

THE RETIREMENT OF BRUNO M.
PONTERIO

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to wish great congratulations to Bruno M. Ponterio, who retired on December 22, 1995, after 32 years of dedicated service to the Ridge Street School in Rye Brook, NY.

Mr. Ponterio was honored on December 12, 1995 by generations of students, teachers, families, and friends of the Ridge Street School at a ceremony celebrating his magnificent career. Mr. Ponterio was the school's assistant principal for 7 years and its beloved principal for 25 years. He announced his retirement in June of 1995 but as a testimony to their love and appreciation for his work, school officials, parents, and children appealed to him to stay on until the end of the year.

Marked by a constant dedication to the future of both the Ridge Street School and the children who roam its corridors, Mr. Ponterio has set an example for educators nationwide. For 32 years he has served as a role model, a father figure, a leader, and a friend and it is fitting that the Blind Brook Board of Education has decided to rename the school the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School. I congratulate him on a wonderful career and on behalf of so many in New York thank him for his years of service and guidance.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing him the best of luck in his much deserved retirement. •

THE TRAVELERS AID SOCIETY OF
DETROIT

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Travelers Aid Society of Detroit, MI. The Travelers Aid Society provides many needed and worthwhile services to tens of thousands of residents of Metro Detroit.

Travelers Aid Society of Detroit assists people in crises related to mobility—the homeless, victims of domestic violence, children traveling alone, the physically challenged, and 50,000 travelers each year at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Through their programs of comprehensive case management, including the Homeward Bound Program, TAS has pioneered the "Continuum of Care" concept of helping families and individuals climb out of homelessness. Homeward Bound, begun in 1992, was developed with the collaboration of 38 public and private human service agencies and organizations. To date, more than 500 families have recovered from the effects of homelessness because of the project.

TAS has been a pioneering agency in adopting comprehensive case management for the human services field. Travelers Aid is also the State of Michigan's representative to the Interstate Compact on Runaways, helping to return home some 250 runaway youths each year.

I know my Senate colleagues join me in honoring Travelers Aid Society for

the fine work it has done for people of the Detroit area. •

IN OPPOSITION TO ACTIONS
TAKEN BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, on Saturday afternoon we were all troubled by the announcements that two civilian aircraft belonging to the Brothers to the Rescue, organization had been shot down by a Cuban Mig-29. This event, described by the President and other world leaders as "abominable" and "abhorrent" is yet another signal that business as usual continues in Castro's tyrannical regime.

President Clinton has referred to the attack in the press as, "an appalling reminder of the nature of the Cuban regime: repressive, violent, scornful of international law." I couldn't agree with him more. However, this action requires more than just a rhetorical response. Almost a year ago Senator JESSE HELMS, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had begun work on legislation designed to tighten the embargo and isolate the brutal regime of Fidel Castro. It is time for the Congress to complete action on this bill.

The President announced a series of actions he proposed in response to this unwarranted attack. These included: ensuring that the families of the pilots are compensated; imposing restrictions on Cuban nationals traveling in the United States; suspending United States charter flights into Cuba; and passing the Helms-Burton Act. The Helms-Burton legislation, referred to as the Cuban Libertad Act, includes a number of provisions which would: strengthen international sanctions against the Castro government in Cuba; develop a plan to support a transition government leading to a democratically elected government in Cuba; and enact provisions addressing the unauthorized use of United States-citizen-owned property confiscated by the Castro government.

Mr. President, I am pleased to see that President Clinton has committed to take action on this situation and has decided to support the Cuban Libertad Act. This is a welcome shift in his policy of engagement with Fidel Castro, to include steps taken last year to ease the Cuban sanctions.

Mr. President, the policy of engagement has failed. Therefore, it is time to complete action on the Helms-Burton bill, the Cuba Libertad Act. This is the next step in a long road leading toward releasing Castro's dictatorial ties that have bound the people of Cuba. •

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN
SERVICE MEMBERS

• Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize a courageous group of 1.25 million veterans whose contributions in our

victory in the Second World War have gone for too long largely unnoticed. The military policy at that time, of segregation and exclusion from combat roles, would make one believe that there were no African-American combatants in the war against Nazi Germany.

