

people of Madison County and the entire region is enormous. Nellie spent most of his life in public service—or as he called it, “politics”—and he loved every minute of it.

He knew what Tip O’Neill knew, that all politics is local. He was proud to be the Democratic Committeeman in his precinct, proud to be the county board member from his district, and to serve the people of Granite City as their township supervisor.

Nellie was recognized throughout the state by leaders in government, politics, and business as a man with significant power in the state, county and region. People wanting to run for national and statewide office came to Nellie to seek his advice and counsel. I know—I was one of them.

Nellie always used his power to help other people, and his influence can be seen throughout this entire region. As he often said, it was his desire to be firm, but fair.

It was Nellie’s vote on the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, where he had served as Chairman, that helped bring MetroLink light rail to the region. It was Nellie’s willingness to get involved that helped us save Scott Air Force Base and keep the Charles Melvin Price Support Center open in Granite City. And, it was Nellie who pushed me to bring Federal funds “home” for a new Clark Bridge in Alton.

Locally, Nellie’s leadership was responsible for the new county Administration building, and a new county jail in Edwardsville. And, because of his dedication as head of the transit district, we have excellent transit service for the people who need it in Madison County.

And, let’s not forget the Township Building. He was so proud that he was able to bring a new building for the people of Granite City Township—particularly for the senior citizens—they held countless events in it since its opening in 1978.

I guess what I admired about Nellie Hagnauer as much as anything was that Nellie was always Nellie. If he was being inducted into the Softball Hall of Fame, sitting at his desk in his Edwardsville or chairing a county board meeting, he never changed. Not even in a meeting at the State House, or at the White House with President Clinton, or for that matter, needling his friends at a local get-together—Nellie was always Nellie.

The only thing he loved more than public service or politics was his family and friends, in that order. He never forgot where he came from or the people who helped him along the way. We will remember him for who he was, as a public servant, husband, father and grandfather—and as a good friend.

Mr. Speaker, several of my colleagues in the Illinois congressional delegation knew Nellie Hagnauer as well, and I know they join me in asking the other members of the United States Congress to recognize the contributions of one decent, honorable and hardworking man—my good friend, Nellie Hagnauer.

DAVID ANTHONY BERONIO

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on rare occasions there are individuals who so

distinguish themselves over their lifetime that it is appropriate and fitting to take a few moments to recognize them and the contributions they have made and continue to make to the great American experience. David Anthony Beronio of Vallejo, CA, is just such a distinguished American. Let me share a few insights and thoughts on this man who recently celebrated his 75th birthday, a man who has led a life filled with the fascinating spirit of adventure and contributions to his community and country.

As many of my colleagues know, Dave Beronio is a renowned sports reporter, illustrator, and motivational speaker. Over the past 57 years he has honed his combination of crafts into an art form without peer or rival. He is a teller of stories about sports and life which has enriched the lives of countless others.

Picture, if you will, that very special area of the famed Candlestick Park where a few giant white stars are painted. This is alumni corner, but for the die hard fans of the San Francisco Forty-Niners it may as well be the hall of fame. It is the place where the greats of the game are remembered, the hall of famers, all pros and other outstanding players who have made a major impact on the team and the fans. There is only one name on that great wall, Mr. Speaker, one name that was never sewn on the back of a jersey. One name that was not assigned a number in the program. Yet there it is on a giant white star—Dave Beronio.

The early indications of a great reporter showed in Dave Beronio during his high school years in Vallejo where he excelled in academics and sports—especially football, track, and his real passion, boxing. It was during this time that he began working part time for the Vallejo Times Herald, a job that would become full time after graduation and a lifetime vocation for the next 57 years.

World War II interrupted Dave’s budding career and in 1942 he joined his fellow Americans in service to his country. As might be expected in a life such as Dave’s one of his early assignments in the military was to the famed Hollywood Canteen with young starlets of the day such as Veronica Lake and Ava Gardner.

It wasn’t long, however, before Dave was assigned as a gunner on a newly formed B-17 crew and shipped to England to become part of the 94th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force. After completing an extraordinary 35 missions, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. His crew was returned to the States and Dave was assigned to an Army Air Corps base located near Phoenix, AZ.

It was here that he met Katherine Rentinelli of Akron, OH. They were married in 1945, when Dave was discharged. Later that year, he and Kay returned to Vallejo, CA and his job at the Vallejo Times Herald. Together they began a loving family that would eventually include sons David, Ronald, and Barry.

