 50 adults have currently or permanently lost their voting rights as a result of a felony conviction. This includes an estimated 1.4 million African American men, or 13 percent of the total population of black adult men, a rate seven times the national average. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia prohibit inmates from voting while incarcerated for a federal offense; 32 states prohibit felons from voting while they are on parole and 28 of these states exclude felony probationers as well. In fact, in six states that deny the vote to ex-offenders, one in four black men are permanently disenfranchised. Hispanic citizens are also disproportionately disenfranchised.

In addition to diminishing the legitimacy of our democratic process, denying voting rights to ex-offenders is inconsistent with the goal of rehabilitation. Instead of reintegrating such individuals into society, felony voting restrictions only serve to reaffirm their feelings of alienation and isolation. As the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals has concluded, "if correction is to reintegrate an offender into free society, the offender must retain all attributes of citizenship." The purpose of correctional facilities throughout our history have been to make an offender fit to re-enter society. We should honor this conviction that once a felon has served his/her time, the he/she is ready to be a functioning member of society. Voting then must be allowed, as the most basic constitutive act of citizenship.

It is even more important for this legislation to pass when we look back at the 2000 election in Florida. In that election 400,000 ex-felons were denied their right to vote. In an election where it came down to 537 voters, this is a decisive number. Instead of contracting the voting pool we should be expanding it so that our elected officials can more accurately resemble the wishes of the people. Our nation has slowly seen the enfranchisement of all of its citizens. Though it has been a slow process we have always moved forward, giving more and more citizens the right to vote. This bill is merely the next step in the expansion of the electorate. And it is a step we must take.

Many states are beginning to take the lead on this issue. Maryland, Connecticut, Delaware, and New Mexico have all scaled back voting bans on ex-felons who have paid the price for their crimes and now want to participate in the democratic process as citizens. The growing roster of states which allow ex-felons to vote is encouraging. We must help along the process by enacting this bill and taking this crucial step at the Federal level.

The legislation we will introduce constitutes a narrowly crafted effort to expand voting rights for ex-felons, while protecting state prerogatives to generally establish voting qualifications. The legislation would only apply to persons who have been released from prison, and it would only apply to federal elections. As such, our bill is fully consistent with constitutional requirements established by the Supreme Court in a series of decisions upholding federal voting rights laws.

The legislation has been supported by a broad coalition of groups interested in voting and civil rights, including the NAACP, ACLU, the National Council of Churches (National and Washington Office), the National Urban League, the Human Rights Watch and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, among many others.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR CLARK
THOMPSON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker it is my distinct honor to commend one of Northern California's most distinguished citizens and a great friend of mine, Mayor Clark Thompson of Petaluma, California. He has served the people of Petaluma for 25 years, culminating over the last 4 years with his service as Mayor of that fine city. His leadership and pursuit of excellence will be sorely missed as he steps down from a career of public service.

A longtime resident of Petaluma, Mayor Clark Thompson began his career in public service by serving the city on the Parking and Business Improvement Area Committee. From there, he served on the Committee to study and initiate bicycle paths and access, as a member of the Petaluma Valley Hospital Foundation Board, and as a member of the Petaluma Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce Board. He is still a lifetime member of the Casa Grande Boosters Club.

At a time when his beloved city faced many challenges Mayor Thompson brought a broad vision to lead the citizens of Petaluma into the future. His determination is unwavering; his pride in his city is unequalled. I have had the pleasure to work with Mayor Thompson on a professional level, and witnessed his abilities as a leader when he solved Petaluma's long standing flood control issues. He has the uncommon ability to work with people of different beliefs in order to do what is right. The city of Petaluma and its people have benefited greatly from Clark Thompson's years as a public servant.

Although he has been a devoted public servant, Mr. Thompson has always held his family as a to priority. He and his wife, Sue Ellen, originally settled in the community of

Petaluma to raise their two daughters, Molly and Abigail. Clark's retirement will allow him to spend more time with his family, something he will greatly cherish.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mayor Clark Thompson on his retirement after 25 years of diligent service to the city of Petaluma, California. Clark has been a valuable member of the community for which he cares so deeply, and his service will be greatly missed. I wish him the best of luck in future endeavors, and I know he will enjoy his retirement for many years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: UPPER PINE
RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DIS-
TRICT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District of La Plata County, Colorado for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the Fire Protection District played an integral role in containing the Missionary Ridge forest fire that burned over 70,000 acres in Southwestern Colorado. Today, I would like to pay tribute to their heroic efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

When the Missionary Ridge fire first erupted last June, the citizens of Durango, Bayfield and the surrounding communities called upon the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District to protect their loved ones, homes, and communities from what would become the worst fire in area history. The fire began in a ditch beside Missionary Ridge Road just 15 miles northeast of Durango and grew to consume more than 70,000 acres, 56 residences, and 27 outbuildings.

Although the Missionary Ridge fire was a devastating reminder of how destructive forest fires can be, it also served to remind us of the men and women who risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens on a daily basis. The Upper Pine River Fire Protection District has served the citizens of La Plata County since 1974 and oversees a 264 square mile region. The district relies upon its Fire Chief, Jim Piccoli, its Deputy Fire Chief, Rod Richardson, and nearly 65 volunteers to remain on call, prepared to fight fires or provide medical assistance on a moment's notice.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District of La Plata County before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend the Chief and all of the Fire District's fire fighters for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District and others, the added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the fire season has served as an inspiration to us all and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JAMES R.
TILLING FOR HIS DEDICATED
SERVICE TO THE STATE OF OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman, and good friend, from Ohio. Jim Tilling came to Ohio, in September 1969, to begin a career as a political science professor at Ohio University in Athens. He spent six years at Ohio University where he taught courses in American national government, urban government, Soviet government and foreign policy. In 1973-74, he was named a "University Professor"—an honor given each year to the ten best teaching professors at Ohio University.

Mr. Speaker, in February, 1977, Jim joined the staff of the Senate Republican caucus in the Ohio General Assembly. He began as its Director of Communications and Research, then served two terms as Minority Chief of Staff. He was elected Clerk of the Senate for 1981-82.

From January 1984 until April 1994, Mr. Tilling served as Chief Executive Officer of the Senate with me when I was Senate President and also for my successor, Senate President Stanley Aronoff. In that capacity, he was responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Senate's staff and also worked with Senate Republican members to develop their legislative policy agenda.

In 1981-82, Jim was the principal co-author of the bi-partisan congressional redistricting plan, which determined congressional district boundaries for that decade. In 1991, he served as secretary to the Ohio Apportionment Board, in which capacity he was the principal author of the redistricting plan for the Ohio General Assembly in the 1990's. Jim has served as Chief of Staff for the Ohio Attorney General since January 9, 1995.

Jim Tilling has had a significant impact on public policy in Ohio. He is the public servant not often seen or heard from in the media. However, he is the person that makes the operation work. His substantive knowledge and steadfast patience have served well the many elected officials in Ohio with whom Jim has served. These chances to give back to the public have brought him a lifetime of both personal and professional achievement. Jim truly is a valued asset to the state of Ohio.

Jim will leave big shoes to fill in the halls of Ohio state government. His wisdom, honesty and forthrightness are attributes to which all public servants should aspire. He has set an example for everyone on how to live a life of service, putting the greater interests of the community before one's own.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to James R. Tilling. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Jim, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Jim, his wife, Cathy, and their family all the best as we pay tribute to one of our state's finest citizens.