

Pittsburgh performed outstanding feats of seamanship, including attaching a tow line to the flaming USS *Fry* and rescuing 34 of its crew members from turbulent waters. The USS *Pittsburgh* and the USS *Santa Fe* defended against two additional Japanese air attacks while towing and escorting the USS *Franklin* to safety.

As a result of their heroic actions in saving their ship, the crew of the USS *Franklin* was highly decorated, receiving awards of two Congressional Medals of Honor, five Gold Stars, 22 Silver Stars, and 250 Letters of Commendation, and becoming the most decorated crew in the history of the Navy. The crew of the USS *Santa Fe* received a Navy Unit Commendation.

However, the crew of the USS *Pittsburgh* has never been collectively honored or recognized for their heroism and bravery. Therefore, my legislation resolves that Congress recognizes and honors the crew of the USS *Pittsburgh* for their heroism on March 19, 1945, for rendering aid and assistance to the USS *Franklin* and its crew.

As we prepare to dedicate the new World War II Memorial, it is fitting that we recognize and honor the crew of the USS *Pittsburgh*. I am pleased to introduce this long overdue concurrent resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND REFORM ACT

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to introduce The No Child Left Behind Reform Act, which will make three basic changes to the No Child Left Behind Act. This bill was originally authored by my distinguished colleague from Connecticut, Senator CHRIS DODD was recently introduced in the Senate. The legislation I rise to introduce today is a House companion to this bill.

No Child Left Behind was passed in 2002 with bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate in an acknowledgement that the achievement gap among our nation's children must be closed. Since its passage, I have made very deliberate efforts to communicate with educators who will be responsible for implementation of the law. Like most of them, I remain committed to the goals and the general strategy of the policy.

Toward this effort, I have established an Education Roundtable with whom I have met numerous times to discuss this reform. Through this Roundtable, I have met with more than 100 educators over the course of the last two years and have discovered that there are several common concerns. As a result, I am introducing this legislation in an effort to make the No Child Left Behind Act and even stronger educational tool. The legislation will meet the challenges brought to my attention by educators, administrators and parents who deal with these issues every day at the local level.

First, the No Child Left Behind Reform Act will allow schools to consider measures other than test scores when determining achievement. Currently, the law holds schools accountable for student achievement measured

solely by scores on two tests administered on one day. It gives schools no credit for progress on other academic indicators, such as dropout rates, the number of students who participate in advanced placement courses, and measures of individual student improvement over time. This legislation will allow schools to be recognized for succeeding in these areas.

Second, the No Child Left Behind Reform Act will allow schools to target school choice and supplemental services to those students whose group fails to make AYP. Under implementation of the current law, if a school is in need of improvement it is expected to offer school choice and supplemental services to all students. This does not allow a school to target its resources to those who are most in need. By targeting those students in groups that fail to meet AYP, this legislation presents the most efficient way to maximize the effect of these resources.

Finally, the No Child Left Behind Reform Act provides flexibility to teachers looking to meet "highly qualified" standards. As it is, the law requires teachers to be "highly qualified" to teach every subject that they teach. This is certainly a necessary component to the law but some of the educators with whom I have met have expressed concerns. The problems arise for those teachers in the fields of math and science who are now required to become certified in various disciplines such as biology, earth science and chemistry. It also applies to teachers in rural middle schools who teach multiple subjects and are struggling to become certified in all of those subjects.

The legislation I am introducing today will allow middle grade level teachers who teach multiple subjects as well as math and science teachers to take one assessment test for all of the subjects they teach. Each state will determine what the test will consist of based on the needs of their state.

Mr. Speaker, these changes will provide significant assistance to schools in Connecticut and other states across the country currently struggling to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act. Clearly, we have encountered some unintended consequences of No Child Left Behind. If we are not able to restructure the law to address these issues we run the risk of losing the worthwhile goals that motivated the passage of this important legislation. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of the No Child Left Behind Reform Act.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD A. HELLBUSCH

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ronald A. Hellbusch, Director of Public Works and Utilities for the City of Westminster, Colorado. Ron is retiring after 32 years with the City. Combined with the 16 years as the City Manager of Brighton, Colorado, Ron has provided 48 years of dedicated service to these northern Denver communities.

