

was engaged by a German tank and company of infantrymen. With his anti-tank weaponry destroyed, Staff Sergeant Choate left a position of safety to search for trapped comrades and to chase the enemy tank, which was by then moving to attack American troops nearby. Grabbing a rocket launcher, Choate singlehandedly attacked the tank, disabling it, and then killed its crew with his pistol. He completed destruction of the German vehicle while under heavy enemy fire by dropping a grenade into the turret. With their firepower rendered useless, the German troops retreated, having been turned back solely through the heroic actions of Staff Sergeant Clyde Choate.

In presenting him with the Congressional Medal of Honor, this country's highest award, in the East Room of the White House on August 23, 1945, President Harry Truman noted that "Staff Sergeant Choate's great daring in assaulting an enemy tank single-handed, his determination to follow the vehicle after it had passed his position, and his skill and crushing thoroughness in the attack prevented the enemy from capturing a battalion command post and turned a probable defeat into a tactical success."

A New York Times story written that day notes that President Truman thanked the medal recipients and commented that their "deeds demonstrated that when leadership was required, no matter what the emergency, it came to the top through the young men of America." How true these words ring today when we think about the young men and women who are defending our country in the battle against a new and frightening enemy.

Leadership rose to the top through Clyde Choate on a daily basis. His political career was born that late summer day in our Nation's capital when the young veteran seized his opportunity to lobby at the highest level and expressed to President Truman his concerns about the coal industry in southern Illinois. Perhaps, President Truman suggested, the young Clyde Choate should run for public office. The very next year, Clyde was a candidate for the Illinois House of Representatives and won. He took up residence in Union County's seat and kept it warm for the next 30 years. In that three-decade span, he served as both minority and majority leader of the Illinois House many times.

I remember State Representative Clyde Choate. He was passionately committed to southern Illinois but could always find common ground with his colleagues from the ethnic neighborhoods of our State's biggest cities. His common sense and great sense of humor made him a trusted leader and favorite friend of Democrats and Republicans alike. After leaving the Illinois General Assembly, Clyde Choate became a strong voice for Southern Illinois University.

Last year when I visited southern Illinois, my friend Clyde Choate came to

my town meeting. Though illness had dimmed his vision, nothing could dim his insight. He pulled me to the side and in his characteristic style whispered into my ear about politics, the President and our national agenda. His title was gone but his passion for the important issues of our time was undiminished.

Clyde Choate was a soldier for our great nation and a fighter for the great State of Illinois. We have benefitted tremendously from his dedication, his drive and above all, his leadership. He will be sorely missed by the people of Illinois and, most especially, by his neighbors and friends in Union County, all of whom he so tirelessly served.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEAFORD, DELAWARE FIRE DEPARTMENT

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on November 10th, 1901, several leading citizens of Seaford, DE met in the Town Council room to discuss the organization of a fire company. They understood what we are so very mindful of today, that local firefighters are a key part of our first and best defense against disaster.

By the end of November 1901, there were more than 50 members of the new Seaford Volunteer Fire Department, and W.H. Miller had been elected to serve as its first president. The first chief, T.H. Scott, was elected in early December, and soon after led the company on its first fire response on December 18th, 1901, at a building that was both a store and a home on Seaford's High Street.

The Seaford firefighters used hand-drawn hose reels and ladder trailers until 1921, when the first fire engine was purchased. It is worth taking note that Government money helped buy that first engine, a reminder that a public investment in the fire service is necessary and appropriate. This partnership is all the more important 80 years later, when we ask our firefighters to respond to such a range of threats and dangers.

Today, the Seaford Volunteer Fire Company fleet includes four Pierce fire engines, an aerial truck, two ambulances, a rescue truck, a brush truck, a utility truck and a van, as well as "Old Number 4," a 1948 Seagraves used for fire prevention programs. Four paid ambulance attendants now serve the community, with more than 50 volunteer firefighters still ready to answer the call when their neighbors need them, and 50 more volunteers working in support of the Department.

