Fred Amore, Commander of the Suffolk County Veterans of Foreign Wars and Dorothy Hol-
land. Mrs. Holland and Commander Amore were pen-pals while he was serving in the 
Vietnam War. They remain close friends today.

WARTIME LETTERS A LIFETIME BOND
DETENTION OFFICER, VIETNAM SOLDIER HAVE FORGOTTEN LASTING RELATIONSHIP
(By Rob Morrison)

When Fred Amore, Commander of Suffolk County Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), 
looked into the crowd during the Cow Harbor Day Parade last weekend, he was on the 
search for the face of a friend who has stood by him through years of war and peace.

As a teenager, that year, Dorothy Holland, 
75, of East Northport stood along the parade route waiting to catch a glimpse of Com-
mander Amore, 55, also of East Northport, 
marching along. Seeing him brought back many memories of her years working for the 
Northport-East Northport School District and the year-long period she and Commander 
Amore were pen-pals while he was serving in the Vietnam War.

The two met in 1965. Mrs. Holland had just 
begun her tenure at the old Northport High 
School, on Middlefield Road, as the detention 
officer. It was during the spring of that 
year when Commander Amore, then 
only a teenager, was given detention for 
cutting out of school. It was a prank, he said, 
but it was enough to get him a one-year 
detention sentence.

"From that day on Fred and I were friends," 
Mrs. Holland told The Observer during an interview in her home Tuesday.

While the two remained friends, Com-
mander Amore graduated the next year, in 
1966, and attended Suffolk Community Col-
lege. But in the spring of 1967 Commander Amore received his draft notice. On June 13, 
1967, he went into the United States Army as an 
Infantryman. Before he left, she went to 
all the boys "who were leaving," Mrs. 
Holland said. "I had tears in my eyes and I said "I will write to you but you have to write to me."

Commander Amore returned home from 
boot camp for Thanksgiving in 1967, then he 
left for Vietnam December 10 of that year. That Christmas, knowing he would not have 
their parents or commandant Amore arrived 
from the war front to see her again. She knew how to keep your mo-
tive up and keep you going.

But her fears of the worst became stronger 
when I started getting worried."

"I remember saying to Walter, my hus-
band, 'Oh, he'll never write,'" Mrs. Holland 
said.

But Commander Amore said he became 
very homesick during his time in Vietnam, 
especially during the holidays. Commander 
Amore wrote as often as he could from his 
military post in Soc Trang on the Me Kong 
Delta.

"He only said 'I'm so lonely' and 'It's a 
horrible war,'" Mrs. Holland said. "That's 
when I started to worry."

But his fears of the worst became stronger 
when she stopped getting letters from him. It was February 1968 and Commander Amore was in a battle, attempting to 
hold off the North Vietnamese during the 
Tet Offensive. Commander Amore said the 
three-month ordeal mostly took place at 
night and from his few service-
men and women to live in their foxholes.

"We knew it was coming," Commander 
Amore said. "It was all over the constantly 
being bombarded by mortar attacks. The 
South Vietnamese military was supposed to 
be protecting the base and the members of the 
1st Aviation Battalion, of which he was a 
part, but the Vietnamese soldiers were 
attacked, however, the South Vietnamese 
dropped their weapons and fled, leaving Com-
mander Amore and his colleagues stranded. 
He had been on base for 90 days and still did 
not have a weapon.

"I had to wait for someone to leave or die 
to get a weapon," Commander Amore said. While many soldiers on base were killed 
during the offensive, Commander Amore said 
all of the 25 men in his unit survived.

Commander Amore spent several months 
hoping he would live to see his home again. In 
the meantime, Mrs. Holland waited to hear 
news from Commander Amore and the 
rest of the Northport High School graduates 
she knew were in Vietnam.

"I knew the feeling of the people before 
I left and I knew the feeling when I came 
back," he said. "I didn't want to talk about it."

It was not until 1991 when Commander 
Amore decided to get involved in veterans 
activities and build up pride for his service 
during the war. He joined VFW Post 9263 in 
Eliwood and Commack. In June, he was ap-
dpointed by the Suffolk County VFW to 
VFW after serving as commander of his own 
post for five years.