Ron began his career at the City of Westminster as a seasonal laborer in the street, water, sewer and park divisions while finishing

high school and college. In 1960, he was appointed as the assistant city manager for the City of Westminster and was instrumental in developing the city's surface water supply system from its previous groundwater system when he was appointed water development coordinator by the City Council in 1963. Hellbusch left the City of Westminster in 1966 to serve as city manager for the City of Brighton, Colorado, where he served for 16 years.

He resumed his career with the City of Westminster in 1984 as the Director of Public Works and Utilities, directing the water distribution and wastewater collection systems, water and wastewater treatment, water supply acquisition, long range water supply planning and development, street operations and maintenance, street replacement and rehabilitation, and concrete replacement. The Department of Public Works and Utilities has 128 authorized employees, has an annual operating budget of more than \$24 million, and a capital improvement project budget of approximately \$7 million annually.

In 1996, Ron was selected as one of the American Public Works Association's 1996 Top Ten Public Works Leaders for his outstanding contributions to the public works profession. Ron also received the William E. Korbitz Award presented by the Colorado Chapter of the American Public Works Association at the 14th Annual Awards Luncheon in January 2000. He represented the city on various city and community groups including the Woman Creek Reservoir Authority Board, American Public Works Association Colorado Chapter and National Committees including the Leadership and Management Technical Committee, State Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) Roundtable Board Member, and the Colorado Water Congress serving as its president in 2003.

In the community, Ron has served the Westminster Presbyterian Church as a ruling elder and as the chairman of the Church's corporate affairs committee. Also, Ron chaired the stewardship committee over a four-year period and was a Sunday school teacher. In addition to the Westminster church activities, Ron was active during his years in Brighton, Colorado, both in the Presbyterian Church and community.

Ron's accomplishments with his Public Works and Utilities team include acquiring and developing a long-term, build-out water supply; the reclaimed water program; the completion of the Standley Lake dam renovation in collaboration with the cities of Northglenn and Thornton; employee driven quality service/competitive service program; the long-term street improvement strategy plan; utility planning and funding; developing a highly motivated and skilled employee team; encouraging innovation in membrane water treatment; use of technology in utility planning; a department-wide maintenance management program; numerous intergovernmental and regional cooperative agreements on water and public works programs; outsourcing programs such as street sweeping an annual trash pickup; and employee success in numerous national awards for programs and facilities, including recognition by the American Public Works Association, American Water Works Association, Water Environment Federation and the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

Ron has also been involved in the cleanup and closure of the former Rocky Flats nuclear

weapons facility just west of Westminster. For the past couple of years he has represented the City on a number of issues associated with the cleanup of this site, protecting surrounding drinking water supplies, ensuring worker safety, and with the site's future use. He was an early and strong supporter of preserving the acres of open space and wildlife habitat that exist on this site. He was instrumental in helping win the support of the neighboring communities for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act so that this site could become an asset not only to the citizens of Westminster, but all of the surrounding communities.

Ron is an example of the important role that our local officials play in maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for our Nation's citizens. His dedication to his community and collaboration with neighboring communities stands as a shining example of the rewards that come from such service—not only to the community leader, but the lives touched by that service.

As Westminster City Manager Brent McFall stated, "Ron Hellbusch has had a distinguished career with the City of Westminster and in the field of public works and utilities. He is nationally recognized as a leader in public works and as a water and wastewater provider. His shoes will be very hard to fill. We appreciate Ron's efforts over all these years on behalf of Westminster. He will be missed."

I join Manager McFall in those comments. In Ron's retirement letter to City Manager Brent McFall, he indicates that "there are streams and lakes not fished, outdoors to explore, stories to write, vistas to photograph, music to enjoy, books not read and tennis games to play. . . it is time to retire." That may be true and I am envious of the opportunity he now has to enjoy those activities. But we cannot forget that Ron helped enhance the lives of people who live, work and raise a family right there in Westminster and Brighton.

I wish Ron well in his retirement and know that he will stay engaged in community affairs no matter where his retirement may take him.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRYAN SCOTLAND, RECORD-BREAKING CHAMPION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in offering congratulations to an outstanding young man from St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark, New Jersey, Bryan Scotland, who set a track meet record in the 1600 meter run on May 14th. During the first day of the Essex County Track and Field Championships at Woodman Field in Montclair, New Jersey, Bryan made a spectacular finish in 4:17.88. On the following day, he also won the 800 meter run.

