

Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Gold Stars in lieu of 3rd Award, the Navy Achievement Medal with Gold Star in lieu of 2nd Award, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Action Ribbon with 4 gold stars in lieu of 5th Award, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal with Bronze Star in lieu of 2nd Award, the Vietnam Service Medal with bronze star in lieu of 2nd award, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 bronze stars in lieu of 4th award, the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal and various Unit Awards.

Sergeant Major Guerrero has worked to raise the public's awareness of the many contributions the military makes to the local community. He has also committed himself to working with schools to help increase appreciation for our armed forces among school children.

It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Sergeant Major Guerrero for his distinguished 30 years of service to country, to congratulate him on his retirement and to wish him the very best in the years ahead.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ENACTMENT OF GI BILL

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, sixty-years ago today, President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, known thereafter as the GI Bill.

This piece of legislation promised those who served their country an education, aid in finding employment, help toward home ownership, and proper healthcare. What President Roosevelt accomplished in his four terms in office was extraordinary; the effects of which are still felt today. High among this list of accomplishments is the signing into law of the GI Bill, with which President Roosevelt rewarded this country's heroes by educating, aiding and caring for them.

In the six decades since the GI Bill's inception, large numbers of troops have been sent to the beaches of Normandy, the Sea of Japan, Korea, Vietnam, the deserts of the Gulf and the Indian peninsula. What remains is sixty-years of sacrifice and battle scars, each a distinct imprint of the high cost of democracy and independence.

To repay their efforts, we have granted stipends for their college education and doctors for their wounds, offered them aid in housing and provided training for jobs. We have dedicated millions of dollars toward programs geared to enhance their lives through knowledge, healthcare and job growth. Still, the trade-off will forever remain wanting.

Countless young men and women enter into the armed services every year. My state of New York is home to over 1.2 million veterans, with another 26,000 servicemen and women on Reserve and Active duty and over 4,000 enlisted with the National Guard. It is for these honorable adults and those across the nation that we pledge to fund and aid the programs created sixty years ago. These national heroes have defended the freedoms enjoyed

by every American citizen from the time of the Revolutionary War. There are millions of men and women who rely upon this, risk life and limb, and make the commitment to our country and fellow citizens.

It is distressing that this occasion be marked with such unfortunate and ironic efforts to lessen the GI Bill. This as a day meant for respectful remembrance, to all that has been and will be accomplished by those who served in combat. I see a tremendous amount to be proud of in this bill, what it stands for and what it means for all Americans. Sixty years ago, this country invested a great deal into this bill. I believe what we received in return can be measured in far more than dollar signs.

Despite our best intentions, we as Americans find ourselves asking for the same sacrifice from our young men and women as our relatives did six decades prior. 1944 was a year worn by war. Sadly, 2004 will be as well. The service men and women earned the title "greatest generation", from the sacrifice of World War II. The contributions of today's men and women will one day merit such praise as well; praise that can now be enhanced and aided by the continued emphasis in favor of the same GI Bill that aided to the success of the generations since 1944.

HONORING LIEUTENANT JAMES P.
LEARY

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant James P. Leary who is celebrating his retirement from the Abington Police Department after nearly 30 years of faithful and devoted service.

Lt. Leary has served in many different capacities during his tenure on the Abington force, working as Watch Commander, Platoon Commander, K-9 Commander, and Auxiliary Service Commander. After joining the department in 1974, he quickly ascended the ranks, receiving a promotion to Sergeant in 1979 and then to Lieutenant in 1981.

His dedication to the community has never faltered, even during his toughest assignment in 1996. In that year, Abington Township fell victim to a severe flood and Lt. Leary worked tirelessly with residents, community leaders, and municipal government agencies to help the area recover. Lt. Leary faced another difficult challenge when he and five patrol officers rescued two severely burned children from a burning building. Bringing those children to safety has been the proudest accomplishment of Leary's career.

In addition to his service to the Abington community as a member of the Police Department, Lt. Leary served his country as a Sergeant in the 5th Special Forces Airborne in Vietnam. He and his wife Martha are the proud parents of four sons and two daughters. Lt. Leary actively participates in the community, where he enjoys spending time with family and friends, and has served for 15 years as the Defensive Coordinator and League Commissioner for the CYO Football Program.