"I had no intention of joining the VFW 
when I got out," Commander Amore said. "I didn't want any part of it for a lot of reasons.

He always remembered, however, the let-
ters of support that Mrs. Holland wrote him. 
Despite the nationwide disdain for the war, 
Mrs. Holland was a proud supporter of the 
boys who left high school to fight in Viet-
nam.

"The letters would pick you up," Com-
mander Amore said. "That would get you to 
the next mail call. I really figured when I 
went into the service I wouldn't hear from 
her again. She knew how to keep your mo-
tive up and keep you going.

"While working at the high school I met 
the greatest students," Mrs. Holland said. "I 
haven't forgotten them and they haven't 
 forgotten me. That school was the happiest part 
of my life."

THE UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN 
CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. ZOE LOFGREN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 21, 2003
Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, imagine being a 9-year-old girl trying to escape abusive par-
ents that eventually abandon you. Imagine 
having no choice but to escape to America 
with relatives who eventually get caught and 
left to fend for themselves in a complex im-
migration system.

Imagine that family being detained for 
over 6 months in a juvenile jail as you are 
represented by an unscrupulous attorney who 
doesn't even care to show up to your immigra-
tion hearing, leaving you to defend yourself 
with no knowledge of the law or any adult 
knowledge of the immigration process. Then 
Imagine finding out that the immigration judge 
orders you to leave the country and you have nowhere to go, nobody to help you, 
and through it all, you're all alone.

This was the plight of Esther—a Honduran vic-
tim of abuse, abandoned by her parents and 
relatives, and left to face a complex immigra-
tion system at the tender age of 14.

The sad reality is that Esther is not the only 
child that has suffered this terrible fate. This is 
the plight of many young girls and boys who 
travel hundreds and sometimes thousands of 
miles alone in seek of refuge in the United 
States. Some of these children are treated in 
a manner that our country usually reserves for 
criminals, not helpless victims, like fourteen-
year-old Esther.

It is true that Congress last year transferred 
care, custody, and placement of unaccom-
panied alien children from the Department of 
Justice to the Department of Health and 
Human Services to improve the treatment chil-
dren receive when encountered at our bor-
ders. This is certainly a step in the right di-
rection and I commend the Department of 
Health and Human Services for taking impor-
tant steps to improve the care and custody of 
these vulnerable children. Unfortunately, 
Health and Human Services inherited a sys-
tem that relied upon a variety of detention fa-
lisies to house children and was given little 
legislative direction to implement their new 
responsibilities. As a result, some children 
from repressive regimes or abusive families 
continue to fend for themselves in a complex legal 
system without professional counsel.

Now is the time for new legislation to com-
plete the positive steps we have already taken 
to ensure that unaccompanied alien minors 
are not locked up without any legal help or 
adult guidance. This is why I have introduced 
the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act 
of 2003. It will ensure minimum standards for 
the care and custody of unaccompanied chil-
dren and require a smooth transfer of minors 
from the Department of Homeland Security to 
the Department of Health and Human Ser-
VICES. It will also ensure that children receive 
adult and legal guidance as they navigate 
through our immigration system.

Mr. Speaker, no child should be left to fend 
for herself in a complex immigration system 
that even you and I would fear. We need to 
pass the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protec-
tion Act. I urge this body to swiftly consider 
this important legislation.

FAREWELL TO CHARLIE ‘‘CHOO- 
CHOO’’ J. JUSTICE

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Ms. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to 
pay respect to one of the most distinguished 
athletes in North Carolina's history. Last Fri-
day morning, October 17, 2003, North Caro-
olina bid farewell to Charlie "Choo-Choo" Jus-
tice, who passed away at the age of 79.

The people of North Carolina remember 
Charlie from his days of playing football at 
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 
from 1946–1949. In his four seasons Charlie 
scored 234 points, accounted for 64 touch-
downs, and rushed for 2,634 yards. In 1948, 
and 1949, Justice was runner up for the 
Heisman Trophy, which recognizes the best 
college football player in America. Many peo-
l soaking Charlie play say that he was the 
most exciting football player they have ever 
seen.

After college, Charlie went on to play pro-
fessional football from 1950–1954 with the