Dave was soon promoted to the position of sports editor and began his now trademarked style of not only reporting on the event but also drawing a sports portrait of not only reporting on the event but also drawing a sports portrait of the week’s outstanding athlete. He retained his athletic talent over the years and became a speed partner in sparing drills with such boxing legends as Joe Louis, Archie Moore, Joey Maxim, and Ezzard Charles. A good reporter as well as a good boxer, Dave

would have these champions sit after the workout for interviews and to be sketched.

That kind of hands-on reporting, Mr. Speaker, is what separated Dave Beronio from his peers. He not only observed, he did. And in doing so, he gained the respect and appreciation of both athlete and reader. He has a unique insight into the mind and emotions of the sports champion, and it has shown in his writing, illustrating, and story telling for over half a century.

Dave Beronio has taken this talent around the globe to Olympic Games, Super Bowls, World Series, and Rose Bowls, and he has always brought the spectacle and feeling home to the reader and listener. He is, after all, a teller of stories.

Dave Beronio illustrations of the sports legends of this century each tell a story. They appeared in numerous national publications and have been lithographed into prized limited editions. Always the lover of community, Dave frequently donates these limited editions to charities for auction where they have raised thousands of dollars.

To this day Dave Beronio remains in demand as a motivational speaker, energizing his audience with the excitement and spirit of his life. He should know, for he has lived life to the fullest.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in wishing the very best to Dave Beronio on his 75th birthday, a man who has given his very best for so many years, enriched the lives of so many, and contributed so much to our American culture.

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS
REPORT ON CHECHNYA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I noticed in the news that President Yeltsin has vowed to go ahead with a trip to Chechnya some time before the Presidential elections in June. As our colleagues are aware, Moscow has tried to reestablish control over the breakaway North Caucasus region by unleashing a brutal war against not only combatants, but also against thousands of noncombatants, Chechen and Russian, alike.

Mr. Yeltsin says that he intends to go to Chechnya despite assassination threats. I truly hope there won’t be any such attempts, but it must be admitted that the people of Chechnya have reason to be bitter about the fate of their homeland. While Chechen irregulars have committed their share of atrocities, there is emerging from Chechnya a frightening picture of the Russian Army degenerating from an organized military force into a band of barely controlled brigands.

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which I am proud to serve as chairman, held congressional hearings on the situation in Chechnya earlier this year. At these hearings, Russian Duma member and prominent human rights advocate Sergei Kovalev described the continuing depredations by the Russian military against civilians. In his words, “45,000 innocent persons” killed in the war is “too high a price to pay for punishing [the late Chechen leader Dzhokar] Dudaev.”

Mr. Speaker, in this connection, I would note that the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe recently received a disturbing report from the well known international humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders, drawing attention to the deteriorating human rights situation in Chechnya. This report, "Civilians Targeted," documented the systematic bombing and killing of civilians by the Russian military in Chechnya, which, according to the report, has actually increased following President Yeltsin's announced peace initiative in March.

I would list a few of the activities engaged in by the Russian military, as witnessed by Doctors Without Borders teams.

Whole villages, including hospitals, schools and mosques, continue to be targeted, in blatant violation of the Geneva Conventions and other international agreements, to which Russia is a signatory.

The Russian military extorts money from Russian civilians in exchange for safe passage out of villages under attack.

Newly secured towns and villages are systematically looted and cattle are either killed or stolen.

Civilians are systematically denied the right to humanitarian assistance and humanitarian relief organizations are denied access to the areas in greatest need, often long after a military offensive is over.

The Russian military has consistently failed to respect the neutrality of hospitals and clinics, both in areas of intense military activity in the center of the country and in the capital Grozny, where the Doctors Without Borders hospital is under regular sniper fire.

These are a few of the blatant violations of accepted rules of warfare and humanitarian conduct cited in the report.

I think we can safely assume that Mr. Yeltsin's advisors have not provided him with a Russian language copy of the Doctors Without Borders report on his army's actions in Chechnya. There certainly have been indications that the President's advisors and military commanders have not been supplying him with entirely accurate information regarding the state of affairs in that war-torn region.

However, I have yet to hear anyone doubt Mr. Yeltsin's personal courage. Perhaps he will leave the secure confines of the Severny airport on the outskirts of Grozny and see what sort of peace his military is promoting in Chechnya.

I wish him a safe and instructive trip.