As we honor the heroes of September 11th, including so many members of New York's Bravest, we stand in prayerful wonder and immeasurable gratitude for what firefighters sacrifice and risk on our behalf. They are, truly, the best of neighbors and the best of citizens.

The Seaford Volunteer Fire Department has been a part of that great tradition for 100 years, and on behalf of the people of my state, and on behalf of the United States Senate, I am proud to extend congratulations to Chief Steve Mayer, President Rich Toulson and all the men and women who have kept the Department and the community strong into a second century of service. Again, we are very proud, and we are deeply grateful.●

##### CONGRATULATING BARBARA ELY RITTER ON 30 YEARS' FEDERAL SERVICE WITH THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

• Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate an exceptional Federal employee and friend, Barbara Ely Ritter, who on October 18 of this year will complete 30 years of Federal service with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mrs. Ritter is currently Chief of Budget Execution for the USFWS here in Washington, D.C. But her career extends back to 1971 when, as she tells it, as a newly arrived "Cheechako" in Anchorage, Alaska, confronting an extremely tight job market, she was faced with a choice between two career paths: night clerk in a liquor store or temporary clerk/typist with the USFWS. Fortunately for the Service and for the taxpayers, Mrs. Ritter chose the latter path.

Thus began a career that has taken her from Alaska to New Mexico to North Carolina to Washington, D.C. to Oregon, and back again to Alaska and the District of Columbia. In each transfer Mrs. Ritter has moved into positions of greater and greater responsibility, establishing along the way a reputation for getting things done and done right. Indeed, she is known in the Service as one of the "go-to" people on budget matters. In addition, she has chosen to share her experience and knowledge with up-and-coming USFWS managers and budget specialists by mentoring and instructing prospective managers through the Service's "Stepping Up to Leadership" program.

She is a regular lecturer at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepardstown, WV, as well as co-developer of the NCTC's course of budget instruction. In addition, in her various management positions Mrs. Ritter has effectively implemented the Federal Government's oft-stated hiring goals of diversity and quality in its workforce. As an example, she personally led efforts to hire the first visually impaired employee in the USFWS Portland, OR, office—an employee who is, herself, coming up on 10 years' service with the USFWS.

Our nation's future depends to a large degree on the quality and professionalism of the Federal employee. Oft-maligned unjustly, the Federal employee is the person who, ultimately, has to get the job done for America.

Barbara Ely Ritter's 30-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and her inspiring rise from temporary employee to division chief, stands as a vivid example of what our dedicated, hard-working, professional Federal employees are capable of.●

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND DOCTOR  
FREDERICK GEORGE SAMPSON

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to the achievements of a beloved religious leader, heroic civil rights advocate, inspiring preacher and dedicated father from my home State of Michigan, Reverend Doctor Frederick George Sampson.

For the past 30 years, my home town of Detroit has been able to claim Reverend Sampson as one of its own. However, his deep faith, keen intellect, and concern for others enabled him to touch the lives of countless people the world over.

Born in Port Arthur, TX, Reverend Sampson's insatiable thirst for knowledge compelled him to earn three bachelor's degrees, two master's degrees, a doctor of divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary as well as certificates in economics and medicine. In addition, three colleges awarded him honorary degrees.

While he was indeed a man of learning, Reverend Sampson was also a man of action who sought to integrate his education and faith into all he did. His learning and faith could be heard in his powerful sermons. Such was the influence of these sermons, that *Ebony Magazine* twice named Reverend Sampson as one of the Nation's "Greatest Black Preachers in America."

Central to all the Reverend's work was his untiring advocacy on behalf of the civil rights movement. A close aide to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. Sampson helped organize the 1965 voting rights march in Montgomery, AL, and he helped write and edit many important speeches given during the early days of the civil rights movement. In addition, he was a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as well as a former President of the Detroit branch of the NAACP. Much of the success of the civil rights movement has been due to the untiring efforts by people of faith, such as Reverend Sampson, who reminded us about the dignity and worth of all people regardless of their race, creed or gender.

