

LETTER FROM NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that the letter from the Non-Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

NCOA,

Alexandria, VA, January 29, 2004.

Hon. BILL FRIST,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FRIST: The Non Commissioned Officers expresses its grave concern that America's military personnel and veterans are being used as an "emotional" ploy to delay the Department of Labor implementation of the Fair Labor Standards Act relative "white collar" exemptions. Claims that military members involved in the War on Terrorism and this Nation's veterans will have their employment status elevated to "exempt" based on military training and experience and lose opportunity for overtime compensation are patently incorrect. The Association regrets that some would wrongly use such false allegations concerning impact to America's service members to garner emotional and legislative support to delay the final rules for implementation of FLSA.

It is a blinding glimpse of the obvious that neither the current rules nor the revised proposal will negatively impact those who serve or have served in the Uniformed Services. In fact, this association's direct discussions with DOL leads us to the conclusion that the proposed rule relative the revised ceiling for annual income (increased from \$8,060 to \$13,000) will greatly expand the eligibility pool for worker overtime compensation.

It is outrageous that unsubstantiated claims are reaching America's Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen currently in harm's way that their future return to civilian jobs will result in a reclassification of their employment status. It is clear from our discussions with the Department of Labor that the proposed rule makes no changes from the current regulation and case law regarding military training and eligibility for overtime payments.

NCOA will continue to monitor the rights of all service members and pursue DOL intervention if the intent of any program or interpretation of the published rules would negatively impact those who have served in the Uniformed Service of this Nation. NCOA will remain vigilant to ensure their employment rights.

Sincerely,

GENE OVERSTREET,
President/CEO.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING RENEE YOUNG

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Renee Young has served as a dedicated Field Liaison for the Ohio Emer-

gency Management Association for 27 years; and

Whereas, Renee is always willing and able to address the needs of, and lessen the stress upon, the County Directors and is a source of stability in times of crisis; and

Whereas, Renee has demonstrated her commitment to aiding those during emergencies by working overtime, and from her own home if necessary, to see that the emergency is resolved; and

Whereas, Renee serves as a training instructor for the Ohio EMA and has a reputation for keeping participants engaged through a mixture of humor and information; and

Whereas, directors from counties outside of Renee's district routinely call upon her leadership and experience to assist their counties;

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and the entire Eighteenth Congressional District of Ohio in thanking Renee Young for her dedication to the Ohio Emergency Management Association and her continued efforts to protect and improve her community.

IN MEMORY OF TUG MCGRAW, BASEBALL LEGEND, PATRIOT AND AMBASSADOR OF HUMANITY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to baseball legend, Tug McGraw. Tug McGraw died on Monday, January 5, at the Nashville area home of his son and daughter-in-law, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill. Tug McGraw's life goes far beyond his on-field extensive achievements. He was also a patriot and an ambassador of humanity.

When Tug McGraw came to the Phillies in 1974, he brought along his experience as part of the New York Mets. With that team, he coined his rallying cry, "You gotta believe." His shining moment as a Phillie came in the 1980 World Series. In the fifth game, Tug struck out the Royals' Amos Otis with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth to preserve a 4-3 victory. In the sixth and final game, in Philadelphia, Tug squeezed out of bases-loaded jams in the final two innings and got the save to give the Phillies their first World Championship. It was his third World Series save, lifetime and his five League Championship Series saves is a record. He retired with 180 saves.

Those who follow baseball know of Tug McGraw's amazing saves and victories, but his life goes far beyond his on-field achievements. I know firsthand how he served his community and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in a major league way for many years. Tug enjoyed the presence of others, being thoroughly human and generous. He was a leader in so many worthwhile projects across our region, including the Scholar Athlete Program, various mentoring programs for at-risk youth and numerous charitable and civic causes. We will all remember and admire his talent on the mound. But of lasting significance is what he did to motivate people, particularly our youth, not only with his time and talent, but also with his laughter and his ability to bring out the best in others. It is what we

teach and what we contribute to enriching the lives of those around us that defines our success in life. This is Tug McGraw's lasting legacy.

