

In some cases, servicemen and women were sold life insurance policies with low benefits and premiums as high as fourteen times the amount available to every enlisted person under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program. In other cases, they were sold investments that have all but disappeared from the civilian markets because they can rob investors of years of earnings. But some salespersons found a niche outside of the public mainstream to sell these disreputable investments on our military bases.

It should be noted that there are many up-standing financial and insurance companies that sell very worthwhile investment and insurance products to military personnel and their families. They should be applauded for the fine job that they do in helping our military members and their families. This bill is targeted at the few who abuse the system and prey upon our military.

This bill, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, will stop these practices by targeting the bad actors, adding much-needed transparency and communication between federal and state agencies. This bill clarifies confusing jurisdictional issues between DoD and state regulators, allowing regulators to better enforce state and federal law on military bases. It would create a registry to track investment advisors, brokers, dealers, and insurance salespersons, and let bases know when a suspicious salesperson has walked through their gates. Finally, the bill would ban the worst types of financial products being sold to our military. These products have disappeared from the civilian market, and they should disappear from our military installations too.

This bill has gained bipartisan support in Congress. I urge you to support this legislation and protect the financial future of our military personnel and their families. During a time when so many of our armed forces are bravely fighting tyranny abroad, we must ensure that they are protected at home.

IN HONOR OF POCAHONTAS'  
SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 19, 2006*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Pocahontas in Randolph County, Arkansas, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary this year. This is a significant milestone for the community and for all who helped shape the city's history.

Pocahontas has a long history dating back to the 1700's when the region was occupied by the French and a number of Indian tribes, including the Osage and Cherokee. The city's first settler, Ransom S. Bettis, arrived from Greenville, Missouri, in the early 1800's and is credited with helping establish Pocahontas as the county seat.

Pocahontas began as a significant river port and the first supply stop in Arkansas for travelers coming down Old Southwest Road. Several famous frontiersmen, including Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, General Ulysses S. Grant and others, made stops in Pocahontas during this time. Even today, the city continues to serve as a strategic educational

and agricultural center for Randolph County and the state.

The city constructed its first courthouse in 1837, a 40 feet by 40 feet two story structure. After the courthouse collapsed in 1870, Pocahontas residents replaced the structure in 1875 with the historic courthouse that remains today. The courthouse is a central landmark in Pocahontas' historic downtown business square with most of the commercial outlets renovated to compliment the building.

Pocahontas served as a major recruiting, training, and supply center during the Civil War. The city housed as many as 10,000 men after Arkansas withdrew from the Union on May 6, 1861. These men helped the state prepare for combat and secure the northern border from invasion. Federal troops even burned a section of the city, including the Pocahontas newspaper office, during the conflict.

The late nineteenth century through the mid-1920s marked a golden age for Pocahontas. The city had seven hotels and forty-three steamboats that navigated the Black River and turned Pocahontas into an important port of commerce. During this time, Pocahontas landed the Hoxie, Pocahontas, and Northern Railroad in 1896, completed the Hawk Railroad Company's connection of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to Pocahontas in 1902, and watched the San Francisco Railroad construct a new railroad bridge across the Black River in 1911. Other early industries included four button factories, a brick company, Hanauer's cotton gin, the Grafton Stave and Heading Company, and the Pocahontas Bending Works, which made wooden parts for wagon wheels around 1901.

Development slowed during the 1920s and 1930s until several industries began to locate in the area. In 1942, Pocahontas landed a factory that made powdered eggs for the army and employed about 500 residents. Brown Shoe Company came to the area just a few years later, becoming the largest employer in Pocahontas. Other factories came in the 1960s including McGee, Aircraft Engineer, Cinch, and Pro Group, followed by Amerace ESNA in the 1970s.

Pocahontas continues to benefit today from its central location between the hills of the Ozarks to the west and the rich farmland of the Delta to the east. Tourists and residents flock to the region's five rivers year-round for all types of recreational activities including fishing and canoeing. The city is also home to the Black River Technical College which contributes significantly to the region's educated workforce.

