

The Blinded Veterans Association was originally incorporated in New York State as a nonprofit association, and then moved to Washington, DC, in 1947. In 1958, the 58th Congress approved the Congressional Charter for the Blinded Veterans Association. From its early beginnings, the Blinded Veterans Association encouraged the blinded veterans it served "to take their rightful place in the community with their fellow men and work with them toward the creation of a peaceful world," and it has continued to advocate for the war-blinded to regain independence, confidence, and self-esteem through rehabilitation and training; and many people of the United States recognize March 28 of each year as Blinded Veterans Day.

On March 28, 2010, the Blinded Veterans Association will mark its 65th anniversary of dedication to blinded members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families. I urge all members of the House of Representatives, and Americans around the country, to join me in honoring these American heroes.

**HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE
LATE ROBERT MYERS, CHIEF ACTUARY AT THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, AND
RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
SERVICE SSA'S ACTUARIES PROVIDE TO CONGRESS, THEIR
AGENCY, AND THE AMERICAN
PUBLIC**

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor actuaries in general and two actuaries in particular: the longtime actuary of the Social Security Administration (SSA), the late Robert J. Myers, and the current chief actuary, Stephen C. Goss.

Bob Myers died February 13 of this year at the age of 97, and a memorial service was held for him this past weekend. Mr. Myers had a long, exemplary career with the Social Security Administration, starting in 1934 as a junior actuary with SSA's predecessor, the Committee on Economic Security. He later served for 23 years as the agency's chief actuary and was considered one of our country's foremost experts on Social Security.

Bob played a vital role in developing the special relationship between Congress and the Office of the Actuary. Historically, the actuary has been available to provide Members of Congress and the executive branch with confidential, expert, impartial, and trustworthy analysis of Social Security policy and legislative proposals. The Office of the Chief Actuary has truly an unparalleled record of service in the federal government.

Congress specifically recognized the value and importance of an independent and impartial actuary in the conference report accompanying Social Security's enabling statute, the "Social Security Administrative Reform Act of 1994." This report said that "The Office of the Actuary has a unique role within the agency in that it serves both the Administration and the Congress. . . . Thus, the independence of the Office of the Chief Actuary with respect to providing assistance to the Congress is vital in

maintaining a trusting and useful relationship." (H. Report 103-670, at page 96)

Though Bob left SSA in 1970, the tradition he established lives on in the work of the chief actuaries who came after him. SSA's current chief actuary, Steve Goss, is an outstanding example. Steve has been an actuary with SSA since 1973 and has served as its chief actuary since 2001. To me and many of my colleagues, Steve personifies the meaning of public service.

Steve's contributions have also been recognized by his colleagues and others. He received the Commissioner's Leadership Award in 1999 and was named a Presidential Distinguished Rank Executive in 2002. In 2004, he was the recipient of the very first Robert M. Ball Award for Outstanding Achievements in Social Insurance. Upon announcing their selection, the National Academy of Social Insurance described Steve this way:

He gives tirelessly and selflessly of himself to try to clarify, illuminate, and explain complex Social Security issues and how estimates are made of revenues, expenses, and actuarial projections within that program. He openly and forthrightly invites suggestions and criticism, hoping to improve the quality of his knowledge and the accuracy of estimates put forward by SSA. Steve Goss and the entire Office of the Chief Actuary provide an exemplary model of integrity and transparency, while maintaining a very high level of productivity.

I could not agree more. Steve Goss has ably continued the tradition Bob Myers started that has kept the Office of the Chief Actuary a trustworthy and consistently reliable source for confidential and honest analysis on which Congress relies to make sound policy decisions affecting Social Security programs. I think Bob Myers would be very proud.

I have worked personally with Steve for many years, and I look forward to relying on his expert knowledge and experience even more now that I am the chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security. The Social Security Administration could not have as great a reputation among my colleagues without Steve Goss. I congratulate and thank him for his service.

**RECOGNIZING THE 4TH ANNUAL
CESAR CHAVEZ MARCH**

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 4th Annual Cesar Chavez March to be held in my hometown of Flint, Michigan on Saturday, March 27th. The March is being sponsored by the Hispanic Latino Collaborative of Genesee County in honor of Cesar Chavez's birthday on March 31.

