

Battlefield, he moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1972. Bob has been the Chief Historian at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park ever since.

After nearly 30 years of work, his reputation is largely based on two things: his prolific career as a writer and his work as a battlefield preservationist. Bob's first published article appeared in 1973. Since then he has produced almost a dozen books, most of them devoted to the history of individuals and sites associated with the Civil War battles in the East. His published articles, book reviews, and related material number in the hundreds.

He also has considerable experience and success as a Civil War battlefield preservationist. In the 1980's he was a co-founder and vice-president of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites—a group that has evolved from an earnest local organization that met in its members' living rooms into a powerful national presence that saves thousands of battlefield acres annually. Bob has been especially active in protecting historic acreage around Fredericksburg, where the size of the national park increased significantly during his tenure, helping maintain the integrity of these hallowed battlefields and preserving our history for future generations.

I recently had the distinct privilege of viewing the battlefield site in Fredericksburg with Bob. His insight and passion for his work left me captivated. His riveting stories of the small events that turned the tide and determined the final outcome of this battle left me feeling as if these events were actually unfolding before my eyes. It is this zest that Bob has brought to the Park Service for the last thirty years that will have an impact for generations to come. His legacy will be to have passed this knowledge and appreciation to scores of other Americans, who, in turn, will pass it along to their loved ones. Nearly one half of the country's Civil War battlefield parks presently have historians who learned their trade at Fredericksburg while Bob was the chief historian. In retirement his influence will carry on. The Park Service, and indeed our nation, will miss his service.

I would like to wish my friend the very best upon his retirement from the National Park Service.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Fairness Act, which makes an essential change to the provisions of the September 11th Victim Compensation fund in order to justly compensate the thousands of families whose loved ones died in the attack on our nation. Specifically, this legislation will repeal the collateral compensation provision of the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund. The current provision requires the Special Master to reduce the amount of federal compensation by the amount of other compensation the family has received, including life insurance and pension benefits. This provi-

sion resulted in unintended consequences that will negatively affect many of the victims' families.

Our Nation is faced with a difficult challenge. Thousands of American families are trying to recover from the horrible loss of their loved ones on September 11th. As a Congress, we have pledged our support to these families, including providing compensation to them for the tremendous sacrifice made by their loved ones. We did this because we recognized that our assistance was essential in helping families recover.

However, the tragic events of this day left us in uncharted territory and we moved forward quickly as a Congress to enact laws to help these families. We must be sure that what we enacted in the days immediately following September 11th provides the best assistance possible to these families who have suffered so much.

The September 11th Victims Compensation Fund was created in the Air Transportation Safety and Stabilization Act, which was enacted on September 22, 2001. This was a mere 11 days after our country suffered the deadliest attack in its history. The Victim Compensation Fund was designed to aid these families fairly and justly. Unfortunately, the full implications of the collateral compensation provision in this fund have only recently become clear. As the regulations of the fund are developed and families receive compensation estimates, many are realizing that they will receive little if any federal support.

I do not believe that this is what Congress intended. Congress created this Fund to compensate families for their losses on September 11th. But because of a provision that reduces the total compensation by the amount of pension benefits and life insurance received, the very families we set out to help have the potential to receive nothing from the Nation's fund. That is not only unfair but also unacceptable. The Victim Compensation Fund inadvertently created a loophole and it is our responsibility to correct it.

The men and women who purchased life insurance or accrued pension funds did so to provide for the future of their families. We must properly and justly compensate families for the sacrifice that their loved ones made for our country. We cannot turn our back on our fellow Americans.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUDY RUDIBAUGH

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Rudy Rudibaugh and recognize his contributions to this nation. Now a resident of Parlin, Colorado, Rudy began his service as a sailor during World War II when he joined the Navy and served in the Pacific Theatre. During his tour, Rudy was involved in five allied invasions, including the invasion and subsequent liberation of the Philippines.

Rudy was assigned to Underwater Demolition Team 10, serving as a "frogman" or com-

bat swimmer. As a member of the team, Rudy was a demolition expert assigned to demolish obstacles that would prevent the landing of allied forces on Japanese controlled islands. Rudy's exploits as a frogman were recently brought to light by the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. A recent surprise ceremony highlighted a mission on the island of Peleliu in the Palau Island Nation chain. It was here that Rudy, along with several UDT demolition experts, cleared underwater obstacles and traps opening a path for occupation of the island by United States Marine forces.

Although Rudy will not brag, he was recently awarded the Bronze Star for his service as a frogman, as well as the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. The surprise ceremony took place at the Colorado Outfitters Convention in Gunnison, Colorado. Rudy and his wife Deb, currently reside in the town of Parlin, where he serves as a local outfitter.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Rudy before this body of Congress and thank him for his dedicated service during the war. If it were not for servicemen such as Rudy, America would not enjoy the many freedoms that we have today. He served selflessly in a time of great need, bringing credit to himself and to this great nation. Thanks Rudy for your service.

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READY, WILLING, AND NO LESS  
ABLE: VETERANS WITH PHYSICAL CHALLENGES WINNING IN  
THE COMPETITION FOR LIFE

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, despite the tragedy of September 11th, last year's Veterans Braintrust, an event that has become one of the traditional highlights of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference was a somber occasion. As we commenced the event at a time when our country had experienced one of the more tragic events in its history. We paused for a moment to remember those who lives were lost as we convened for this family affair. While we didn't know what kind of turn out we would get after the terrible disaster we call "911." We want to thank veterans for coming and always giving such tremendous support and participation for veteran's issues and concerns nationally. But last year especially we really appreciated veteran advocates coming that morning.

This Braintrust brought veterans and their families together from throughout the country and gave us an opportunity to discuss critical issues affecting veterans with physical disabilities such as voting rights; wheelchair accessibility; community based care; family support; reasonable employment and expanding entrepreneurial opportunities. Minister Clyde E. Sims of the True Light Baptist Church gave the invocation and I had the very special honor to bring up Ms. Melba Moore, Recording Artist and Tony Award winner who sang