

In fact, I note for my colleagues that during debate on Colmery's bill some in this body opposed Colmery's plan, as evidenced by the view of Representative Dewey Short of Missouri, for example:

"Have we gone completely crazy? Have we lost all sense of proportion? Who will have to pay for this bill? You think you are going to bribe the veterans and buy this vote, you who think you can win his support by coddling him and being a sob sister with a lot of silly, slushy sentimentality are going to have a sad awakening."

With all due respect to then-Representative Short, the "awakening" associated with Colmery's bold, multi-faceted vision emerged in our robust post-war economy, which I'll discuss in a moment.

Colmery's foresight wasn't limited to job training and education. Before the GI Bill of Rights, the great majority of Americans were renters. Colmery believed those who fought in war should be able to buy their own home, so the GI Bill provided access to low interest mortgages.

Author Bennett noted that based on Colmery's wisdom, "to house these veterans and their children born during the post-war baby boom, the idea of the affordable house in the suburbs was born. Families moved into their new homes by the millions and became proud members of the middle class." Indeed, the GI Bill largely made the United States the first overwhelmingly middle-class nation in the world, but it also is credited with starting the suburbs, a word not spoken in the American vernacular until after the GI Bill took effect.

Colmery's vision cascaded beyond the housing industry. Here's author Bennett's explanation why: "The GI Bill produced a social revolution even greater than Henry Ford's. Whereas Ford put millions of cars on the road and spawned one of the nation's biggest industries, William Levitt (creator of pre-fabricated houses) put people in homes and spawned an even bigger one, while indirectly spawning ancillary industries in furniture and appliance making and sales, supermarketing of food, franchising of restaurants for young families, even expansion of schools."

"The results were quickly apparent. One year after President Truman announced Japan's surrender, 11 million World War II veterans had been discharged, leaving less than one million in service. Seventy percent of the veterans were employed, the majority in jobs other than those they held before the war. Almost one million veterans were in school, another one million drawing checks to supplement farm work, 403,000 employed in on-the-job training, and 318,000 being helped to establish businesses or professional practices."

As of September 1946, only 13 percent were drawing unemployment benefits. During the previous year, 4.9 million had collected unemployment, but, of those, 86 percent were on unemployment for less than 20 weeks. One percent had exhausted the 52 weeks of benefits they were entitled to. Of the remainder, 396,000 were on vacation, taking rehabilitation training, or just resting up, and 86,000 were hospitalized. These data are cited from "What GI's Are Doing Now," US News and World Report, September 20, 1946.

Mr. Speaker, Colmery's GI Bill investment paid off—and kept paying off. Colmery's legacy endures in today's Montgomery GI Bill and ongoing VA and Small Business Adminis-

tration programs for veterans to participate in our economic system their service has sustained.

On June 18, 2004, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Principi cited data that I believe speaks volumes as to why the President—on behalf of a grateful Nation—should posthumously award Harry W. Colmery the Medal of Freedom: "The GI Bill made home ownership and a college education available to millions of Americans. By harnessing the talent and drive of America's veterans, it created six decades of opportunity for the men and women who serve in uniform. About 21 million veterans, servicemembers and family members, have received more than \$77 billion in GI Bill benefits for education and training since 1944. The GI Bill's home loan program has been used by \$17.5 million people for loans totaling \$830 billion."

Mr. Speaker, I earnestly encourage my colleagues to support the Medal of Freedom for Harry W. Colmery.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Valley Center Municipal Water District, which meets the water and wastewater needs of Valley Center and its 23,000 residents.

Fifty years ago, on July 12, 1954, a group of citizens formed an agency to build a water storage and transport system to access the water resources of the San Diego County Water Authority and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. At the time, securing these sources was imperative for continued community growth in a region that had only limited rainfall.

Today, in addition to providing water supply and sanitation services to their customers, the Valley Center Municipal Water District has promoted water conservation through incentives such as vouchers for ultra low flush toilets and high efficiency washing machines, residential landscape assistance, and providing water conservation guidelines for their customers.