MEMORIAL DAY, 1996

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day leaves few hearts unmoved in recalling the sacrifices made by brave men and women who died in the defense of freedom and democracy. Memorial Day is not about war or peace, nor is it about a battle or an armistice. Memorial Day is about people—those who have lived, and those who have died.

There are no words to adequately describe the supreme sacrifice made by brave Americans who have died in the defense of our country. Words in the context of why we honor

their memory, pale in comparison to the ultimate deeds that men and women have done for those of us now living in a free world.

What we can do for them, is to sustain the memories of their heroism—with respect, with reverence, and with our heartfelt admiration. Humble words can never repay the debt we owe these brave men and women, yet we can strive to keep faith with them and to uphold their vision of righteousness, which led them into battle and to their final sacrifice. We are, after all, the caretakers of their memory.

The determination and courage shown by countless Americans who have fought and died in battle, is symbolized in a myriad of monuments and memorials, each commemorating the deeds of untold Americans whose remains sanctify the soil throughout the world. Those who have died and those who are still missing deserve our perpetual contemplation.

President Lincoln knew this when he dedicated those hallowed grounds at Gettysburg on that cold November day in 1863.

We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that a nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but they can never forget what they did here.

In World War I, America made the world safe for democracy and helped create a promising new world from the ashes of defeat. In World War II, faced with the single greatest threat to civilization the world had ever known, magnificent young Americans fought to extinguish the flame of tyranny throughout the world. America provided freedom loving people mired in a dark sea of despair, a beacon of hope and faith sustaining their anticipation of victory over oppression.

In Korea and Vietnam, Americans helped stem the tide of totalitarianism, which directly led to the demise of Communism and our ultimate victory in the cold war. Today, America is the guardian of democracy. Americans continue to demonstrate our resolve as the sentinel of freedom in Lebanon, Grenada, the Persian Gulf, Haiti, Somalia and the Balkans.

It is up to us the living, the beneficiaries of their sacrifice, to commemorate the deeds of those whom we confer the epithet of patriot.

Those who have served in combat understand the unique experience of war. Each has seen the devastation of property and the horror of death. Each has experienced the sadness of the loss of a friend and understands the grief of families who have lost a loved one. To this day, many share in the anguish of those who don't know the fate of a friend or a loved one missing in action. We all stand together as comrades in arms.

How can we convey our appreciation for the meaning of this day to those who have never served?

Education connects future generations of Americans with the battles fought by their parents and their grandparents. Each generation must be taught that the willingness of some to sacrifice their lives so that others might live in freedom, is the eternal legacy of all who have honorably served our country in wars past.

For it is this history which teaches us that brave Americans who were willing to give their

lives for freedom and democracy, did so for a cause they considered infinitely more important than life. None volunteered to die. Each volunteered to defend the values which brave men and women have always been willing to die for. Those values passed on to each generation of Americans are to advocate honor, to strengthen the family, and to defend our country and our flag.

Memorial Day is a national day of respect. As we honor the memory of our Nation's veterans and war heroes who are no longer with us, let us pledge that their lives and their sacrifice shall not have been offered in vain, but will be remembered by us all forever.

TRIBUTE TO RON PETERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Ohio. After 30 years of dedicated service delivering the U.S. mail in Port Clinton, Ohio, Letter Carrier Ron "Pete" Peterson is hanging up the mail bag for good. I am especially thankful for Ron's dedication because he has been delivering to my family and friends along Sand Road for almost 28 of his 30 years.

We have often heard that America works because of the unselfish contributions of her citizens. Ron is an Air Force veteran, serving for 7 years. He has continued this service for his country through the United States Postal Service. Over the years, Ron has set the standard for dedication to duty and he is an example to others.

Anyone who knows Ron Peterson knows he is an avid fan of the Buckeyes, Indians, and Cavaliers. His enthusiasm for sports is matched by his knowledge and appreciation of jazz music. He has been extremely helpful to scores of colleagues and residents alike and has always provided positive leadership for the Post Office.

Sometimes the only compensation you get for the extra time and effort put into your career is the thanks and appreciation you receive from the community. By that standard, Ron Peterson is indeed a wealthy man. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending a special thanks to Ron Peterson and recognize the example he has set for others. I know his friends and family are proud of his career and wish him well as he enters this new chapter of his life.

FUNDRAISER ADMITS MIS-HANDLING OF ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INDIAN EMBASSY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 9, 1996, the Baltimore Sun ran an article reporting that Lalit H. Gadhia, a major political