

But it is Graham's personality, his inner being, that will be most missed after his retirement. The kind of inner strength that caused him to personally care for his wife, Helen, as they fought the terrible disease of Alzheimer's that ended in her death last year.

Commissioner Graham is the soul of agriculture in this state and was proud of it. North Carolinians will miss him in that office.

They will miss a public servant who never took himself so seriously that he could not reach out and grab a slice of the humor of life—even if the joke was on him.

They will miss a man so genuine that he could tell a newspaper columnist this about his concern for farmers:

"These people are hurting. One fellow wrote me that if we could just pay his light bill, he'd try to get by. That's the situation they're in. I'm worried about 'em."

Can a society ask more of those who call themselves public servant?

Jim Graham has served his state and its people with distinction, with honesty, with hard work, and with honor.

He is a gentleman who is also a gentleman. We thank a Kind Providence that it saw fit to place us on the same Highway of Life of James A. Graham, and allowed us to share that life.

HONORING LIEUTENANT STANLEY WILLIAM KONESKY, JR. FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor my good friend, Lieutenant Stanley Konesky for the invaluable contributions he has made to the Branford community. On Thursday, December 16, family, friends, and community members gathered to show their appreciation on the occasion of his retirement from the Branford Police Department.

Stan's outstanding level of commitment and dedication to the Branford community throughout his twenty-eight year career has been incredible. He has been a driving force in community awareness and public safety locally and nationally, striving to give our families better neighborhoods in which to raise our children. His work has had an invaluable impact on our community and we are all grateful.

Rising through the ranks of the Branford Police Department, Stan has served the community in several different capacities. During his first years as a patrol officer, Stan administered crime prevention and patrol deployment grants and created and implemented the Student Awareness School Program—a program recognized by the United States Congress as an exemplary nationwide program. As he continued his career, Stan undertook several projects focusing on the prevention of youth violence, directing effective programs for youngsters throughout Branford. He also continued to focus on discovering ways to find more state and federal support for Connecticut police departments. His devotion to ensuring public safety led to implementing several state and federal grants, such as COPS FAST, an

earlier version of the COPS Universal Hiring Program. His efforts have also included the publication of several articles in leading crime prevention magazines as well as instructional books on crime prevention. Somehow, Stan also found time to volunteer his time on several committees throughout the Branford community: The Board of Education Strategic Planning Team, the Branford School Base Health Program, and the Branford Volunteer Service Committee have all benefitted from his service. He has also served as the President of the Walter Camp Football Foundation and has generously given his time as a coach for youth baseball and basketball leagues. His unique spirit and commitment are reflected in the 10 medals of commendation, 330 letters of appreciation and recognition from the public, a myriad of community service awards, and a US Congressional Recognition Award. Words alone cannot adequately convey just what Stan has been to the Branford community.

Stan's dedication and generosity has truly enriched the Branford community. His diligence and extraordinary hard work has given police departments across the country and many youngsters access to the necessary support to ensure the safety of our communities, our families, and our children. I have had the opportunity to work with Stan on several different projects and the enthusiasm and excitement he has shown is amazing. I would like to extend my personal thanks to him for all the assistance he has given me over the years. For his many contributions, whether professional or volunteer, I rise today to join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating Lieutenant Stanley Konesky on his retirement from the Branford Police Department. I extend my deepest appreciation and very best wishes as he begins a new career and seeks new goals to achieve.

HONORING RAY CHAMPINE FROM MARTIN, TN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ray Champine, a longtime Postal Service Letter Carrier in Martin, TN, who, with no regard for his own safety, entered the burning home of an elderly customer in order to rescue him. While on his route, Mr. Champine was alerted by a smoke alarm and smoke emitting from the eaves of a house that there was a problem. After asking a neighbor to call the fire department, he bravely entered the house and crawled through the thick, black smoke until he found the elderly man near his bed in the back of the house. Although surrounded by the encompassing smoke and struggling to breathe, Mr. Champine dragged the man away from the fire in order to remove him to safety outside the burning home. He smashed through a window hoping it was the backdoor and local rescuers heard the breaking glass and knocked down the door closest to the broken window. Martin Fire Captain Dickie Hart and Police Captain Don Teal were able to bring both men to safety. Martin Director of Public Safety, J.D. Sanders, praised Mr. Champine and other rescuers, saying, "If they hadn't shown up when they did, both men

would probably have died at the back door. As it is, Mr. Champine without a doubt, is a hero."

