

Clinton Administration. Mr. Perreault also served as Chief Executive Officer in Medical Centers in Newton, Connecticut; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Atlanta, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina. While in Atlanta and Charleston, he served in a dual role as VA's service line executive for primary care for a network of VA providers throughout Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina. Throughout his distinguished VA career, Bob Perreault eagerly and enthusiastically assumed challenges and provided leadership to VA programs, with his eye always fixed squarely on the health care needs of veterans.

In May 2002, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs appointed Mr. Perreault Chief Business Officer of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). He was recruited to this key role because of his wealth of experience in field facilities and Central Office. In this new role, he brought invigorated leadership to VHA business functions to include improved eligibility determinations, significantly higher first- and third-party collections activities and improved patient administration policy. Mr. Perreault coordinated VHA's implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), aided the establishment of the new "VA Advantage" Medicare coordination program, improved management of the fee-basis and contract care programs, and provided more focused direction to VA's CHAMPVA program, among a myriad of activities within his jurisdiction or persuasion.

Mr. Perreault twice was awarded the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award for career senior executives, and received numerous other national recognitions and performance awards during his career. Employing his vast institutional knowledge and business acumen, Robert Perreault has proven time and again he is a true and loyal friend to America's veterans.

On behalf of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I want to thank Robert Perreault for his steadfast and intrepid service to the Nation's veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEERFIELD BEACH FOUNDERS' DAYS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the great city of Deerfield Beach, in Florida's 22nd Congressional District. All Floridians can be proud of the rich history and cultural contributions Broward County's northernmost city has made over the past 77 years.

Today, visitors from around the world travel to Deerfield Beach for some of the most pristine beaches in the state of Florida. In fact, the City was awarded the Blue Wave award as a premier tourist destination in the year 2000. When travelers visit our fine city, they will find not only exceptional beaches and natural beauty, they can also enjoy any one of our four sites on the National Register of Historic Places: the 1920 Old School House, the 1923 James D. and Alice Butler House (now the Butler House Museum), the 1926 Deerfield School (now Deerfield Beach Elementary School), and the 1926 Seaboard Coastline Railway Station (now the Tri-Rail Station).

Deerfield Beach also has beautiful, well-maintained parks, boat ramps, tennis courts, and playgrounds.

For all of these reasons and more, many people chose to call Deerfield Beach home. The city has grown to almost 65,000 residents who make their living in one of the more than 5,000 businesses ranging from small "mom & pop" retailers, to major nationwide corporations.

The city has indeed seen phenomenal growth and prosperity mark the last few years and as such, I would like to extend my congratulations and support to The Honorable Albert Capellini, Mayor of Deerfield Beach. Mr. Speaker, may everyone who participates in the 57th Annual Founders' Days Festival of Deerfield Beach enjoy all this wonderful city by the sea has to offer.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BADGE AND UNIFORM SECURITY TRUSTWORTHINESS [BUST] ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, six months ago tomorrow, a man with a fake FBI vest and fake badge killed a man and wounded another. Today, I am introducing the Badge and Uniform Security Trustworthiness Act of 2003 in honor of the victims—Raymond L. Batzel and Joseph B. Doud.

On August 12, 2003, a man carrying a sawed-off shotgun, wearing a wig and bulletproof vest with the printed initials "FBI", and carrying what looked like a law enforcement badge walked into the Xerox employee credit union and killed one man and shot another. This man posing as a federal law enforcement officer turned a robbery into a murder. FBI officials believe that the vest and the badge were fakes. Six months later, the killer has still not been caught. Would this have happened if the murder did not have access to a fake badge and bulletproof vest?

Mr. Speaker, this bill will expand the current federal criminal ban on fake police badges to include police uniforms and other insignia. Right now it is legal for people to buy, sell, or own fake FBI insignia or badges used by Customs officials at our borders. As never before, Americans are facing the possibility of terrorism and violence within our borders. We are increasingly relying on our local, state, and federal law officials to keep the public safe. However, we must be able to depend on them without worrying that the "officer" is an impersonator. Law enforcement needs for us to trust them without hesitation, but the trust cannot be complete unless we take steps to stop the flow of fake public safety officer uniforms.

