

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 Crops 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 break-away 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.”