

error at first base, many fans remember Gary's clutch hitting when he was needed most. In the end, Gary had his World Series championship and ring.

Mr. Speaker, the baseball writers across the country paid tribute to Gary's career by bestowing on him the highest honor in professional sports. To be a member of the Hall of Fame means more than just another accomplishment; it means having the ability and dedication to rise above the hundreds of other noteworthy players and become one of baseball's greatest players of all-time. In the 100 year history of American baseball, players have come and gone. However, baseball fans, young and old were thrilled to watch Gary Carter play the game he loved throughout his 19-year playing career. His teammates bestowed upon him the nickname "The Kid." A fitting tribute to a man always eager to play an adult sport with a childlike enthusiasm.

Mr. Speaker, Gary Carter becomes the newest member of baseball's Hall of Fame on July 27, 2003. Congratulations to, "The Kid."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: FRED LEE
HOWARD, JR.

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the life and passing of Colonel Fred Howard of Grand Junction, Colorado. Colonel Howard served in the United States Air Force with the honor, courage and integrity that Americans have come to expect from our nation's military. Sadly, Fred passed away in November and, as his family mourns his loss, I would like to pay tribute to his lifetime of service before this body of Congress and this nation.

The day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Fred enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an Air Force Cadet and served in Europe during World War II. During the war, Fred served as a pilot, dropping paratroopers behind enemy lines. Fred received numerous medals of commendation for his efforts including the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star. At the age of 22, Fred was promoted to the rank of Captain, where he continued to exhibit the leadership and courage that became his hallmark.

After the war, Fred continued to contribute his leadership and expertise to the United States Air Force. During the Korean War, Fred was called once again into active duty. During the Vietnam War, he served as Director of Scheduling, where his responsibilities included the "in-air" refueling of all aircraft entering and exiting Vietnam. Upon retiring from the military, Fred served as an inspector for the Federal Aviation Administration, inspecting all domestic airlines in the Western United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is with earnest respect that I recognize the life and passing of Colonel Fred Howard before this body of Congress and this nation. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife Mildred, son Fred, daughters Cheryl, Susan and Betty, and his many grandchildren. Colonel Howard served our country with great honor and distinction through a period of global uncertainty, and his remarkable courage serves as an inspiration to us all. His loss will be deeply felt and grateful nation will be forever in his debt.

SUPPORTING H.R. 163, THE
UNIVERSAL NATIONAL SERVICE ACT
OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am an original cosponsor of the Rangel/Conyers bill, the Universal National Service Act of 2003 (H.R. 163), which would reinstate a national draft. I would like to explain my support for this legislation.

I ardently oppose war with Iraq. The evidence simply does not exist to warrant sending our nation's young people to sacrifice their lives in Iraq. I believe America ought to be an advocate for peace, not imperialism.

Yet, war is on the horizon. The President is intent on invading Iraq whatever the cost. Thanks to the President's brand of hotheaded bully diplomacy, war with North Korea may also be imminent. The only real question that remains is whether or not Americans are ready and willing to bear the cost?

I commend my colleagues Mr. RANGEL and Mr. CONYERS for their wisdom in authoring this bill. I'm honored to be an original cosponsor.

This bill requires all young Americans—men and women between 18 and 26—to perform a two year period of national service in a military or civilian capacity as determined by the President. For those who conscientiously object to war, the bill assures that any military service would not include combat. Otherwise, there would be no preferences, no deferments, no chance for the well-off or the well-connected to dodge military service for their country, as did our President.

Reinstituting the draft may seem unnecessary to some. But, it will ensure all Americans share in the cost and sacrifice of war. Without a universal draft, this burden weighs disproportionately on the shoulders of the poor, the disadvantaged and minority populations.

It is my understanding that out of the 435 Members of this House and the 100 members of the Senate, only one—only one—has a child in active military service. Who are we to know the pain of war when we ourselves will not directly bear the brunt of that action? It won't be us mourning the loss of a child or loved one. Maybe some of you in this Congress would think twice about voting for war in Iraq if you knew your child may be sent to fight in the streets of Baghdad?

If our nation is to go to war, it is only right that all Americans share in the sacrifice of war. It is time we truly comprehended the consequences. I urge my colleagues to support a universal draft which I believe will make votes for war much more real for many of my colleagues.

INTRODUCTION OF CIVIC PARTICI-
PATION AND REHABILITATION
ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Civic Participation and Rehabilitation Act of 2003, along with additional cosponsors. At a time when our Nation faces record low voter participation, this legislation

represents an historic means of both expanding voting rights while helping to reintegrate former felons into our democratic society.

The practice of many states denying voting rights to former felons represents a vestige from a time when suffrage was denied to whole classes of our population based on race, gender, religion, national origin and property. Over the past two centuries, these restrictions, along with post-Civil War exclusions such as the poll tax and literacy requirements, have been eliminated. It is long past time that these restrictions be relegated to unenlightened history.

Unfortunately, the United States continues to stand alone among the major industrialized nations in permitting an entire category of citizens, former felons, to be cut off from the democratic process. It is time that the United States restored these fundamental rights and join the community of nations in this regard.

Denial of suffrage to these individuals is no small matter. A recent study by the Sentencing Project reveals that some 3.9 million Americans, or one in 50 adults have currently or permanently lost their voting rights as a result of a felony conviction. This includes an estimated 1.4 million African American men, or 13 percent of the total population of black adult men, a rate seven times the national average. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia prohibit inmates from voting while incarcerated for a federal offense; 32 states prohibit felons from voting while they are on parole and 28 of these states exclude felony probationers as well. In fact, in six states that deny the vote to ex-offenders, one in four black men are permanently disenfranchised. Hispanic citizens are also disproportionately disenfranchised.

In addition to diminishing the legitimacy of our democratic process, denying voting rights to ex-offenders is inconsistent with the goal of rehabilitation. Instead of reintegrating such individuals into society, felony voting restrictions only serve to reaffirm their feelings of alienation and isolation. As the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals has concluded, "if correction is to reintegrate an offender into free society, the offender must retain all attributes of citizenship." The purpose of correctional facilities throughout our history have been to make an offender fit to re-enter society. We should honor this conviction that once a felon has served his/her time, the he/she is ready to be a functioning member of society. Voting then must be allowed, as the most basic constitutive act of citizenship.

It is even more important for this legislation to pass when we look back at the 2000 election in Florida. In that election 400,000 ex-felons were denied their right to vote. In an election where it came down to 537 voters, this is a decisive number. Instead of contracting the voting pool we should be expanding it so that our elected officials can more accurately resemble the wishes of the people. Our nation has slowly seen the enfranchisement of all of its citizens. Though it has been a slow process we have always moved forward, giving more and more citizens the right to vote. This bill is merely the next step in the expansion of the electorate. And it is a step we must take.