

Education. He applies all this knowledge in the classroom where he has been teaching for the past 22 years of his life.—Michael McCleary

I interviewed Chief Warrant Officer Jarvis W. Coburn, U.S. Army (Ret.). He served his country from 1965 through 1969. During his time in uniform, he served in the 176th Aviation Company of I Corps in the Vietnam War. He flew both lift and attack helicopters and received numerous awards and citations, including two Purple Hearts, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, thirty-nine air medals, one Presidential Unit Citation, and one Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Several times he was in life and death situations, and each time he managed to find a way through. He experienced the thrill of fighting alongside the United States Marine Corps and the agony of losing fellow soldiers in horrific battle. He returned to the United States, became a flight instructor and taught the next generation of Army pilots. His work in the private sector with Ross Perot's EDS led to the heroic rescue of two captured American prisoners as recorded in Ken Follett's *On Wings of Eagles*.

After interviewing Mr. Coburn, I gained a newfound respect, not only for the man himself, but also for all the soldiers that have served our country. Listening to the stories he shared with me reinforced how important the Armed Forces are to our Nation.—J. Andrew Clark

For the Preserving History: Veteran's Interview Project, I had the opportunity to interview a veteran of World War II. My grandfather, Michael Pessalano, was the veteran who shared his personal experiences with me. This man accomplished a lot in my eyes. He was a Codman in the United States Navy during World War II. He was awarded three ribbons: the American European Theater and Victory medal, and the American and European medals from serving overseas. Although he didn't see much combat, hearing his stories were still really interesting. Just by serving in the U.S. armed service I believe that you have been able to accomplish a lot. Having the determination, strength, risks taken, and dedication to one's country will vastly benefit anyone who serves. After having the opportunity to interview and hear the personal story of one's experience, I was shown the truth. Many people today, including myself, are clueless on what a soldier's life is really like. From this interview experience, I have learned to have more pride in my country, respect the people who are fighting for me, and we need to preserve the history so others can see the reality to how and who got our country where it is today.—Ashlea Banick

For this project I interviewed Captain Rick Burges. Captain Burges served in the Marine Corps of the United States of America from 1980 to 1984. He was positioned in artillery at Camp Le Jeune in North Carolina. Although he was never a part of combat or enlisted during a time of declared war, Captain Burges established himself as a Marine Corps hero by selflessly serving and climbing up the ranks for four years. This was an opportunity to open my mind up to the rigors of war and military training. Captain Burges was able to explain how military training is very long, hard, and tedious, but it also provides the greatest sense of satisfaction. But the greatest lesson is that I must always fulfill my dreams, no matter how hard or tiresome it may be, because only then can I live life completely satisfied.—Hansini Sharma

I interviewed my grandfather, Bentley Byrd Hinman. He served in the United States Army for two years as a Master Sergeant between the years of 1950 and 1952. During that time the United States was involved in the Korean War. My grandfather, however, was

far removed from any field of combat. He spent the majority of his service in Germany serving as a superintendent for a collecting station, the place where the wounded were brought after battle. He was not exactly the definition of a war hero; in fact, he never even fought a battle. That fact, however, does nothing to demean the sacrifice he made. When he was drafted for the military in 1950, he was not anxious or excited to go. It was simply something that must be done, so he went. He traveled to Germany for two years performing a thankless job, but he fulfilled his duty and that is all we can ask. I discovered what many men serving our country feel like. Oftentimes, men are not required to enter battle but are simply called. That calling is duty and the men who are strong enough to hear its call and answer are the true heroes.—Jennifer Smart

I interviewed Captain Andrew George Schneider, formerly of the United States Navy Supply Corps. Mr. Schneider joined the Navy voluntarily during the Korean War. He served first on the USS *Elderado* as a seaman recruit. Later, he transferred to a Navy destroyer, the USS *Watts*, where he was a Lieutenant (junior grade). Only in his early twenties, he was a Supply Officer and head of the supply department. After several years of active duty, Andrew joined the reserves where he remained on alert status for 22 years. During that time he worked with classified missile plans and as a government auditor. In 1979, he retired after 29 years of service. I learned a lot about Mr. Schneider through this project. I never knew what he had done in the Navy, and I found his story particularly interesting because Andrew Schneider is my grandfather. He is a true hero!—Kristin Schneider

Mr. Johnson is dedicated to God, his country and his family. He has lived the story of a POW war hero that had determination to survive. He made his way back to Texas and his family. During the time of Mr. Johnson's captivity, Mrs. Johnson never believed that her husband was dead. Two years after he had been shot down she received evidence to prove that he was still alive. She has said that her main goal was to keep continuity in the children's lives, while her husband was away. Many supporters and friends offered her prayers of hope and wore Mr. Johnson's POW bracelet in his honor. The bracelet told the prisoner of wars' name and rank and date captured. My family was among those who did so, and they all remember the day Mrs. Johnson received the message of her husband being shot down and missing in action and then when she had heard that he was coming home.