Mr. Speaker, the Valley Center Municipal Water District has provided an invaluable service to the community it serves. This agency continues to fulfill its mission of ensuring customer satisfaction through quality service at the lowest possible price. I would like to thank the water district and its current and past employees for their hard work in meeting the water needs of the residents and businesses it serves. Their efforts have allowed a community to flourish in one of Southern California's most scenic and unique locations.

HONORING CADET JUSTIN B. COPE

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cadet Justin B. Cope for his recent ap-

pointment as a Chief Petty Officer of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps was first established in 1958 in order to develop a greater appreciation of the United States' naval history, traditions, customs, and significant role in defense. With only about one half of one percent of Naval Sea Cadets receiving the recognition and honor of being appointed as a Chief Petty Officer, Cadet Cope's ascension to the rank of Chief Petty Officer clearly reflects his superior qualities in leadership, expertise in seamanship, and patriotic character.

Again, I congratulate Chief Petty Officer Justin B. Cope's great achievement and wish him all the greatest success in the future.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF C. MICHAEL SAVAGE

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to the life of Clarence Michael Savage, a model of compassion, commitment, and community service, who passed away on June 24. Mike was a man of strong personal faith, and a devout advocate of social justice.

A graduate of St. Louis University, Mike began his career of service working on behalf of lower-income neighborhoods in St. Louis and migrant farm workers throughout the country. Mike was known as a champion for the rights of people marginalized in our society. He served as the CEO of the Access Community Health Network in Chicago from 1994 until his tragic death last month. Mike was innovative in his approach to serving the working poor, uninsured and medically underserved. During his tenure at Access, Mike led the organization through unprecedented change as the organization grew from nine to forty-one health centers serving more than 160,000 patients annually.

Throughout his career, Mike was unyielding in his pursuit of justice. Before joining Access, Mike served as Executive Director of Fenway Community Health Center in Boston. He also worked for Heartland Alliance Travelers & Immigrants Aid and United Neighborhood Organization of Near Southwest Chicago. Mike was also active in many organizations nationally and locally, including National Healthy Start Association, United Power for Action and Justice, and the Chicago Chapter of Dignity USA.

Those of us who were privileged to have known him, will remember his incredible passion for addressing the underserved and his commitment to those in the fight with him. He was a visionary, he was a leader, and he was a friend. I extend my deepest condolences to Andy Swan, his partner, his family, and all those who join me in treasuring Mike's memory.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY LIEUTENANT
ROBERT COLVILL

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on July 8, 2004, Army Lieutenant Robert Colvill of Anderson, Indiana, lost his life while fighting to defend America and liberate Iraq. He and three other soldiers died as a result of wounds suffered during a terrorist car bombing and mortar attack.

Mr. Colvill was a hero who believed in this great nation. In the ninth grade, he determined that he would serve his country in the Marine Corps. And so, after graduating from Madison Heights High School in 1991, he joined the Marines. He then retired after 8 years of service having become a Sergeant. But his passion for fighting for his country was too much to ignore and Mr. Colvill enlisted in the United States Army after only a year as a civilian.

I think Mayor Kevin Smith of Anderson, Indiana said it best, stating, "Soldiers such as Lieutenant Colvill exemplify the best of the United States of America; men and women of ideals and who are unafraid to fight for freedom for themselves, their country and other peoples of the world."

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Robert Colvill is a hero whose service and sacrifice brought freedom to 25 million Iraqis. Memory of his sacrifice will forever be emblazoned on the hearts of two grateful nations.

I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Chris; his two sons, Zachary and Travis; his stepdaughter, Suzanne; his father, Robert Colvill; his mother, Anita Walker; his stepfather, Danny Walker; his sister, Angela Seward; his sister, Melanie Watkins-Smith; and his brother-in-law, Barton Smith.

NEBRASKA CITY TO REVEL IN
HISTORY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following article from the June 13, 2004, Omaha World-Herald. The article highlights the activities related to Nebraska City, Nebraska's 150th birthday celebration as well as the community's role in the commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. July will certainly be a special month for this historic and energetic city.

This Member looks forward to participating in the grand opening of the Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitors Center.

