

Health [NIH]. This funding is critical for biomedical research and benefits all Americans, as it improves quality of life. In addition to researching treatments and cures for such disease as breast cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease. NIH funding is also used to advance medical devices that will save and enhance lives.

San Diego County is a leader in the field of biomedical research. This region of southern California is known for its advancements in medicine, and increased funding levels are vital to move forward with research that will find cures for diseases. Jonas Salk, the pioneering health researcher, did much of his greatest work at the University of California, San Diego. His development of the first polio vaccine saved countless lives, and spared countless families the crippling disabilities, and even death associated with this disease.

I commend Chairman PORTER in his commitment to NIH research. I am pleased that he joins me in recognizing the important NIH's support to thousands of scientists and research institutions throughout the country.

A TRIBUTE TO SHELTER ISLAND  
POLICE CHIEF L. GEORGE FERRER

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late L. George Ferrer, a selfless, dedicated law enforcement officer who for nearly 20 years served the town of Shelter Island, Long Island as its chief of police.

A 26-year veteran of the Shelter Island Police Department, George suffered a fatal heart attack while hard at work at his desk early on the morning of Thursday, June 27. Despite the quick reactions of Police Officer Jack Thilberg, who administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and Sergeant Jeffrey Brewer that enabled ambulance crews to transport the chief safely to the hospital, George Ferrer passed away at Winthrop University Hospital at 3:09 a.m. on Tuesday, July 2.

With George Ferrer's passing, not only has the community of Shelter Island lost a faithful protector, but Long Island's entire law enforcement community has lost one of its finest members. With an unyielding devotion to the badge he wore, and all that it represents, Chief George Ferrer set an example of professionalism and commitment for the officers of his department, for law enforcement officers everywhere and for the public he served so well.

The example George Ferrer provided will live on because it will be carried forward by men like Shelter Island Police Sergeant Jeffrey Brewer, who served under the chief for nearly 20 years. Delivering the eulogy at his chief's funeral service, Sergeant Brewer talked about the steadfast devotion to professionalism that George Ferrer brought to the job every day and how it shaped him and the other officers.

Though, as chief of police, George was the administrative head of the department, he was not afraid to do the routine police work, whether it was directing traffic or gathering evidence. "George led us past our feelings and emotions and into the trenches. For he was

spit and polished to most—to us he was never afraid to roll up his sleeves and get dirty, to get the job done," Brewer eulogized.

The greatest tribute that could be paid George Ferrer's legacy as chief of the Shelter Island Police Department are the police officers who mentored under his command and took to heart his dedication and who will continue to protect and serve the community. The Shelter Island police officers you see in front of you today are a product of George's legacy. They have all been with me in body and George in spirit since last Thursday morning. They have been away from their families for days on end. When the news came of George's passing, they knew what they had to do. I never told them—I didn't have to. They just knew they had to be spit and polished," Brewer told those who gathered to mourn George's passing and to comfort his family.

It was not just the law enforcement community that appreciated George Ferrer's dedication and commitment. Shelter Island Town Supervisor Huson "Hoot" Sherman described the chief as "very professional, very dedicated to Shelter Island and to the police work on Shelter Island. Whenever we had any kind of emergency or an accident, whenever there was somebody in distress in any way, George was always there on the scene, taking charge of the situation." Part of George Ferrer's duties was to act as Shelter Island's Emergency Management Coordinator during any sort of hurricane or winter blizzard.

Supervisor Sherman praised his ability as a law enforcement officer, but also an administrator, saying that "George ran a very tight department. He did a terrific job, his whole life was wrapped up being the Shelter Island Police Chief." As Supervisor Sherman also recalled, George was a very industrious man who was always working to supplement his police salary, doing carpentry work or selling real estate around the Island.

All who knew George Ferrer praised his dedication to the Shelter Island Police Department, his tireless devotion to the island's residents and to the police officers under his command. As impressive as his commitment to the police force, none of it surpassed George's love for his family. They were always his first consideration. Chief Ferrer leaves behind his wife Shirley, son Christopher and daughters Lori and Danielle, as well as his granddaughter Rebecca. He is also survived by his mother Cecelia Glas and stepfather, Adolph Glas, his brother Robert and sisters Celia and Elisa.

And as the Shelter Island Reporter, Chief Ferrer's hometown newspaper, put it, "We'll miss his professional energy and his enthusiasm, his personal honesty and his fairness with us. We'll miss him as a person. We'd be honored if he misses us when Tuesday mornings roll around."

For his many years of selfless, dedicated service to the community, we all owe Shelter Island Police Chief L. George Ferrer a great debt of gratitude and thanks. May his spirit of public service and professionalism live on in all our hearts. He was a class act and will be sorely missed by all who came to know him personally and professionally across eastern Long Island.

Sergeant Jeff Brewer's entire eulogy speech on Chief Ferrer follows:

To those of you who don't know me, I am sergeant Jeff Brewer of the Shelter Island

Police Department. For the past 19 years and 3 months, I have had the privilege to serve under Chief George Ferrer, first when he was sergeant then as a chief. We have been through a lot together. When I was a "rookie" we laughed as I fumbled over my own two feet. Then as time moved on, much like a teenager feeling his oats, I challenged some of his ways not knowing why. He always got the last word in by saying, "This is my sandbox." Through the years I learned to understand the meaning of that and from that grew a strong respect. The Chief was more like an older brother to be than a boss. We shared the private pain of losing longtime fellow officers and friends to retirement and injuries. Still we remained, Chief Ferrer, Detective Springer, and me. Over the years, oddly as it seems, George and I arrived at an ironic balance; similar to the odd couple, George with his unyielding serious side and me with my more witty approach. This combination seemed to get us through the daily occurrences from the trivial and mundane to the serious and the grotesque. George led us past our feelings and emotions and into the trenches. For he was spit and polished to most, to us he was never afraid to roll up his sleeves and get dirty to get the job done.

The Shelter Island Police Officers you see in front of you today are a product of George's legacy. They have all been with me in body and George in spirit since last Thursday morning. They have been away from their families for days on end. When the news came of George's passing, they knew what to do. I never told them what to do; I didn't have to. They just knew they had to be spit and polish. They spent hours and hours of their own time putting this together. They spent hours practicing every step for today. It had to be right.

I have heard through the grapevine that this is just a big show! They cannot understand! These fine officers and the rest of you in blue know this is no show! This how our family shows our respect to a fellow officer and his family. And it shows how law enforcement is not just a job but rather a way of life and Chief George Ferrer demonstrated it every day.

As in life as we know it, there are beginnings, endings, and new beginnings so let me finish by going back to the beginning. To Shirley and the Ferrer family, I am personally honored and privileged to have served under such a fine leader like Chief L. George Ferrer. We will do our best to keep his legacy of pride and professionalism alive in this department that he so proudly served. God bless the Chief in his new tour of duty.

ROBERT C. NELDBERG

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of this body and the entire Nation the retirement of Robert C. Neldberg. A native of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Mr. Neldberg has been chief executive officer and administrator of the Marquette General Hospital in Marquette, MI, since October 1973.

After studies at Northern Michigan University and in the St. Louis' University Hospital Executive Development Program, Mr. Neldberg began his administrative career in August 1968 when he was hired as the director of personnel and public relations at St.