Unfortunately, the threat goes beyond the terrifying reality of this case in which a man in a fake FBI bulletproof vest tried to rob a bank. The threat reaches out to land border crossings, airports, and seaports. Officers with the Bureau of Customs and Border Security and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement work to keep terrorists from entering or staying in the country and to prevent the dangerous materials and weapons used by terrorists from entering the country. We cannot afford to have a man with fake creden-

tials standing on the Peace Bridge at the US-Canadian border, allowing terrorists or their weapons to enter the United States. By prohibiting the buying, selling, and use of false safety officer badges and other insignia, we are not only increasing domestic security, but also honoring the lives of Raymond L. Batzel and Joseph B. Doud. We must learn from the terrible events of August 12, 2003, and keep law enforcement insignia out of the hands of other would-be criminals or terrorists. Otherwise we are vulnerable to potential menace from within our borders and outside of our borders.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL SLACHTA, JR.

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 today to pay tribute to Mr. Michael Slachta, Jr., Assistant Inspector General for Auditing, who retired on January 2, 2004, after 36 years of Federal service—32 of which were served at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Mike's distinguished career began with service in the U.S. Navy from May 1966 to February 1970, including a one-year tour as a corpsman with the Third Marines in the Republic of Vietnam. As a result of his outstanding service, Mike was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat V, Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Citation, and Vietnam Service Medal with Fleet Marine Force Combat Insignia.

Mike attended the University of Pittsburgh on the Vietnam-era GI Bill and graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology. In 1971, he joined VA as an adjudicator at the Regional Office in Detroit, Michigan. In 1974, Mike moved to Washington, DC and joined the Internal Audit Service to work on the development of the Inspector General Act.

In 1978, Mike transferred to Hyattsville, Maryland to serve as Director of the Eastern Field Office of Audit. In 1980, he returned to the District of Columbia to serve as Acting Assistant Inspector General for Auditing. In 1982, he was appointed Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Regional Audits, and in 1983 he was appointed Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Headquarters Audits. In 1991, Mr. Slachta was named Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Auditing.

On March 12, 2000, Mike was appointed Assistant Inspector General for Auditing, the position he held until his retirement. In this capacity, he directed 166 auditors and support staff located at eight Inspector General offices across the country. In the last decade, under Mike's direction, the Office of Audit recommended actions that had potential cost efficiencies of over \$7 billion, which greatly improved VA program effectiveness and quality of services to beneficiaries.

A testament to the significant contributions and commitment of Mike Slachta are his many awards and recognitions. In 1991 and 2000, Mike received the Senior Executive Service Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive. In 2001, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs appointed him to the VA Claims Processing Task Force, where he served with distinction.

The President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency presented Mike with the June Gibbs Brown Career Achievement Award in 2003 for his extraordinary leadership and a distinguished career at VA in public service.

Mike and his wife Sharron have two sons, David and Douglas. They both share their father's passion and considerable skills in judo and golf.

With Mike's retirement, VA loses an enthusiastic, innovative leader and an exemplary Federal employee.

HONORING NASHVILLE'S CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I am pleased to speak today in recognition of Nashville's distinguished role in the history of the Civil Rights movement.

Forty-four years ago this week, a group of young Nashville college students came together to organize the Nashville sit-ins, a non-violent campaign to desegregate the city's lunch counters. From that moment in 1960, and from that campaign's extraordinary leaders, emerged a passion for justice and equality that helped to guide the civil rights movement.

Nashville was a principal training ground for some of the nation's most important leaders in the civil rights movement, many of whom were schooled in the techniques of nonviolent protest by the Rev. James Lawson. Rev. Lawson was the second African-American admitted to Vanderbilt University's Divinity School, and his famed workshops on nonviolent resistance later earned him a reputation as "the teacher of the civil rights movement."

Lawson's students came to include such prominent figures as Diane Nash, Dr. James Bevel, Dr. Bernard Lafayette, and Rev. C.T. Vivian, as well as my distinguished colleague, Congressman John Lewis of Georgia. As students and young activists, they formed the organizational core of Nashville's civil rights movement, which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. later described as "the best organized and most disciplined in the Southland."

Nashville's lunch-counter protests began on Feb. 13, 1960. Three months later, after a dramatic confrontation with then-Mayor Ben West, the students earned their first major victory when six Nashville lunch counters began serving African-Americans. The Nashville protests came to serve as models for later protests throughout the South, and its leaders, Ms. Nash, Dr. Bevel, Dr. Lafayette, Rev. Vivian and Mr. Lewis, went on to make pivotal contributions to the success of the civil rights movement, including the Freedom Rides of 1961 and the historic protests in Selma, Alabama.