Not only is Bryan an accomplished athlete, he is an excellent student and a young man of the highest character. He is a credit to his school, St. Benedict's Prep, which has an outstanding academic reputation under the leadership of the Headmaster, Edwin Leahy, fond-

ly known by all as "Father Ed." Opened by Benedictine monks in 1857, the school closed for a period of time in 1972 after demographic shifts in Newark, but thankfully reopened its doors a year later and remains strongly committed to the education of our local youth.

I am proud that I chose Bryan to come to the U.S. House of Representatives to serve as a page during the summer of 2003. He distinguished himself in that position through his diligence and his dedicated service to this institution.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring this talented and hardworking young man with such a bright future ahead of him. Let us offer our congratulations and best wishes to Bryan and his proud parents, Diane and Glen Scotland of Glen Ridge, New Jersey.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF RON BEATON

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ron Beaton of Paducah, Kentucky on the occasion of his retirement from WPSD-TV after 29 years of distinguished work and community leadership.

Ron has been a public face and trusted figure in Paducah and the surrounding area since he began working at the television station in 1975. He started out as an intern with WPSD immediately after graduating from Lone Oak High School and has been an on-air fixture ever since. After working on weekends and during the summers while attending Murray State University, Ron has served as a reporter, producer, anchorman, and managing editor.

As his colleagues and viewers readily attest, Ron has handled all types of news stories with professionalism and sensitivity. His coverage of political events, including ten Presidential and Vice-Presidential visits to the region, has garnered well-deserved accolades. In addition, Ron's dignified and caring manner has served the community well during trying times, such as the tragic shootings at Heath High School in 1999 and the deadly tornadoes that ravaged Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri last spring.

Spending one's entire career at a single station, as Ron has done, is increasingly rare in the competitive television news business. Despite opportunities to move to larger and more lucrative markets, Ron decided to keep his career and family in the town he knows and loves. WPSD's viewers in western Kentucky, southern Illinois, southeastern Missouri, and northwest Tennessee have been fortunate to have welcomed Ron into their living rooms for so long.

My constituents have further benefitted from Beaton's service in ways that reach well beyond the television studio. Ron and his colleagues at WPSD have worked with the Lion's Club Telethon of Stars and the Easter Seals for decades to raise millions of dollars for children with disabilities. His work with the popular "Fugitive Files" news segment has led to over 200 suspects apprehended and at least as many communities made safer. Ron has

been an active spiritual leader and teacher in his home church of Trinity United Methodist in Paducah and many other congregations. The financial counseling he has provided, both on the air and through the Money Matters financial planning business he will now attend to full-time, has helped many families reach goals they never thought attainable.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Ron for the positive example he has been for us as an anchorman, businessman, community leader, husband, and father. Tonight, when he signs off with his trademark "Tomorrow's Friday!" for the second-to-last time, he will remind us all that despite the dour outlook that prevails in much of the news media today, there is still much to be happy about in Paducah and places like it all across America. It is with great pride that I represent Ron in Congress and enjoy having his son, Benjamin, on my staff here in Washington. I am honored to bring his accomplishments to the attention of this House.

OSCODA WWII VETERANS' RECOGNITION DAY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, as our nation prepares for the dedication of the National World War II Memorial next weekend, I rise to join my constituents in paying solemn tribute to the nearly 200 World War II veterans of Oscoda County, Michigan. Each and every one of these veterans deserves our continued gratitude for their service, for their sacrifice, and for their leadership.

On May 29th, the residents of Oscoda County will celebrate these members of the greatest generation with a parade, ceremony, and luncheon marking Oscoda World War II Veterans Recognition Day. This day has an added significance: together they will also be watching the dedication ceremony in Washington, DC for the National World War II Memorial. I am fortunate that I will have the honor of participating in this event, and will have the chance to thank these veterans in person for the sacrifice they made for our freedom 60 years ago.

I am especially pleased that this event is focused on those veterans that are still with us. On Memorial Day, our nation rightly honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of preserving liberty. But we too often forget to thank those who came home to careers and family and civic leadership. By the grace of God they returned home, but this does not diminish their service and sacrifice. Indeed, their leadership and example since have put us further in their debt.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the World War II generation, and especially those who fought so bravely in Europe and the Pacific for the freedom we enjoy today, are deserving of our highest honor and deepest gratitude. We must never forget their sacrifice and their courage. I therefore ask that the House join me in paying tribute to that greatest generation, and especially to those who will be at the Oscoda World War II Veterans Recognition events.