Cesar Chavez began his fight for the rights of migrant workers after serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He labored in the fields and knew firsthand the terrible conditions endured by migrant workers. He chose to lead the fight to bring justice and dignity to farm workers. Through his leadership, the United Farm Workers was able to win the right for farm workers to organize. Through his work, migrant farmers across our Nation have

better working conditions, better pay, better living quarters, and better hours. Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers were instrumental in getting dangerous pesticides banned, improving the safety of both our farm fields and the food on our tables.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Hispanic Latino Collaborative of Genesee County for keeping the memory and legacy of Cesar Chavez alive. His enthusiasm for justice, his work for his fellow humans, his achievements in the face of adversity, has provided an example for future generations to emulate. Cesar Chavez has demonstrated the difference one person can make in the lives of others.

**VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-
OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF
2010**

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 4667, "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2010" introduced by my distinguished colleague from Virginia, Representative PERRIELLO.

H. Res. 4667 will increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes. Increases will include wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, clothing allowances, and compensation for the surviving spouse, and for children. The Secretary of Veteran Affairs shall be responsible for publishing in the Federal Register the amounts, as increased, as specified under the Social Security Act. The Secretary of Veteran Affairs shall increase the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2010, for the payment of disability compensation for the rate adjustment that will take effect on December 1, 2010.

It is my distinct honor to stand here today to support a bill that will allow us to show our appreciation to our veterans and honor the service of veterans who have become disabled while serving in the armed forces. These veterans have given great contributions and made incredible personal sacrifices so that all of us in this country might live in a safe and secure nation and world. Providing a cost-of-living increase is only a small step towards repaying the insurmountable debt that all of us owe to all veterans. For, what is the price of freedom?

As President Kennedy once said, "The price of freedom is high, but Americans have always paid it." And no one has paid a higher price than the brave men and women through the years who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. Whether it is the ultimate sacrifice of life or the loss of limb or the loss of time with family and friends, we owe our veterans an enormous outstanding debt of gratitude.

From Bunker Hill to Yorktown, from Washington, DC to the Battle of New Orleans, from Bull Run to Gettysburg and Antietam to Appomattox, brave Americans gave their lives

so that the nation might live. And from Alsace Lorain to Verdun, and Normandy to Berlin and Pearl Harbor to Okinawa, from Inchon and Corregidor to Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq, Americans have nobly sacrificed their lives so that the world may live in freedom.

The debt of gratitude we owe to the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who answered their nation's call and made supreme sacrifices can never be repaid. But the nation can follow President Lincoln's admonition to "care for him who has borne the battle, and for his [family]." Indeed, it is the least we can do.

It is out of my profound respect and gratitude for all who wear and have worn the uniform of the United States that I continue to work so hard to pass legislation that will ensure that veterans receive the health care, job opportunities, housing assistance, and educational benefits they deserve.

HONORING THE PASSING OF A
DISTINGUISHED COAST GUARD
VETERAN, LT HERBERT COL-
LINS, USCG RETIRED

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to honor the service of Lieutenant Herbert Collins, a retired Coast Guard officer, who passed away on March 14, 2010 at the age of 89.

Lieutenant Herbert Collins was the last surviving member of the Coast Guard's Life Boat Station Pea Island, which was the first and only station manned by an all African American crew. This station was in service from 1880 to 1947 and was originally part of the U.S. Life Saving Service until it merged with the Revenue Cutter Service in 1915, creating the U.S. Coast Guard. Members of the Pea Island Life Saving Station performed many heroic rescues and saved countless lives off the Outer Banks of North Carolina during the Station's 67 year existence.

Lieutenant Collins enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1939 and during his 30-year career he was promoted through the ranks to chief boatswain's mate, then to chief warrant officer and eventually to the rank of lieutenant.

During his career, Lieutenant Collins served on five Coast Guard Cutters and in a number of shore assignments, including two tours at the Pea Island Life Saving Station. In 1947, Lieutenant Collins served as Officer-in-Charge of the Coast Guard Station Oregon Inlet in 1947 and then later decommissioned Coast Guard Station Pea Island. Lieutenant Collins retired from the Coast Guard in 1976.