[From the Sunday World-Herald, June 13, 2004]

NEBRASKA CITY TO REVEL IN HISTORY
THE TOWN WILL MARK ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY AND
THE LEWIS AND CLARK BICENTENNIAL IN JULY
(By Paul Hammel)

Nebraska City will be "celebration central" this July.

The Missouri River town not only is planning a 150th birthday celebration for itself

but also has several events scheduled in conjunction with the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

"We're going to be very tired when its over" said Jessica Jones, tourism director for Nebraska City.

The sesquicentennial celebration, scheduled July 9 through 11, will include a vintage parade, a style show of pioneer petticoats and a re-enactment of staking out the town on July 10, 1854.

A traveling tent show for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial will visit Nebraska City from July 16 through 19.

The town's annual "Bagel Days" celebration—in conjunction, with a local bagel plant—is scheduled July 17 through 18, as is the Table Creek Art Festival.

Then, on July 23 through 25, the St. Charles Keelboat Expedition—a re-creation of Lewis and Clark's trek upriver—will dock in town and present programs.

The month of events closes July 30 with the grand opening of the city's new Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center on a bluff overlooking the river.

"We hope to attract some people who have never been to Nebraska City before," Jones said.

Sesquicentennial events include a celebration of the 135th anniversary of the founding of the Nebraska City public schools, demonstrations of pioneer crafts, and special cancellation of mail.

On July 9, a dance featuring the band Average Joe is scheduled at the Eagles Club.

A "vintage" parade is scheduled at 10 a.m. July 10, ending at Nuckolls Park, where there will be a re-enactment of the driving of the stakes declaring the boundaries of Nebraska City.

On July 10 and 11, the Mayhew Cabin will host a unique style show, "Petticoats for a Prairie Wedding," featuring a pioneer lingerie and a double wedding involving Civil War bridegrooms.

For more information, contact the Nebraska City Chamber of Commerce at (402) 873-3000, or visit www.nebraskacity.com.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID
KAMENSHINE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to David Kamenshine and thank him for his work as a Passport Services Agent with Northeast Passport Agency. His years of commitment and dedication as a public servant is certainly commendable and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. Along with my fellow Americans, I am grateful for all that he has accomplished during his years of service.

David Kamenshine started working for the United States federal government in 1969 with the Defense Department. Twenty years later, in October of 1989, he moved over to the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Passport Services at the Northeast Passport Center in New York City. David diligently served his employer and was transferred to the New York Passport Agency in February of 1994 when the Northeast Passport Agency was merged into the New York Passport Agency. David has held several positions during his time with Passport Services, each time dedicating himself to providing the very best

service for traveling customers. He assumed his current position as Customer Service Manager in 1996.

During my tenure in the United States Congress, David provided exceptional service to constituents of the 3rd Congressional District of Colorado. He worked hard to ensure that inquiries on behalf of my constituents submitted to the Northeast Passport Agency were addressed in a timely and thorough manner. David routinely demonstrated a willingness to assist beyond the standard response, demonstrating a genuine concern for the constituent while upholding the policies of the Northeast Passport Agency.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that David Kamenshine has been an invaluable resource to many Americans. It is my honor to recognize his service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with devoted public servants like David. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment he has given to the Northeast Passport Agency and constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for his years of enthusiastic service.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH PAEZ

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise a hard-working man dedicated to supporting the community. I am fortunate that the community he supports is Hernando County in my 5th Congressional District.

Joseph Raphael Paez was born in New York City on August 17, 1944. Joe served in the Army National Guard of New Jersey and Connecticut for a term of six years. He married and is the proud father of four grown children.

He joined the Hernando County Sheriff's office in 1976 and served in many capacities during his tenure. Joe was promoted to Lieutenant in January 1993 and was assigned to Operations Support—a group helping officers living with job related trauma.

Joe is retiring from the Sheriff's Department as the Public Information Officer for Sheriff Richard B. Nugent and should be honored for his service and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent Joe Paez, and I am proud to praise him on the floor of this House.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GAIL SCHULZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Gail Schulz and thank her for her work as the Branch Manager of the Social Security Administration in Durango, Colorado. Her years of commitment and dedication as a public servant is certainly commendable and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. Along with my fellow Coloradans, I am grateful for all that she has accomplished during her years of service.