Sam Johnson is a decorated hero. He has earned 2 Silver Hearts, 2 Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with Valor, the Meritorious Service Medal, and 9 other medals, including 2 Purple Hearts, as written in his book. He now serves his country as a United States Congressman. I am very thankful to have heard his story because it made my understanding of past war history even greater. Although I was not alive at the time, I can empathize and only imagine how horrible Mr. Johnson was treated as a captive prisoner. I gain strength in my Faith through the telling of his life story, and I admire all of his accomplishments.—Amanda Lipscomb

As part of the "Preserving History Project" I completed for Congressman Sam Johnson and the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, I had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Bud Taylor who served in World War II as a Navy seaman. His exploits in the Pacific theater included the attack on Pearl Harbor, the bombardment of the Aleutian Island chain, and minesweeping at Bikini Atoll and around Japan. Upon being

transferred to the Atlantic theater, he was assigned to a convoy escort destroyer and participated in D-Day at Normandy. Mr. Taylor joined the Navy in 1940 as a sailor, rose to Seaman's 2nd Class, Seaman's 1st Class, and eventually his final rank of Gunner's Mate 3rd Class. As a result of this interview with Mr. Taylor, I saw how some of the men in the U.S. Armed Forces in Pearl Harbor fought against the odds to protect our country and the freedoms we enjoy in the U.S. I was confronted with how men gave their lives and Herculean efforts to protect America. My interview with Mr. Taylor opened my eyes to the privilege of serving in the U.S. Armed Forces; that in the time of need, we must all be ready to serve.—Michael Scott

Private First Class, George C. Powell was a member of the field artillery unit of the 66th Black Panther Division of the United States Army during World War II. Powell was born on November 6, 1924 in McKinney, Texas and was drafted by the U.S. military by the time he was eighteen. Upon completion of his training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Powell was sent to the European Theater of Operations, where his unit was engaged in the campaign on Northern France, where he fought until the end of the war in 1945. As part of the Baker 2 firing battery of the 66th field artillery unit, Powell was involved in several successes and achievements, namely the sinking of a German submarine. As a veteran of World War II Powell was able to serve his country and the United States of America, which is indeed his biggest accomplishment of all.

From this interview, I have gained so much more respect for the people who serve this country, as they truly understand the value of freedom. I have also come to realize the importance and the gift of living in a country where my rights are protected, and some day I hope to pass this on to others to make them realize the values of such a nation as the United States of America.—Morgan Bailey

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend my colleagues on the Committee on International Relations for their work on House Resolution 703, which recognizes the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. I strongly support this resolution, which serves as an important reminder of the work yet to be done to ensure a better future for people living in parts of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, and other areas, who have been affected by the disaster.

As the resolution makes clear, the United States must continue its work with other countries and international organizations to provide assistance to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. At the same time, as the resolution points out, it is also imperative that we support research into the public health consequences of the disaster so that the international community might benefit from the findings of such research.

It is in this spirit that I would like to recognize the Chernobyl Research and Service

Project, an initiative underway by a coalition including the U.S. Department of Energy, the Ukrainian government, Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and RTI International. By studying the effects of human exposure to radiation, this project has a number of critical objectives. In addition to protecting the health and welfare of workers involved in the Chernobyl clean-up effort, the Chernobyl Research and Service Project aims to provide information that will lead to the development of more sensitive tests to detect and measure radiation exposure and its effects in the human population, as well as the development of more powerful treatment for victims of radiation exposure, among other things.

Today, as we remember the Chernobyl disaster, it is my sincere hope that programs such as the Chernobyl Research and Service Project continue in an effort not only to improve the lives of those affected by the catastrophic event that took place 20 years ago this month, but also to ensure that we are better prepared in the future.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this significant resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKFORCE HOUSING ACT OF 2006

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Workforce Housing Act of 2006.

Finding a moderately priced home used to be a concern solely for those with low incomes. Today, as the median price for a home in some parts of the United States is over \$400,000, it has become an issue for all workers. This is especially true when only about 18 percent of the working population has enough income to purchase such a home. Other workers simply do not have the down payment needed to buy a home.

When large numbers of Americans are priced out of the housing market, it affects more than just a working family's ability to purchase a home. Communities that fail to provide affordable housing leave employers straining to find employees. The price to attract prospective workers ultimately makes essential jobs and services more difficult and more expensive for everyone.

Workers who cannot find affordable housing in or around places of employment are pressured to move further away. They endure longer commutes, use more gasoline, increase the levels of greenhouse gases, and spend more of their hard earned money on transportation. The financial impact is especially hard on low-income families who can spend 40 percent of their incomes on transportation alone.