Mr. Speaker, I also include an article about this heroic deed for the RECORD.

[Volunteer Voices, Feb. 2000]

"... WITHOUT A DOUBT A HERO"—MARTIN CARRIER RISKS LIFE TO SAVE CUSTOMER

Imagine standing in front of a burning building, knowing there's someone inside, and knowing that unless you do something to help, that person is probably going to die.

That's the exact situation Martin, TN City Carrier Ray Champine found himself facing on December 7 of last year. But what he did would definitely fall into the category of "above and beyond the call."

Champine was making his normal deliveries on Oxford Street. He had just put the mail in the box when he heard a high pitched whine.

"I was almost sure it was a smoke alarm, but I couldn't tell where it was coming from," said Champine. "So I went back to the previous house to see if it was coming from there."

As Champine approached Golsby Gatewood's home, he saw a wisp of smoke coming from under the eaves of the house.

"I asked the next-door neighbors to call the fire department, but I knew Mr. Gatewood wasn't real mobile, so I decided to try to help him," said Champine.

After repeatedly calling to Gatewood, Champine finally heard him respond. The front door was unlocked and smoke was beginning to fill the room.

"It was already pitch black inside the house, so I kept calling for Mr. Gatewood," said Champine. "I finally found him near his bed in the back of the house and I tried to help him out the fastest way I could by dragging him out of the building."

But by that time, the fire had spread through the front of the home, blocking the front door. Champine dragged Gatewood to the back of the house then tried to escape by breaking what he thought was the window of the side door.

"The smoke was so thick I didn't realize I was breaking a window that was a few feet from the door," Champine. "If I had known that, I would have just reached out and opened it."

Rescuers who had just arrived on the scene, heard the breaking glass and Martin Fire Capt. Dickie Hart and Police Capt. Don Teal knocked down the door.

Martin Director of Public Safety J.D. Sanders praised Champine's heroic action.

"If Dickie and Don hadn't shown up when they did, both of the men probably would have died right there by that back door. As it is, Mr. Champine is without a doubt, a hero. Without him, there's no question that Mr. Gatewood wouldn't have made it."

Officers on the scene reported that the smoke was so thick in the building that only Gatewood could be seen when the door was opened, even though Champine was standing next to the elderly gentleman.

Champine suffered a cut on his hand from breaking the window, and sustained burns to his face, ears and eyes. He was hospitalized for several days following the incident for severe smoke inhalation.

Postmaster Glenn Shegog added her voice to those who praised Champine.

"Ray is an outstanding employee and a great co-worker and we're all thankful that he's on the road to recovery," said Shegog.

After all is said and done, Champine's only request was a simple one. "I'd really like to find my cap," said Champine. "I lost it somewhere in the house and I'd really like to have it back."

THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL PRICE FESTIVAL, JUNE 2-11, 2000

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 25th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of and for the National Capital Area's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities and their friends.

Since its beginning in 1975, the Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party into a nine-day series of events. On Sunday, June 11, 2000, the Festival will culminate in a large downtown parade and a magnificent Pennsylvania Avenue street fair attended by people of all backgrounds from the District and the region. In 1999, more than 200 contingents marched in the parade; more than 200,000 people attended the street fair in the shadow of the Capitol; and hundreds of vendors and organizations set up stalls, booths and pavilions. The street fair featured more than five hours of local entertainers and national headline performers.

Last year, when I recognized this celebration in the House, it had been 35 years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Yet another year has passed, and despite evidence of pervasive prejudice in employment, Congress has not yet protected sexual ori-

entation from discrimination. Far worse, in the fact of many reports of violence and physical abuse, Congress has not yet enacted protection against abuse solely because of a person's sexual orientation. Congress must pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Congress must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and, now, Congress must pass the Permanent Partners Immigration Act of 2000.

In this new millennium, let us achieve the American goal of eliminating discrimination based on sexual orientation, unite loved ones, celebrate the accomplishments of the Gay and Lesbian Community, and remember those who we have lost.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting the 25th Annual Capital Pride Festival, its organizers, the Whitman-Walker Clinic and One-in-Ten, its sponsors, and the volunteers, whose dedicated and creative energy make the Pride Festival possible. May we truly have "Pride 25."

TAX CREDITS WITHOUT INSURANCE REPORT DON'T WORK: PART 2

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I submitted data (page E247) showing that refundable tax credits to purchase health insurance don't work, unless we accompany the credits with insurance reform.