Mr. Speaker, our region has lost not only a baseball legend, but a dear friend. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the McGraw family. Tug McGraw was generous with his gifts throughout his life and exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. It is proper to remember and honor a man of such worth and character with great respect for what he accomplished and stood for. We are grateful to have known Tug McGraw, and mourn his passing.

RECOGNIZING HELEN RUDEE'S 86TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Rudee who, on February 20, 2004, will celebrate her eighty-sixth birthday. For all of her adult life, Ms. Rudee has been an outspoken advocate for women, children, health and environmental issues.

Helen was raised in North Dakota and moved to California to attend San Francisco Junior College and Stanford University Nursing School. After marrying and having four children, her husband died leaving her to care for them. As a mother, Helen's first priority was raising her children. She was very active with their schools and served as a member of the PTA before serving on the Santa Rosa Board of Education for 10 years. In recognition of all her work, she received the Honorary Service and Continuing Service Awards from the California Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.

In 1976, Helen was the first woman elected to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. As a member of the Board of Supervisors for 12 years, she had a reputation for being accessible and for gathering the opinions of as many of her constituents as possible before making a final decision on matters of importance.

Throughout her career, Ms. Rudee has been dedicated to bringing more women into political offices. Women often go to her for guidance when considering running for office and she is always generous with her time, knowledge and advice. Despite retiring at age 70, she has remained as active in her retirement as when she was on the Board.

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Women's History Month, I was proud to honor Helen at the National Women's History Project event, "Honoring 20th Century Women," on March 22, 2000 in Statuary Hall in the Capitol. Throughout my career, Helen has been an inspiration to me and many other women who are in politics and other male-dominated fields.

Mr. Speaker, Helen Rudee has been an active and outspoken community leader for many years. She is a trailblazer who has made it better for all women.

COMMEMORATING FEBRUARY 2004
ALUM OF THE MONTH: MS.
OMUGO JULIET WASSWA-
MUGAMBWA

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Omugo Juliet Wasswa-Mugambwa, recipient of the College of St. Scholastica's Alum of the Month for February 2004.

St. Scholastica is a private undergraduate college founded in 1912 by a group of pioneering Benedictine Sisters who offered college courses, then, to six young women. Today, St. Scholastica educates more than 2,800 men and women annually and has awarded degrees to more than 13,000 alumni. The college offers the city of Duluth a world-class educational facility, while simultaneously enhancing the cultural and intellectual life not only of the city but also all of northwestern Minnesota.

Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa arrived in Duluth, Minnesota, in the dead of winter in 1990 from her home country of Uganda. Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa made a remarkable transition between continents, cultures, and degrees Celsius with patience and grace. I was privileged to witness these qualities for myself when Juliet served as an intern in my Washington D.C. office. Her intellectual curiosity and desire to experience the inner-workings of the legislative branch left an indelible memory on my staff and me.

Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa received the Leadership Award for the class of 1994, one of the highest honors for a student at the College of St. Scholastica. Following her graduation that year, she pursued a post-graduate degree in International Economic Development at the University of Denver, earning a Master's Degree in 1996. Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa continues to sharpen her focus on the issues of international development as an associate program officer with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

As a UN associate program officer, she prepares substantive reports for the UN Secretary General on development cooperation issues for consideration by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Her intense focus, nimble intellect, and industrious work ethic are hallmarks of her service at the UN, ensuring that her reports provide the basis for coherent and effective policy guidance to the operation activities of the United Nations family of organizations.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa is very proud of her family. She met her husband Joel, a member of the Toro Royal family in Uganda, in 1995; the couple have been blessed with two young children: Prince Oyo-Nyabongo and Princess Batebe.

I most heartily commend Juliet on her continued professional and personal success and express my great respect for her as she accepts the award for February Alum of the Month from the College of St. Scholastica.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LUCIANO
"LOU" MARTINEZ

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, last December the Palm Beach County Hispanic and Latino community lost one of its most beloved and outstanding leaders. Luciano Martinez, or "Lou" as we knew him, dedicated his life to helping others and founded the Hispanic Human Resources Council, helping thousands of individuals climb the ladder of success over many years in our local area.