This month, friends and residents of Pocahontas will kick-off a three week long celebration honoring the city's 150 years of history. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Pocahontas, Arkansas, on this significant milestone. We send our appreciation to the city's citizens for years of hard work and dedication to their community, and wish Pocahontas many more years as a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

TRIBUTE TO HAL POTE

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 19, 2006*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take his opportunity to recognize

and congratulate Hal Pote on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Hal, a friend of mine, diligently serves as the President of the Spina Bifida Foundation, SBF. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus, I have had the privilege of working along side Hal and truly appreciate his commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for individuals living with Spina Bifida.

Mr. Speaker, Spina Bifida—our nation's most commonly permanently disabling birth defect—occurs in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column does not close completely. Spina Bifida occurs in approximately 7 out of 10,000 live births and currently there are 70,000 men, women, adolescents, and children living with Spina Bifida in the United States.

In addition to Hal's strong professional commitment to improving the lives of those living with Spina Bifida, Hal has a binding personal tie that unites his heart with his expertise. Hal's nephew, Gregory was born with Spina Bifida almost 20 years ago.

Supporting his nephew through more than 20 surgeries, Hal counts it a privilege to share in Gregory's many wonderful moments like in 2004 when Gregory carried the Olympic torch. Hal is dedicated to ensuring that Gregory and all other individuals living with Spina Bifida enjoy a high quality of life. Through Hal's vision and dedication to helping Gregory and the tens of thousands of people like him, he joined with a group of colleagues to form the Spina Bifida Foundation in 1999.

In its 7 years of existence, the Foundation has achieved many amazing things for the Spina Bifida community. Just a few years ago, people born with Spina Bifida did not live past their teenage years and yet today, thanks to the advances in medical research and the dedication of public advocates like Hal Pote, many children with Spina Bifida are living to be adults. With more and more people with Spina Bifida living into adulthood, Hal and the Spina Bifida Foundation are committed to addressing the new challenges these adults now face.

One of the specific projects in which Hal has been instrumental is urging Gruma—one of the world's largest producers of corn flour and tortillas—to begin research and product testing on enriching its corn products with folic acid, a known preventative of Spina Bifida. At the urging of the Foundation and with the full and strong support of the Spina Bifida Caucus, Gruma now has a year-end goal of enriching all its corn products sold within the United States.

This is an outstanding and notable achievement. In fact, studies show that if all women in the United States consumed the recommended amount of folic acid every day before and during early pregnancy, up to 70 percent of neural tube birth defects could be prevented. Members of the Hispanic/Latino Community are at a higher risk of Spina Bifida affected pregnancies than any other ethnic group and this important and commendable action by Gruma has significant implications for improving the health and well-being of the US Hispanic/Latino population.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Hal for his outstanding leadership of the Spina Bifida Foundation and his steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life not just for his nephew Gregory but for all individuals living with Spina Bifida. I wish him the

best on the occasion of his 60th birthday and am confident that he will continue to enjoy many successes in all of his charitable and professional endeavors.

H.R. 5450, NOAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 19, 2006*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to reauthorize NOAA and call on the agency to work to develop an inland warning system. Six years ago I held a Hurricane Summit in the Second District of North Carolina. This was in response to the devastation that was brought to my State by Hurricane Floyd. Hurricane Floyd was one of the most devastating storms to hit the United States in more than 25 years. When Hurricane Floyd roared ashore in North Carolina in September of 1999, the storm took at least 56 lives, and left damages upwards of \$6 billion from the Carolinas to New England.

Although the National Weather Service uses the Saffir-Simpson Scale to classify hurricane strength according to wind speed, Hurricane Floyd showed us that much more damage, death, and destruction can be created by unexpected inland flooding. One year ago this fact was displayed again with disastrous intensity during Hurricane Katrina when the damage was not just limited to the immediate coastal areas of the gulf coast. After the storms there were inland areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama that were inaccessible for weeks following the severe flooding.