In other cases, people are forced to seek less expensive homes elsewhere. Many of the housing alternatives they have to choose from are often built from older materials, emit more pollution, and require up to 50 percent more energy. Faulty ventilation and energy hungry appliances also increase the costs to heat, cool, and power a home. Rising energy costs required Americans to spend 24 percent more for energy in 2005 than in the previous year.

Such expenditures quickly deplete any savings that working families hope to use when trying to buy a home.

Left unchecked, the shortage of affordable housing, combined with higher energy prices and increased transportation demands paralyzes employment, holds back economic growth, and leads to inflation. The Workforce Housing Act successfully addresses the challenges faced by America's current housing crisis. This bill provides badly needed assistance to help individuals and families purchase their first home and to encourage developers to build affordable workforce housing.

For those looking to purchase a home, the Workforce Housing Act creates two forms of assistance that can be used for the down payment, service charges, appraisal, and other acquisition costs to purchase a single-family home or condominium.

First, the bill creates a tax-exempt mortgage down payment account to be used for purchasing a home. This account works much like an Individual Savings Account, but can be used regardless of age and allows contributions of up to \$10,000. Taxpayers that earn income up to 125 percent of the area median income will receive a tax credit equal to the amount of their annual contributions. The maximum credit is \$2,500 for either single or married-filing-joint taxpayers. Those making below 80 percent of AMI can also receive an additional \$500 credit to start the account.

Once the home is purchased, it is also possible to use any remaining funds for the future repair or replacement of items such as roofs, water heaters, or major appliances. This provision helps to ensure families can pay for these types of expenses without jeopardizing their mortgage payments.

Those who purchase homes using assistance from the Workforce Housing Act must use the home as their primary residence. To preserve the supply of homes created under this act, ownership of these homes can only be transferred to those with incomes that meet the stated affordability requirements.

Second, the Workforce Housing Act provides potential homebuyers with finance counseling and up to \$15,000 in down payment assistance. Local communities have the discretion under the bill to give teachers, first responders, certain service workers, the elderly, and low-income families priority for this part of the program.

For builders, incentives are available for the construction of affordable workforce homes. Developers are allowed base incentives in the form of expedited building permits and density allowances that are above current limits when at least 25 percent of the units are priced affordably. Affordability is based on homes with a sale price that does not exceed the median purchase price for a specific area.

Additional incentives are provided in the bill for affordable workforce homes that are built near mass transit lines, with energy efficient technologies and appliances, and using active and/or passive solar technology. These incentives can be used individually or in any combination not to exceed 15 percent of the base incentive value. Local jurisdictions will determine how to utilize these incentives based on the needs of their communities.

The Workforce Housing Act is necessary to ensure there is an adequate supply of affordable housing for the people who need it most. It also provides reasonable alternatives that

reduce some of the negative effects of increased energy demands. These are factors that threaten our economy, our ability to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and the viability of our cities and towns.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and urge the House leadership to bring it swiftly to the House floor for consideration.

TRIBUTE TO SAINT HYACINTH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Saint Hyacinth Roman Catholic Church, in Detroit, MI on its centennial anniversary. Since 1907, Saint Hyacinth has served as a place of worship and gathering point for the Polish community in Detroit.

Saint Hyacinth was established in 1907 by a small group of Polish immigrants. At the beginning of the 20th century, this new parish served the large and growing Polish immigrant community in Detroit. During World War I, the congregation came together in order to provide solidarity for their brothers and sisters in Poland, as well as to contribute to the overall war effort. With a growing population Saint Hyacinth built a new church in 1924. This beautiful Byzantine-Romanesque church building towered over all other local buildings, serving as a deep source of pride for the Polish community.

World War II brought another opportunity for Saint Hyacinth to serve its country, community, and loved ones in Poland. With its strong connection to Poland, there was no doubt that Saint Hyacinth and many of its parishioners would play an active role in the American war effort. Their bravery and sacrifice was honored with an honor roll installed in the church vestibule.

The post-War years brought change to the surrounding community, but Saint Hyacinth remained steadfast in its dedication to serving the community. Following WWII, then Bishop Monsinger Woznicki appealed to the Church's many Polish parishioners to retain their family names, instead of changing them, as had become the custom. He also called on his parish not to flee to the suburbs, but stay in the surrounding neighborhood.

Saint Hyacinth was honored with its listing in the State of Michigan's Historical Site Registry on September 21, 1988. In January 2001, Saint Hyacinth was honored by the City of Detroit and its 300th Anniversary Committee, with a Heritage Award. It also received a granite paver, inscribed in both English and Polish, on the Riverfront Promenade. This serves as a testament to the great contributions this parish has provided to the city of Detroit and its people.

Mr. Speaker, for one hundred years Saint Hyacinth has served as the heart of Detroit's Polish community. Innumerable parishioners have passed through its doors through the years and the lessons they have learned helped shape their values and beliefs. Saint Hyacinth has stood as an example of all the hard work, determination, sacrifice and love that the surrounding community provides. For generations, the parish of Saint Hyacinth has