Lou had the biggest heart and the most fertile mind finding unique ways to bring much needed services to the fast growing Hispanic and Latino population in Palm Beach County. Without his tireless work, Head Start would not be available to launch children into a better education, mothers would not have quality day care to permit them to work and provide for their children, many low income families would have never experienced the joys of purchasing their first home, and a host of immigrants would be unable to adjust to a new and different lifestyle. Because of Lou all of the above did happen.

Most important to Lou was the desire that while new arrivals adapted to a new culture; traditional Hispanic and Latino values and customs honed over thousands of years remained the centerpiece of family life. This desire to encourage individual identity, instilled pride in their common heritage to form a foundation for future generations to build upon, never forgetting the past.

Mr. Speaker, Lou was born in Havana, Cuba, raised in Florida and arrived in Palm Beach County fresh with a degree from Florida International University. His leadership skills were quickly recognized, and after many years of helping the less fortunate, Lou in 1977 founded the Hispanic Human Resources Council and served as its Executive Director for more than 26 years.

His talent led others to call upon him to serve on a multitude of community leadership positions; Board of Directors of JFK Hospital, the American Red Cross, and The Forum Club. In helping children, he served on the Pre-K Early Intervention Committee, Child Advocacy Board of Palm Beach County, and the Governor's Conference on Children and Youth. The Su Casa Housing Program helping to establish home ownership is a model program that is copied elsewhere.

There was so much more to the life of Luciano Martinez, he touched the lives of so many people, making life a little easier and less stressful. The smiling caring face of Lou was ever present, always ready to go the extra mile on behalf of his neighbors. His legacy is most apparent in the laughing happy children of Palm Beach County who continue to be under the care of the Hispanic Human Resources Council. The classrooms and playrooms in the West Palm Beach centers are filled with the memories of thousands of children who have passed through those doors, the hundreds who are there today, and the many more who will enter in future years. I am confident the spirit of Luciano will always be looking out for them from afar.

Mr. Speaker, Vaya Con Dios Luciano Martinez. Well done, mission accomplished.

RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL RIGHTS
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD GIVEN TO
STEPHANIE COWART

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Stephanie Cowart who recently receive the "Civil Rights Achievement" award chosen by the National Conference for Community and Justice. The award honors a member of the Niagara Falls community who exemplifies the works, beliefs and dreams that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared with the world.

Ms. Cowart, who serves as the executive director of the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, is one of the African American Women Community Builders of Western New York. She is indicative of the vibrant and caring Niagara Falls community that I am proud to represent in Congress. As a native of Niagara Falls, her decision to remain in the area not only to complete her education, but also to commit to improving the community through her work and by raising a family is impressive. Ms. Cowart is truly a Niagara Falls jewel.

In addition to her contribution to the community through running the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, she serves the area in her "free time" as an active member of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, and numerous other organizations. This award is not the first that Ms. Cowart has received. She is the recipient of numerous citations, including the Niagara County Black Achiever's Candle in the Dark Award, the Niagara Improvement Association Civic Award, the Niagara University Fellowship Award, the Niagara Falls Housing Authority Award of Excellence, the Business First's prestigious Forty Under 40 award, the Niagara County's Woman of the Year Award, and the Heroes of Public Housing Award.

Stephanie is truly an example to the entire country, not just my district. I am proud to bring her achievements to the attention of my colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT A.
PERREAULT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Robert A. Perreault, who retired on January 2, 2004, after more than 30 years of service in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

A veteran of the United States Navy, Bob Perreault began his VA career as a Medical Administrative Assistant in 1974 at the VA Outpatient Clinic in St. Petersburg, Florida. Bob rapidly progressed in his career, in VA field activities at a managerial and executive level, and in a number of key executive positions in VA Central Office. Among his notable assignments, he served in Washington as Director of the Medical Administration Service; Executive Assistant to VA's Chief Medical Director [now Under Secretary for Health]; and Director of Health Care Reform during the