After serving two decades in various churches throughout the nation, Reverend Sampson came to Detroit to serve as Senior Pastor at the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. During his tenure as pastor, this parish of 5,000 served as a beacon of hope to the entire community. Tabernacle Church cares for the body and mind as well as the soul, and Reverend Sampson deserves much of the credit for this. The church offers computer training, GED

tutoring, runs a soup kitchen, administers a food pantry and among other things has a scholarship program in addition to its services and Bible studies.

As one who early in his life deferred a career in medicine to serve God as a preacher, Reverend Sampson was able to use his role as a minister to increase awareness about health matters. Besides speaking extensively about health and spirituality, Reverend Sampson was able to display considerable courage in his personal life when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. After this diagnosis, Reverend Sampson and his daughter Freda sought to highlight the threat that prostate cancer poses, particularly to African American males, by teaming with the American Cancer Society and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to raise awareness of this disease.

Reverend Sampson has been a community and spiritual leader for nearly five decades. I have been able to witness, firsthand, his passionate oratory, his love of his Lord and his commitment to helping others. Reverend Sampson touched the lives of all who met him. I know my Senate colleagues join me in commemorating the life of Reverend Doctor Frederick George Sampson, and in offering their condolences to his son Pastor Frederick Sampson III, his daughter Freda and his extended family.●

NATIONAL BUSINESS WOMEN'S  
WEEK

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, this week, for the 73rd year, our nation will commemorate National Business Women's Week. Since it was first observed in 1928, the event has been sponsored by Business and Professional Women, (BPW)/USA as a national tribute to all working women. It has helped increase awareness of the continuing challenges that working women face, and has highlighted their many successes that have strengthened our nation.

With well over 60 million women in the American labor force, including more than 70 percent of women with children, and an increasing percentage of women who help care for an elderly relative, the issues that challenge working women must be priorities for all of us, from balancing responsibilities within our own families to our debates on national and, indeed, multi-national policy. And, as has been the case for all of the 73 years that we've had National Business Women's Week, we start from a position where there is good news and bad news; we've come a long way, and we have a long way to go.

In 1999, there were nine million women-owned firms, representing 38 percent of all American businesses, a 103 percent increase in just over 10 years; and the rate of growth for women-owned businesses in America is nearly three times faster than the overall rate. Women-owned businesses

are also as financially secure and credit-worthy as other firms, and, in fact, are more likely to stay in business.

Yet, even with that powerful place in our economy, women entrepreneurs still have lower levels of available credit than their male counterparts. And as for employees, women still face a wage gap; for every dollar earned by men in 1998, women earned an average of 73 cents. The gap is even wider for women of color, and it gets worse as the workers get older, presumably progressing in their careers.

In the highest echelons of the business world, the Fortune 500, the good news is that the number of women corporate officers has increased by 37 percent over the past five years; the bad news is that the total number of women officers is still alarmingly low. The number of women in the highest officer positions, like CEO, president and high-ranking vice presidencies, has increased by 113 percent since 1995, but that still translates into just 114 women in those jobs, or about five percent of top office holders.

We've seen similar progress, with corresponding long ways to go, in women working in government and higher education. In my State last year, we elected our first woman Governor—a Governor, I might add, who is also a small business owner. While we rightly celebrate her victory, she was just the 11th of 12 American women ever to have been elected to that office outright. Here in the Senate, we have seen progress—with a record 13 women currently serving as U.S. Senators—but we still cannot call it success. And in academia, too, although some numbers are getting better, some problems persist, including what the American Association of University Professors described as substantial disparities in salary, rank and tenure.

And so, as we approach National Business Women's Week, we have some work to do. Achieving equity on the job is a process, and it proceeds not on an isolated track but with almost constant overlap with policies that affect home and family life, from providing adequate health care to combating domestic violence, from meeting the needs of our young children to responding to the needs of our aging parents. As a national interest, work and family exist in partnership.

We celebrate the progress and contributions of working women in America, recognizing that our prosperity—as well as the full expression of our values and national character—depend upon women having the opportunity to participate fully in our economic life. We are not there, but we are inspired by the women who continue to lead the way, and during National Business Women's Week, we are reminded to honor their uniquely valuable contributions to the strength of our economy and our society, and to the promise of our future.●