Our community has been privileged to have such a devoted servant and it is my pleasure

to congratulate Lieutenant Leary on his retirement. I wish him all the best as he moves on to his new position as Chief of the Rockledge Borough Police Department.

THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
REFORM ACT OF 2004

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Committee on Resources, today I am introducing a bill that would bring the management of our Nation's ocean fisheries into the 21st century. In this regard, I am pleased to note that the "Fisheries Management Reform Act of 2004" is being introduced with 15 original cosponsors including the gentleman from California, SAM FARR, who serves as co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus.

For my part, I am introducing this measure for two fundamental reasons. First, I believe that we have a responsibility to ensure that our fish stocks—a public resource that belongs to all Americans—will be managed sustainably and based on science, not politics. More importantly, because without sustainably managed fisheries, there will be no fishing industry at all. I do not come to this point lightly, and I appreciate the importance that this issue holds for many Members and their constituents.

As it stands, two separate and well-respected commissions—the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Ocean Commission—were both charged with reviewing our ocean management systems and both made recommendations regarding the need to reform our fisheries management system. Their reports represent several years of research by ocean experts who traveled to coastal communities dependent on commercial and recreational fishing. The Fisheries Management Reform Act of 2004 represents the first legislation proposed to implement those expert recommendations. This is a small step of many that we, as Congress, can take to remedy a system of governance that has not done enough to protect our oceans and, consequently, the communities that depend on them.

In this regard, the "Fisheries Management Reform Act of 2004" would require a broader public interest representation on the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the bodies that are stewards of our Nation's fisheries and are currently dominated by commercial and recreational fishing interests. I am aware of no other public trust resource where management decisions are being made by the very industry that is to be regulated. The bill would require training of all appointed members in fishery science and basic stock assessment, social science and fishery economics, and the legal requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and other pertinent laws. Not only will these two provisions diversify the interests on the Council, but also ensure that those appointed are knowledgeable about fisheries management.

Second, the bill would strengthen current conflict of interest provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. An individual would not be allowed to vote on a Council decision affecting

their financial interests. Understanding the unique nature of fisheries management, I fully support and appreciate the participation of fishermen in the Council process. In instances where fishermen, commercial or recreational, are faced with decisions affecting their livelihood and simultaneously, the sustainability of the fishery, the current process puts these individuals in the compromised position of serving two masters. Generally, it is the fish stocks that pay the price.

This legislation also would ensure science-based management of our fisheries. By allowing scientists to recommend appropriate catch limits and the Councils to determine how that catch should be allocated, this bill would remove council members from that untenable position of choosing between the health of the resource and catching enough fish to pay their health insurance. Scientists are better suited for determining sustainable harvest levels, while fishermen, who will remain an integral part of the Council process, should not have to be experts on the vast complexities of ocean science. Their expertise can be used best in managing and allocating the resource, and in developing improved fishing methods and technologies, without also being responsible for the status of the stocks.

Not the timber industry, not the mining industry—as a matter of fact, no other industry I can think of is allowed to regulate itself like the fishing industry does. This system may have made sense when Congress first put it in place more than two decades ago, but it's clear now that a chronic condition of conflict of interest has created a system that is not working for fishermen or for the fishery resources. In fact, 76 stocks are overfished—over 35% of known stocks.

I do not assume that this bill alone will “fix” in its entirety the current system. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy was clear that changes are urgently needed. This bill addresses just one of many problems plaguing ocean resource management. However, the principles of the bill—to manage fisheries for the public good, to reduce financial conflicts of interest, and to ensure that fisheries management is based on the best available science—are indisputable.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill in a bipartisan fashion. The fish do not vote, so I can not offer them as political capital. But if this bill were enacted, we will be better able to ensure sustainable fisheries on a continuing basis, as is required by law, but all too rarely accomplished under the current system. The long-term benefits would affect the constituents of every district in this country. Fishermen would be able to pass on their trade to their children. Our inland states would enjoy more fresh seafood caught in our domestic waters. And everyone would be able to catch a big one on their summer vacation.

HONORING SERGEANT DAN COHEN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Dan Cohen's retirement from the Newark, California Police Department, and to honor his 30 years of exemplary service in the field of law enforcement.