This weekend, a number of the original leaders of Nashville's movement will be reuniting both to commemorate the anniversary of those first organized sit-ins and to honor the opening of the new Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library. This library, located at 615 Church Street in Nashville, now stands in place of several downtown restaurants that

refused to serve African Americans before the historic protests.

Dr. King best summed up the legacy of the Nashville movement when he came to visit shortly after the protests succeeded in desegregating Nashville's lunch counters. He said, "I came to Nashville not to bring inspiration, but to gain inspiration from the great movement that has taken place in this community."

It is with great honor and pride that I pay tribute today to the men and women of Nashville whose leadership and courage in the fight for racial justice still serve as inspiration to us today.

TRIBUTE TO KHRISTYN BRIMMEIER

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a fond farewell to a member of my staff, Kristyn Brimmer, who is leaving Capitol Hill this week. Kristyn is returning to her hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to pursue other professional opportunities.

All of us who serve in Congress know how important our staff members are. Kristyn has served as a Congressional Aide for over seven years, including four years with my office. She has served as both my Press Secretary as well as my Communications Director. As a public spokesperson before the media and countless community organizations, I could have had no better assistant to help positively present my agenda on behalf of the constituents of the Ninth Congressional District of Texas.

Kristyn has not only championed the press and communications functions in my office, but has played a vital role as staff director of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus. Kristyn's hard work and dedication have helped to push the issue of missing children to the forefront in the conscience of this Congress. Her assistance and her council have been crucial in passing legislation that deals with the exploitation of children. I know that I speak for the dozens of families she has worked with on this issue in thanking her for her service.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Kristyn. I am confident that her abilities, her passion, and her work ethic will serve her well in the years to come. Though she is small in stature, her presence and her contributions have surely been noticed by all who have had the pleasure to work with her.

Kristyn, thank you for your hard work over the last four years. You will truly be missed.

HONORING UNC CHARLOTTE CHANCELLOR EMERITUS DEAN WALLACE COLVARD

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize UNC Charlotte Chan-

cellor Emeritus Dean Wallace Colvard. On February 24, 2004 he will receive an award that recognizes his lasting impact on our nation. Dr. Colvard, 90, is the 2004 recipient of The Echo Award Against Indifference, given by the Echo Foundation in honor of his lifelong commitment to equity and justice.

Dr. Colvard is best known for his courageous stand against racial discrimination in 1963 as president of Mississippi State University, when he challenged an unwritten state policy and allowed the basketball team to travel to Loyola of Chicago to compete in the NCAA tournament against African-American players. Although his team lost, 61-51, Colvard and Mississippi State won national respect for their quest to end segregation—and opened doors of opportunity for future generations.

Forty years later, in 2003, Mississippi State made national news for earning its second trip to the NCAA, and Colvard's actions were chronicled in a Sports Illustrated story looking back on the historic event. To this day, Colvard downplays the significance of his decision, saying he only did what was right.

Dr. Colvard was born in the Appalachian Mountains in Grassy Creek, N.C. in 1913—in a home with no electricity, indoor plumbing or running water. He was the first member of his family to go to college, entering the work-study program at Berea College in Kentucky with \$100 in his pocket. Those humble beginnings instilled in him a lifelong commitment to equity and justice.

He went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in animal physiology from the University of Missouri and a doctoral degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University. He has served as superintendent of North Carolina Agricultural Research Stations; professor and head of the animal science department and later, dean of agriculture at North Carolina State College; president of Mississippi State University; and first chancellor of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He played an instrumental role in shaping the new university by securing regional and national accreditation for its programs and building a campus to accommodate enrollment that swelled from 1,700 to 8,705 students during his chancellorship.

Dr. Colvard was also instrumental in creating University Research Park and Discovery Place Science Museum in Charlotte, and the North Carolina School for Math and Science in Durham—the nation's first public, residential high school that emphasizes a science and mathematics curriculum. Among Colvard's many honors are the United States Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Award (1966); the University of North Carolina University Award (1989); the North Carolina Public Service Award, presented by Gov. James Martin (1990); and honorary degrees from Purdue University, Belmont Abbey College, UNC Charlotte and Berea College.

HONORING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AT EUNICE

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and recognize some of the great