

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

THE VETERANS BURIALS RIGHTS
ACT OF 1998

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, America has a sacred trust to honor the sacrifices made by our veterans—the men and women whose military service, both in wartime and in times of peace, has kept us free and strong. One of the most important and symbolic ways our country has historically recognized honorable military service is by providing military honors at veterans' funerals.

Traditionally, the Department of Defense (DOD) has provided the honor guard details. Unfortunately, DOD has determined that, because of the downsizing of America's Armed Forces, this type of assistance can no longer be provided. I believe this is a mistake and that, in the zeal to cut costs and squeeze savings at every possible opportunity, appreciation has been lost for the significance and meaning associated with paying final tribute to a veteran's military service.

Those who have attended a funeral with full military honors remember it as a uniquely profound and moving experience—an experience that vividly expresses our nation's gratitude to those whose sacrifices have protected and preserved our liberty and freedom. I have also been told by the loved ones of deceased veterans that the beauty and solemnity of the military funeral, the report of the rifle salute, the haunting sound of Taps, provided them extraordinary comfort and consolation. A military funeral also reinforces a principle that is important for all Americans; that our nation must never forget our veterans' service, sacrifice, and love of country. As we strive to recruit and retain motivated men and women for military service, it is important that we remind our society that duty and sacrifice must always be remembered and honored. Because of the symbolic importance of military funerals, many of the Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) have attempted to provide honor guards, and we should all commend and thank them for their dedication and commitment. However, in spite of their efforts, limited resources have made it impossible for them to fulfill the requests for their services. Additionally, many VSO members have told me that they simply cannot perform the ceremonies with the military bearing of military service personnel.

I believe that our nation can—and must—do better. Our military must recognize and honor the sacrifices made by our citizen-soldiers. Accordingly, I am today introducing the Veterans Burials Rights Act of 1998, legislation that requires DOD, upon request, to provide military honor guards for veterans' funerals. Additionally, my bill would require that the honor guards include no fewer than five members of the armed forces, including a bugler.

Representative SUE KELLY from New York is the principal co-sponsor of my legislation, which is the companion bill to S. 1825, introduced on March 25, 1998 by Senator PATTY MURRAY. Senator MURRAY has been a true leader on veterans' issues and has shown

great commitment in pushing for recognition of their accomplishments and needs. She should be applauded for her authorship of the legislation as well as her work to bring this issue to the attention of our nation.

I hope we will act quickly on this legislation so that we can once again properly honor the sacrifice and service of our deceased veterans. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this important effort.

HONORING CHIEF OF POLICE
FRANK ALCALA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, at a time when crime concerns are on every citizen's mind, those who have dedicated their lives to law enforcement are to be commended. It is my distinct pleasure to call to your attention an outstanding law enforcement official, Chief of the East Chicago Police Department, Frank Alcala, on his receipt of Twin City Community Services' 9th Annual "East Chicagoan of the Year" Award. The Twin City Community Services Board of Directors will bestow this award upon Chief Alcala at a benefit which will take place tomorrow, April 2, 1998, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in East Chicago, Indiana.

Frank Alcala began his distinguished law enforcement career in 1970, upon his graduation from the police academy at Indiana University in Bloomington. His initial position, as Patrolman, was the beginning of his 27-year career with the East Chicago Police Department. He served the department in this capacity until 1975, at which time he was promoted to Traffic Investigator. In 1981, he became Sergeant in the Patrol Division, where he served until he was promoted in 1990, to Traffic Sergeant. In 1991, he was promoted to Lieutenant in the Service Division, and, in 1994, he was appointed Chief of Police by East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick.

During his four years as Chief of Police, Frank has made numerous contributions to law enforcement in the City of East Chicago. In 1994, he hired 12 community police officers, one full-time Drug Awareness Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer, and provided police security to East Chicago Central High School. Also in 1994, he established a Special Operations Section Team, a unit comprised of volunteers from different areas of the police department, which trains in the handling of raids and hostage situations. In addition, Chief Alcala implemented the first ever K-9 unit in East Chicago in 1995, and provided an extra division of Gang and Narcotics Officers to the police department in 1997. Also under Frank's supervision, a Cadet Program, which will afford graduating high school seniors an opportunity to work for the East Chicago Police Department while enrolling in criminal justice courses at a local university, will be implemented this year. Chief Alcala's strong commitment to crime prevention is exemplified by his significant expansion of the police force. In 1994, there were 105 officers with the East Chicago Police Department; today there are 135.