After completing two tours of duty in Vietnam, Sgt. Cohen's law enforcement career began in April 1972, when he served as a Deputy Sheriff for the Mineral County Sheriff's Department. He worked as a Deputy Sheriff until February 1973. In September 1974, Sgt. Cohen was hired as a Railroad Police Officer for the Southern Pacific Transportation Company where he worked until April 1980.

Sgt. Cohen began his employment with the Newark Police Department in May 1980. He worked in various capacities on the police force, including Patrol Sergeant, Administrative Sergeant, Detective Division Sergeant, Narcotics/Vice Detective, Homicide Detective and as the Hostage Negotiation Team Leader. Dan was also a member of the SWAT Team and a Range Master.

It is my honor to recognize Sergeant Dan Cohen's remarkable career in law enforcement. He has demonstrated his commitment, leadership, and courage and leaves a lasting impression with the community and his colleagues as an outstanding member of the Newark Police Department.

RECOGNIZING LOU COSTANTINO, SR.

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued employee of this House of Representatives, during this time of his recovery. Lou Costantino, Sr. was born in a house on New Jersey Avenue just a couple of blocks from the Capitol. His parents ran a grocery store at that time, the same grocery that Lou would begin running shortly after graduation from high school, along with a carry out, barbershop, and cleaners that his parents opened. He operated these businesses until coming to work for the House of Representatives in 1980.

During these early years, Mr. Costantino met his wife Doris while going to Eastern High School on Capitol Hill. They were married in 1965 at St. Peter's Church and have two children, Eydie and Lou. “There's been a Costantino at St. Peter's for 100 years,” he will often remark.

His devotion to family is indicative of the similar commitment he has for this House of Representatives. He first began his career with the House of Representatives in 1980 with the Office of the Doorkeeper and he currently works for the Sergeant at Arms. He truly loves his job, the people around him, and has the utmost respect for the institution that is the U.S. Capitol. In accordance with his post, and owing to the high regard in which he is held, Mr. Costantino has the honor of escorting the first lady to her seat for the State of the Union Address, a task he has accomplished annually for every first lady since Nancy Reagan.

Born just a few blocks away, and having worked in the building for over twenty years, Lou Costantino, Sr. has spent the majority of his life in close proximity to the Capitol building. Mr. Speaker, I ask that we keep him just as close in our hearts and prayers for his speedy recovery. We wish him well, and look forward to his prompt return to the House Floor.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTCLAIR LIONS CLUB

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Montclair Lions Club No. 36563, located in Prince William County, Virginia.

The International Lions Club is the world's largest service club organization with 1.4 million members in 46,000 clubs in 193 nations. Since 1917, the International Lions Club has been able to touch the lives of countless individuals across the globe. The club's motto, “We Serve” demonstrates the tremendous effort, desire and willingness of volunteers worldwide to better the lives of others through humanitarian efforts. In 1990, Lions established SightFirst, a \$143.5 million global initiative to fight the major causes of preventable and reversible blindness.

Since 1979, the Montclair Lions Club has provided dedicated service to Prince William County, working tirelessly to further the welfare of the community. In its first 25 years the club raised well over a quarter of a million dollars through a wide variety of fundraisers including citrus sales, White Can Day donations, White House Christmas Ornament sales, and food sales. The club has held a golf tournament fundraiser annually with the majority of the proceeds being donated to the Dale City Boys and Girls Club and Action in the Community Through Service.

Montclair Lions Club members donate their time to community service projects including Safety Break, Montclair Property Association events, Habitat for Humanity and many others. These hours of service have enriched innumerable lives in Prince William County and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate the Montclair Lions Club on 25 years of success. They have served the interests of their community well, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the Lions Club's past accomplishments and in wishing the club continued success in the many years to come.

RECOGNIZE AND PRAISE JUAN FONTANEZ

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise a hard-working, talented young man who lives in my Fifth Congressional District.

Juan Fontanez of Pasco County, Florida won the Congressional Art Contest for my district last year, and I was proud to display his piece in the tunnel leading to the U.S. Capitol. His winning piece entitled “Proud Mother” was created entirely in pencil, and caught the eye of everyone who walked by for an entire year.

Juan graduated from Land O' Lakes High School last year and will attend Hillsborough