Yesterday's data on 120 different price quotes for individual and family insurance did not include any follow-up calls to the insurers to see what would happen if there were medical underwriting.

I asked my staff to call 8 insurers in the Los Angeles and Northern Virginia markets which had provided quotes through the Internet service, Quotesmith.com. My staffer confirmed the Internet quoted price and then said, "Oh by the way, four years ago, I had a bout of skin cancer. . . ." You would have thought my staffer had an active case of bubonic plague! the results are listed below.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this small sample experiment shows that refundable tax credits without insurance reform are not worth much. I urge Members interested in this approach to consider the types of reforms included in H.R. 2185.

PRICE QUOTES AFTER MEDICAL UNDERWRITING

Health insurance company	Price before cancer (per month)	Price after cancer (per month)	Response ¹
Los Angeles, California			
Blue Cross of California	\$109	\$501/\$288	A physical is required. Initially, 15-20% increase in rates for pre-existing conditions. when condition specified as cancer, there is a temporary plan that is offered for a period of 5-6 months at \$501, until the actual plan of \$288 has an opening.
Health Net Life Insurance	107	0	Access was automatically denied over the phone once the condition of cancer was mentioned.
CPIC Life	125	0	Access was automatically denied over the phone once the condition of cancer was mentioned.
Aetna US Healthcare	171	0	Only provide coverage through employment.
CIGNA	134	N/A	No physical is required, however there is a set of questions that need to be answered before exact rate can be given.
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA			
Celtic Life	167	167	Do not increase their prices based upon any pre-existing condition. However, they will either include a rider coverage, exclusion clause, or decline coverage.
Reliance Insurer/Ultimate choice Company	113	N/A	Possible chance for increase, however more incline to provide exclusion clause.
Unicare Life and Health Insurance	164	1,2 164	Based upon actual diagnosis there maybe a waiver clause added that will eliminate any sort of payment for conditions related to the cancer for either 2,5, or 10 years after entering the plan.

¹ Responses based upon information from sales representatives not actual underwriters.
² Company may or may not increase fees, based upon doctor's findings and underwriters suggestion.

LETTER OF GRATITUDE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I insert for printing in the RECORD the following letter from Robert and Patricia Arnold of Newport, Vermont expressing their gratitude to the personnel of the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command for taking action to save their son, Nathaniel's, life.

I believe the views of Robert and Patricia Arnold will benefit my colleagues.

NEWPORT, VT,
December 27, 1999.

Admiral [Frank L.] BOWMAN
Director, Dir. Div. of NAVREACT DOE, Washington, DC.

DEAR ADMIRAL BOWMAN, On November 23, 1999, our eighteen year old son, Nathaniel Spencer Arnold, a Seaman in training at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, was admitted to the hospital and near death as a result of a serious illness he had encoun-

tered in the preceding six weeks. Nathaniel had enlisted in the Navy on July 29th, 1999, competed boot camp, and was three weeks into his training at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command. He had graduated from boot camp with academic honors for his division and, as of November 24th, was maintaining a 3.2 average at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command. The significance of his efforts and ability are better understood with the knowledge that he maintained this standing at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command while losing 45 of his normal 150 pounds in the course of battling the illness he had encountered during the preceding six weeks. It is also indicative of the value Nathaniel placed on fulfilling his desire to enter the Navy and to excel at his chosen career.

On November 26, we were contacted by Lt. Callahan, acting in behalf of the Navy and the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, to notify us of the seriousness of our son's illness and to arrange for and make the travel arrangements to get my wife and I down to Charleston. We were informed that due to the seriousness of his illness, the Navy had established a watch for him pending either his recovery or his death. It would

be difficult to detail all the events which have transpired since that eventful day but suffice it to say that despite his prognosis at the time, Nathaniel survived his illness and went on to impress the doctors with his remarkably quick and continuing recovery process. Words can never express the personal meaning to us of Nathaniel's recovery.

Nonetheless, we can express our appreciation to the Navy and the personnel acting in behalf of the Navy for the efforts taken in behalf of Nathaniel and ourselves. This letter is written to express for the record our deep appreciation to the Navy and its representatives at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, South Carolina, for those efforts. It is very plain to us that Nathaniel's life would have been lost but for the efforts of the Navy in securing the medical treatment he received. It is also very plain to us that our presence with Nathaniel also played an important role in his survival of that eventful night of November 26th in which he turned the corner with respect to battling his illness. . . . a presence he would have been denied but for the help we obtained with our travel arrangements through the efforts of the Navy personnel at Naval Power Training Command.