In addition to his many law enforcement efforts within the City of East Chicago, Chief

Alcala participates in numerous law enforcement and community service organizations throughout Northwest Indiana. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Lake County Drug Task Force and the Executive Committee of the Lake County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and Estella Smith Memorial Crime Prevention Foundation. Some of the community service organizations he assists include: the East Chicago Exchange Club, an organization devoted to a variety of youth and community service programs; Christmas in April, a program that provides volunteers for the building of homes for low-income families; and the St. Catherine's Hospital Foundation Annual Support Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Frank Alcala on his receipt of the East Chicagoan of the Year Award. His wife, Suzanne, and their children, Doug, Frank Jr., and Brian, can be proud of his devoted service to the citizens of East Chicago and Indiana's First Congressional District.

CONGRATULATING THE ILLINOIS
STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Illinois State University Men's basketball team for a truly memorable season. Coach Kevin Stallings and his group of young men epitomized all that is good in college athletics. Led by seniors Rob Gibbons, Dan Muller, Jamar Smiley, LeRoy Watkins, Steve Hansell, Skipp Shaeffbauer and the outstanding junior Rico Hill, the 1998 Redbirds won 16 Missouri Valley Conference Games on their way to a second consecutive Missouri Valley Conference Championship. The Redbirds went on to win the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament. They advanced to the NCAA Tournament where they beat a quality Tennessee squad in overtime in the first round. While the defending national champion Arizona Wildcats eventually ended their season, the Redbirds played tough for the entire 40 minutes and should be proud of their remarkable season. In addition to the extraordinary accomplishments of the Redbird team, the ISU program was the recipient of a number of Missouri Valley Conference individual awards. Rico Hill was named Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year. Senior Dan Muller was named to his third consecutive Missouri Valley All-Academic Team with a grade point average of 3.77 in business management. Muller was joined by Skipp Shaeffbauer who earned a 3.29 in Sports Management. The Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year was ISU's own Kevin Stallings. The 1998 Redbird season adds another string of accomplishments to the already impressive career of Coach Stallings, solidifying him as truly one of the best young coaches in America. While I am sure other schools will try and lure him away, all of his fans join me in hoping this native Illinoisan will choose to stay at Illinois State University. Mr. Speaker, the Illinois State Redbirds deserve the recognition

of the House of Representatives for their wonderful 1998 season. I would also like to remind the Speaker that Midnight Madness and the start of the 1999 NCAA basketball season is only 198 days away.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM W. SUTTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise here before you today and acknowledge the retirement of one of Mississippi's greatest college administrators. Dr. William Sutton has announced his retirement as President of Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi. Dr. Sutton has held his position for nearly a decade. Since assuming the presidency, Dr. Sutton has overseen a multimillion dollar renovation of the school's physical plant. During the same time, the school's fiscal deficit has been eliminated and financial flexibility has been achieved. Since the fall of 1989, enrollment has increased by ten percent and new academic programs have been added.

Dr. Sutton was educated at Dillard University in New Orleans, he went on to receive his master and doctoral degrees from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Sutton began to advance his administrative career from instructor to full professor and Chair of the Division of Natural Sciences at Dillard in 1979. He left there to serve as Academic Vice President, Provost and Professor of Biology at Chicago State University from 1979 to 1985. In 1985, Dr. Sutton was named Vice President for Educational and Student Services at Kansas State University before assuming the Presidency at Mississippi Valley State University.

Dr. Sutton has been very active in the community serving on a variety of civic and educational boards in New Orleans, Chicago, Manhattan, and Kansas. He is an active member of the Greenwood-Lefflore Chamber of Commerce, the Greenwood-Lefflore-Carroll County Economic Development Foundation, and the Greenwood Rotary Club. He serves on the Advisory Board of Deposit Guaranty National Bank in Greenwood, Mississippi, and the Professional Advisory Committee of Mid Delta Home Health, Inc. He is a member of the Board of Governors of Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters and the Board of Directors of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sutton has been a catalyst for change and growth in higher education in Mississippi. His knowledge and expertise will be truly missed and always appreciated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed roll call votes number 87, 88, and 89 on Tuesday March 31, 1998, due to the memorial service that was held in Jonesboro, Arkansas for the victims and survivors of last week's tragic shooting.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "Yes" on roll call vote number 87; I would

have voted "No" on roll call vote number 88; and, I would have voted "Present" on roll call vote number 89.