Lieutenant Collins was the last surviving member of the Pea Island Life Saving Station. Additionally, with his passing, another legacy ends as his family held the record for the longest continuous service with the Coast Guard dating back to his grandfather, Joseph H. Berry, who entered the Life Saving Service in 1880.

Lieutenant Collins, I wish you fair winds and following seas.

CONGRATULATING HELEN C.
VANCE ON RECEIVING THE
BROWN-HUDSON AWARD FROM
THE NORTH CAROLINA FOLK-
LORE SOCIETY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Helen C. Vance on receiving the Brown-Hudson Award from the North Carolina Folklore Society for her outstanding work to preserve the North Shore Cemeteries in Swain County, North Carolina.

In the 1940s, many families in Western North Carolina were displaced when the Fontana Dam was constructed on the Little Tennessee River in Swain County, and as a result they had to leave behind their homesites and family cemeteries. Plans to build the North Shore Road that would connect displaced families to their old homesites were discontinued in the 1960s. Although the lack of a road makes it difficult to access these sites, Ms. Vance has worked hard to ensure that local communities are able to visit their cemeteries.

For over 30 years, Ms. Vance has organized the Appalachian tradition of Decoration Day, a day where relatives, friends, and neighbors of the deceased in Western North Carolina travel together on trails through the woods, or by boat over the Fontana Lake to these local these cemeteries for a day of remembrance. On Decoration Day, communities spend the day together cleaning the cemeteries and placing decorations on the sites.

The Brown-Hudson Award recognizes Ms. Vance's exceptional contributions to preserving our traditions in our mountain region, and her tireless work to maintain the North Shore cemeteries for future generations. Her community activism is a source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to rise with me in recognizing the amazing efforts of Ms. Vance, and the dedication she has shown to preserving the historic North Shore cemeteries Western North Carolina. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating her outstanding commitment to our community traditions.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ROYCE MONEY

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Dr. Royce Money for his dedication to Abilene Christian University and, in particular, for his 19 years of service as the university's president. As Dr. Money transitions to the role of chancellor, I join with the ACU community in thanking him for all he has done for the university.

Dr. Money obtained both his bachelor's and master of divinity degrees from Abilene Christian University, and he holds a Ph.D in religion from Baylor University. He continued his education later at the University of Nebraska, where he received an additional master's degree in human development and the family.

Dr. Money and his wife of 45 years, Pam, have both been an integral part of ACU and the Abilene community. Pam Money is a licensed marriage and family therapist and has served as an adjunct professor in the College of Biblical Studies at ACU. They have two daughters, Alison and Jennifer, and are proud grandparents of David, Elizabeth, Andrew, Jonathan, and Caleb. Their favorite hobbies include anything that involves their children and grandchildren.

Dr. Money is a current board member and past chairman of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas and a past chairman of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. He was named Abilene's "Citizen of the Year" for 2007 by the Abilene Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Royce Money was appointed president of Abilene Christian University June 1, 1991 after serving as an associate professor, department chairman, vice president and provost. Upon his retirement, he will take over the role of chancellor of the university where he will continue to be a strong leader and advocate for ACU. Both Royce and Pam's continued service to the university is greatly appreciated and highly recognized by the city of Abilene and the students, faculty and staff of ACU.

I want to again commend Dr. Money for his service as the president of ACU, and I look forward to his continued leadership as chancellor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, yesterday I accidentally electronically voted "yea" twice for rollcall 170. Consequently, the subsequent vote (rollcall 171) indicated that I was "Not Voting". Madam Speaker, it was my intention to vote "yea" on the last recorded vote on March 22, 2010.

It is of vital importance we care for our disabled veterans who have personally sacrificed to protect our liberties. I fully support The Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act.

HONORING MARY ANN
VANDEMARK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Ann Vandemark as she is honored by the Michigan Community Action Agency Association. Mary Ann recently retired from her position as Executive Director of the Human Development Commission. She will be honored for her work at a dinner on March 25th in Lansing, Michigan.

Mary Ann Vandemark served as the Executive Director of the Human Development Commission for 31 years prior to her retirement on February 1, 2010. The Commission is a Community Action Agency serving Huron, Lapeer,