In late 1944, German forces mounted what would be their final offensive in the Belgian Ardennes. This maneuver, later to gain infamy as the "Battle of the Bulge," pressed into service 2,500 black troops as separate platoons in white companies. Black units, like the 333d Field Artillery Battalion, would also participate as combatants.

These brave young men performed superbly. They were part of the valiant effort to hold off the Germans until help, in the form of General Patton's 3d Army, could defeat the last gasp of the Third Reich.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I feel it is so appropriate that we recognize those soldiers who served their Nation so proudly overseas—despite the second-class treatment they then received here. Specifically I would like to single out a group of 11 soldiers from the 333d Field Artillery Battalion who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our Nation.

It is common knowledge that the battle in Bastogne saw the massacre of American POW's by German troops. The tragedy of Malmedy immediately comes to many minds. The event was well documented and the town's inhabitants erected a monument in honor of the troops who were trying to deliver their town to freedom.

A similar horrible event occurred only 14km away in Wereth. Here the 11 black soldiers who were executed and tortured there, go almost wholly unmentioned in most texts about the fight for Bastogne. Their unit had become bogged down in the mire and mud and had suffered casualties from both artillery and Luftwaffe attacks. Much of the unit was captured. These 11 men escaped on foot, armed with only 2 rifles. In the town of Wereth they found refuge with a Belgian family, but were later captured by German troops. Because they refused to tell the Germans the identities of Allied sympathizers, they suffered a similar fate as their comrades in Malmedy. The Panzer troops first humiliated, then beat, and finally executed the 11 black soldiers.

War crimes investigators had no witnesses to the massacre and the inquiry was ended. The incident was nearly forgotten after the war.

After many years the town of Wereth dedicated a permanent monument to the men who lost their lives to free Belgium and defend liberty.

It is long past time that America too learn of and appreciate the sacrifice of these soldiers. During this Black History Month let us commemorate the supreme effort and sacrifice of the men of the 333d Field Artillery Battalion and all patriotic black veterans who

have answered the call to defend this great Nation of ours. Many faced cruel prejudice at home and in the military, yet they went on to truly distinguish themselves when their country needed them most. May they rest in peace. Thank God for them.●

WILLIAM D. SHAW

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor William D. Shaw of Swartz Creek, MI. On Saturday, March 2, 1996, William will celebrate his retirement from the Swartz Creek School District, marking the end of a career in education that has spanned four decades.

Mr. Shaw received a bachelor of science in economics degree in 1959. He later went on to receive a masters of art in teaching in 1967, and a Ph.D. in curriculum, instruction, and supervision in 1974.

Mr. Shaw's career in education began in 1962 as an elementary school teacher in Concord, MI. Since then, he has had experience in every level of education. He has been a high school and middle school principal. He has served as a professor and adjunct lecturer at Michigan State and Central Michigan Universities. Mr. Shaw began working for Swartz Creek School District as the assistant superintendent for instruction in 1978. He held this position until 1993, when he became the assistant superintendent for instruction and business operations.

Through his membership in professional and civic organizations, and his work for the Swartz Creek School District, William Shaw has been an invaluable asset for Michigan's educational system and his community. I know that my colleagues in the Senate will join me in congratulating William D. Shaw on the great contribution he has made to Michigan's school system.●

DEATH OF DR. HARRY HAMILTON

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today with deep sadness to pay tribute to the life of an outstanding educator and civil rights leader, Dr. Harry Hamilton, who died on Monday, February 5, after a battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Hamilton was most recently Director of the Minority and Disadvantaged Student Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences where he had a positive impact on countless people. In this position, Dr. Hamilton helped to recruit minority students to the agricultural program at the University of Wisconsin. As a distinguished chemist, Dr. Hamilton was also editor of the Madison based *Agronomy Journal*. Dr. Hamilton's reputation was one of the reasons the University of Wisconsin is consistently recognized as one of the top public institutions of higher learning in the world.

Not only was Harry Hamilton an exceptional educator, he was a leader in

race relations in my State of Wisconsin. Dr. Hamilton was one of the founders of the Madison, WI, chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the 1940's, and was also the chapter's president in the 1940's. As a prominent civil rights leader, Dr. Hamilton was also a member of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights in the 1960's and was chairman, in 1963, of the local chapter of the United Negro College Fund. He was an active member in his church, the First Congregational United Church of Christ and was sent as an official delegate to the funeral of Martin Luther King in 1968.