I request that this be included in the RECORD immediately following these votes.

HONORING MAYOR CARL J. MATT

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carl J. Matt, Mayor of Jeannette, Pennsylvania. Mayor Matt has been a public servant of the residents of Jeannette for over 41 years and will continue to serve them in the future.

Carl J. Matt joined the Jeannette Police Department in 1956 and served the community for the next 41 years. Nine of those years were spent as the Chief of Police. During his years in law enforcement, Carl Matt worked under 12 different mayors of Jeannette. He saw both the successes and the failures of these mayors. Eventually Carl Matt decided to run for mayor himself and won.

As mayor, Carl Matt vows to return to the days when all citizens of Jeannette worked together with the government to accomplish their goals. Another goal of Mayor Matt is to make himself readily available to his constituents at all times. As a police officer, he always kept his phone number listed and hopes to do the same as mayor.

Mayor Carl Matt has always been a tireless public servant and a pillar in the community. Through his efforts, the citizens of Jeannette are able to build for the future. I ask my colleagues to rise and pay tribute to Mayor Matt. His history of service to Jeannette is unparalleled.

WOMEN OF CONGRESS' MEMORIAL
WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you a historic event I convened yesterday so that my colleagues and I could celebrate Women's History Month. I would like to share with you my remarks at the first Women of Congress' Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery:

Good afternoon, I'd like to thank my friends and colleagues Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, Congresswoman BARBARA KENNELLY, Congresswoman TILLIE FOWLER, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE and Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN for being here at the Women of Congress' Memorial Wreath-Laying Ceremony. We have come today to honor the brave women who served in our Armed Services and to recognize their outstanding service to this country and the ultimate sacrifice that was made to enable us to have the freedom we so much enjoy as a country. It seems fitting that we pay homage to them during Women's History Month and to salute them for their contributions as patriots of this great nation. So we have come to this shrine that was built as a lasting memorial of their service, bravery

and sacrifice during military conflicts dating back to the founding of America. Without the heroic efforts of American service women, we would not be here today.

Women In Military Service for America Memorial was dedicated on October 18, 1997. This is the first major, national Memorial honoring all military women of all eras, past, present and future.

Women have served in all of America's major conflicts. Beginning with the American Revolution—when some women disguised themselves as men to join the Continental Army.

In the wars of the 18th and 19th centuries and during the Civil War women were hired to provide medical care, forage for supplies, cook, make clothing, engage in sabotage, scout and serve as couriers. Dr. Mary Walker, an Army physician who served during the Civil War, was the first and only woman awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for her work in treating patients.

Women were first recruited as members of the armed services in World War I. With more than 35,000 women having served in roles ranging from nurses to telephone operators. It was the first war in which American women served overseas.

More than 350,000 women served in World War II, which included the first female officers. More than 200 military women of the Women's Army Corps and Women Air Force Service Pilots died in action overseas or ferrying aircraft; and 88 were held as prisoners of war.

In the Gulf War (July 2, 1990 to April 6, 1991), women accounted for 35,000 of the 540,000 U.S. troops. Although they were not assigned to combat by law, these women ferried fuel, food and troops into combat areas. Two women were taken prisoner and 11 died.

The Number of Women Who Served in U.S.

Military Conflicts are:

Persian Gulf—41,000

Panama—770

Grenada—170

Vietnam—7,500

Korea—48,000

World War II—350,000

World War I—35,000

Spanish-American War—1,500

As we lay this wreath, may it symbolize the appreciation we have for the courageous servicewomen who dedicated their lives for their country.

We appreciate the service and the lives of these noble women. May they always be remembered for their bravery.

MERCY HOSPITAL's 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Mercy is celebrating its centennial with a mass and a reception on April 19, 1998. I am proud to have been asked to participate in this milestone event.

Founded by Mother Catherine McAuley in Ireland in 1831, the Sisters of Mercy nursed the poor in Irish slums plagued by cholera. They marched with Florence Nightingale to Crimea and to Constantinople to tend to the