

his voice than his face, but people felt like they knew him. Eddy was an exercise walker, and his routine consisted of walking one way and busing back. He said he took the bus because he enjoyed getting to know people.

A native of New York, he loved Green Bay and always spoke highly of its friendly, hard-working people. In 1941, Eddy spent 6 years as a military instructor in the Army. He returned to Green Bay in 1947 as a young actor, whose profession had already led him to Chicago and Hollywood, where he starred in a number of silent films.

Eddy made his mark in Wisconsin in the Town Hall Players, an acting group based in LaCrosse that made more than 300 appearances across the State. Eddy fondly remembered the job's best fringe benefit—the free meal offered at many of the engagements.

Eddy broke into Green Bay radio with a noon-time program called "The Farm Hands" that broadcast from the top of the Bellin Building. Every day the show was kicked off by a live, barking dog. It was less than glamorous but he reveled in radio.

"Partyline" debuted in November 1948 on WBAY Radio. With partner Roger Mueller, Eddy began a Green Bay tradition of on-the-air storytelling, joking, and reporting.

Eddy Jason had no plans to retire. He loved his job and his coworkers. He didn't even consider his radio show work. He called it a hobby.

He was on the air 5 days a week and never missed a wedding anniversary or birthday announcement.

Eddy Jason will be remembered by many as not just a broadcasting pioneer, but as an outstanding human being who cared deeply about the community where he lived and worked.

Our thoughts and prayers today are with his son, Wallace McDonald, his six grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

After 47 years, the airwaves will seem a little empty without Eddy Jason's kind voice. For years to come, the people of Green Bay will not be able to turn on their radios without thinking of him. He will be fondly remembered and sincerely missed.

VFW CHARTER AMENDMENT

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to amend the Congressional Charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States [VFW]. My good friends SONNY MONTGOMERY, and JERRY SOLOMON, former chairman and former ranking Republican member of the House Committee of Veterans' Affairs respectively, join me in introducing this bill. It provides that veterans who have served in the Republic of Korea for not less than 30 consecutive days, or a total of 60 days after June 30, 1949, would become eligible for VFW membership.

Now, only veterans of Korea who served during the war itself are eligible to belong to the VFW. The VFW's congressional charter requires its members to have received a campaign medal or badge to be eligible for membership. However, many veterans have served

in Korea but did not receive the requisite campaign medal or badge because of narrow DOD eligibility criteria. Consequently, those service men and women are not eligible to join the VFW.

The VFW believes, and I agree, that those veterans who would be covered by this legislation should be eligible to enjoy membership in the VFW. Only Congress can make this change, because the VFW's congressional charter must be amended.

Mr. Speaker, the realities of the United States military presence in Korea, and the current dangers there provide compelling reasons to support the VFW's desire to amend its charter, I strongly urge all Members to co-sponsor and support this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REFORM OF THE FEDERAL BLACK LUNG PROGRAM

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 1995

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am re-introducing legislation that I have sponsored for several Congresses now to form the Federal Black Lung Program.

This legislation reflects the frustration of thousands of miners and their families with the extremely adversarial nature of the current program as administered by the Labor Department.

As it now stands, disabled miners who suffer from the crippling effects of black lung disease are faced with a Federal bureaucracy so totally lacking in compassion to their plight, that it appears intent upon harassing their efforts to obtain just compensation at every single step of the claim adjudication process.

In fact, today, we are witnessing less than a 10-percent approval rate on claims for black lung benefits.

This figure does not attest to any reasonable and unbiased comportment of the facts.

Rather, it represents nothing less than a cruel hoax being perpetrated against hard working citizens who have dedicated their lives to the energy security and economic well-being of this Nation.

The original intent of Congress in enacting legislation to compensate victims of black lung disease was for this to be a fairly straightforward program. This intent has been defeated by years of administrative maneuverings aggravated by some extremely harmful judicial interpretations. Under this bill, we will return to a program that reflects the statutory commitment Congress, and indeed, the Nation, made to compensate these coal miners and their families.

Make no mistake about it. Victims of black lung disease are not people who are looking for a handout.

They are people who worked their lives in one of the most dangerous occupations in this country.

They are people who were promised compensation by their Government. And they are people who now see their Government break that promise.

It is time, indeed, long past the time that Congress move legislation on behalf of the thousands of miners, their widows and families

who are being victimized by this program, the very program that was intended to bring them relief.

In general, this measure contains the following proposals:

First, new eligibility standards. A miner would be presumed to be totally disabled by black lung if the miner presents a single piece of qualifying medical evidence such as a positive x ray, ventilatory or blood gas studies, or a medical opinion. The Secretary of Labor could rebut the presumption of eligibility only if he can show that the miner is doing coal mine work or could actually do coal mine work.

Second, application of new eligibility standards. The new standards would apply to all claims filed after enactment of the Black Lung Benefits Act of 1991. All pending claims, and claims denied prior to enactment of the Black Lung Benefits Act of 1991 would be reviewed under the new standards.

Third, elimination of responsible operators. All claims would be paid out of the coal industry financed black lung disability trust fund. The purpose of this provision is to eliminate coal operators as defendants in black lung cases and the advantage they have over claimants by being able to afford to pay legal counsel.

Fourth, widows/dependents. A widow or dependent of a miner would be awarded benefits if the miner worked 25 years or more in the mines; the miner died in whole or in part from black lung; the miner was receiving black lung benefits when he died; or medical evidence offered by the miner before he died satisfies new eligibility standards. Widows who are receiving benefits and who remarry would not be disqualified from continuing to receive the benefits; and, a widow would be entitled to receive benefits without regard to the length of time she was married to the miner.

Fifth, offsets. The practice of offsetting a miner's Social Security benefits by the amount of black lung benefits would be discontinued.

TURKEY: HERE WE GO AGAIN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last October, the Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Dennis DeConcini, lead a delegation to Turkey to examine human rights issues in that country. While in Diyarbakir, the largest city in the predominantly Kurdish southeast, delegation members visited the offices of the local Human Rights Association [HRA] branch. The delegation had met with HRA leaders in Ankara and the Helsinki Commission has often worked with the HRA and has found its publications extremely useful and reliable.

While meeting with the Commission delegation, HRA leaders explained how the organization's members operated at great risk to their personal safety. HRA members around the country, but especially in the southeast, face constant danger and persecution. Dozens of activists had been threatened, kidnapped, murdered and disappeared with the collusion of security forces. The Diyarbakir HRA branch was the only office in 10 state of emergency provinces allowed to remain open. HRA leaders believed authorities wanted to use the