Dr. Hamilton was born in Talladega, AL, in 1907 where he went to college and later taught as a chemistry professor at Talladega College. Dr. Hamilton also attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he earned a master's degree in chemistry in 1935 and a Ph.D. in 1948. Yet, with all of these personal accomplishments, Dr. Hamilton's sense of civic responsibility increased. He was a tremendous role model for anyone who wants to make their community a better place to live.

Dr. Hamilton is survived by his wife of 61 years, Velma, and three children, Harry Jr., Muriel, and Patricia, who, like Dr. Hamilton, have been recognized for their contributions to the community. Both Harry and Velma Hamilton were awarded the Alexander Company's Civic Leadership Award and have been recognized by the Madison Rotary Club with a Humanitarian Service Award for their efforts. The Van Hise Middle School in Madison, WI was renamed Hamilton Middle School in honor of Velma and the school's science lab was named for Harry Hamilton. The Hamilton family has earned each and every recognition they have received and should serve as a powerful example of true public service.

The death of Dr. Harry Hamilton is a loss to all of us. Without his presence it is more important today that we focus our efforts on the things that Dr. Hamilton valued. His commitment to family, the students he taught and mentored, volunteerism, and the cause of civil rights must continue if we are to honor his memory. In this way, his legacy will live on for generations to come.●

SEABEES BATTALION 27

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to commend the great service that was performed by the men of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty Seven in September of 1995 after the tornado that ransacked Great Barrington, MA in May. Their ability to clear massive amounts of debris without damage to nearby civilian residences is worthy of praise. The dedication and hard work exhibited by each of the SeaBees was combined in a solid team effort that succeeded in removing debris and constructing firebreaks in a quick and efficient manner. As a re-

sult, the residents of the Great Barrington area were spared further destruction and loss.

The men of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 27, LCDR A.M. Edgar, EOC Timothy R. Burns, EAC Carl A. Passarelli, EO1 Willard H. Card III, EO1 Harold T. Reinhard, UT1 Mark C. Shea, SW2 James Hughes, BU2 Morris A. Wells, BU1 R.L. Clawson, EO1 John A. Neville, and BU3 Robert Tanner, have displayed skills and capabilities in this aid effort of which they and the Navy can and should be proud.

The commendable efforts of the SeaBees in this endeavor are greatly appreciated by the citizens of South Berkshire County, MA. I wish to publicly express my gratitude before the Senate and pay tribute to their efforts.●

ONE CHILD AT A TIME

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, usually we insert articles in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because we have some specific legislative remedy that the item we insert in the RECORD supports. In December, I read an article in Newsweek by Margaret Crane and cut it out and put it aside. I have just re-read that article. It is the story of one child but really is the story of many children.

I do not know what we should do in terms of policy, other than I know we should be more sensitive to children all over this country who have enormously serious problems.

I am asking that the Crane article be printed in the RECORD, not with the idea that I have any immediate legislative remedy, but because we should be reflecting on this type of need.

The article follows:

[From Newsweek, Dec. 11, 1995]

ONE CHILD AT A TIME

(By Margaret Crane)

The 10-year-old came toward me. She looked like a typical preteen: small-boned with a face like a flower, dark eyes and a tiny turned-up nose covered by freckles resembling sprinkles of nutmeg. Her shoulder-length blond hair was pulled back with a black velvet headband. She started talking animatedly about her friends, her favorite subjects in school and how much she loved to ride a 10-speed bike. This was my first meeting with Mary (not her real name) a year ago.

The more she talked, the less she resembled the child I'd read about who had lived through torment that most of us never experience in our worst nightmares. She entered the juvenile system five years ago. She had been sexually abused by an uncle, her father and her father's friend. Her divorced mother, an attractive woman who is borderline retarded, is now seeing a man whose children may be taken from him by the state. The boyfriend has a history of child abuse documented in a report that is longer than a Russian novel. The child's paternal grandfather molested another of his daughters and served time in prison.

Since Mary was removed from her home, she has been caught in that purgatory known as protective care and passed around like a stack of papers—three foster homes, two residential treatment centers and eight schools.