The purpose of my Hurricane Summit was to bring together meteorological experts from universities, the National Hurricane Center, and the National Weather Service to develop a more accurate index for inland flood monitoring. With the information gathered at this summit, I drafted legislation to ensure that NOAA and the National Weather Service make significant improvements to their inland flood warning system. H.R. 2486, the Inland Flood Forecasting and Warning System Act of 2002, was passed in the 107th Congress and enjoyed wide bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation directed NOAA and the National Weather Service to improve the capability to forecast inland flooding associated with tropical storms and hurricanes, to develop a distinctive inland flood warning index for emergency management officials, and to train emergency management officials, National Weather Service personnel, and meteorologists to use these improved forecasting techniques for inland flooding.

An important part of this legislation requires the National Weather Service and NOAA to report annually to Congress on the progress of this new flood index. I would like to continue to work with the members of the Science Committee and the Appropriations Committee to ensure that NOAA provides these reports to the Congress in a timely manner.

Congress must provide the proper oversight to NOAA to ensure that the progress in developing an improved inland flooding index can be put in place to save lives.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD BEHNE

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 19, 2006*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Major Edward Lee Behne, a decorated military veteran, entrepreneur, husband, and father who passed away on September 8. Major Behne served his country by flying UH-1 Hueys in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970. Major Behne is the Vietnam War's second-most decorated army pilot, having received two Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Legion of Merit, a VN Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and Palm, two Silver Stars, six Bronze Stars, VN Service Medal (9 campaigns), two Meritorious Unit Citations, and 80 Air Medals.

In 1979, Edward Behne retired from the army to return to his home in Texas, in 1988, he founded Tex-Air Helicopters, Inc. Guided by his vision of a company that would provide customers an unprecedented level of quality, service, and performance in helicopter operations, Major Behne worked for over 20 years to build Tex-Air into one of the major providers of helicopter services in the Gulf Coast region. By 2000, the Tex-Air fleet had grown to thirty aircraft and was the most modern and sophisticated helicopter fleet in the United States. Operations ranged from Florida to Mexico with twelve helicopter bases, fifteen offshore refueling platforms, and two major maintenance facilities. Tex-Air established an extensive offshore radio network for operational control and flight following across the entire Gulf of Mexico using repeaters and a central communications base. In 2003, Major Behne retired from Tex-Air to return to his beloved Texas hill country ranch, where he entertained his best friends and family members, worked and hunted.

War hero, entrepreneur, rancher, family man—Major Edward Behne made numerous contributions to the betterment of his country and set an example for us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Major Edward Lee Behne and extend our condolences to his wife, Mary Lynne; two sons, Mark Behne and Mike Behne; four step children, Jimmy Gonzalez, Mark Gonzalez, Tanya Roland and Robert Hughey; brother, Richard Behne; sister, Gwen Pascal; grandchild, Josephine Behne; and 14 step grandchildren, as well as all of Major Behne's family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL GOMPERS HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 19, 2006*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Samuel Gompers High School as it celebrates its seventieth anniversary of service in the South Bronx. The first New York School designed to serve as a vocational high school, Samuel Gompers is a trailblazing institution that I am proud to represent in Congress.

Gompers opened its doors on September 12, 1935 and immediately began to make valuable contributions to the nation. After training

machinists and welders during World War II, Gompers became one of the first high schools to adopt a technical program and to receive accreditation from the Middle States Atlantic School Association.

As the world evolves, Gompers adjusts its curriculum accordingly, ensuring its students are always a step ahead of rapid advances in technology. Majors such as Computer Pre-Engineering with Cisco Certification, Desktop Publishing, Computer Aided Design, Copier Repair, and Electronic Technician with A+ Certification guarantee that the young men and women of Samuel Gompers will possess the skills necessary to solve the complex technological problems of the 21st century.

The pursuit of excellence shared by the faculty and students of this institution creates an atmosphere that is ripe for achievement. Accordingly, the Gompers students have won numerous awards and competitions, including second place in the New York City All Academy Competition, third place in the New York/New Jersey Regional Botball tournament, and first place in the 2005 high school division of the USA Memory Championship. In addition, the school has graduated numerous students who have gone on to have very successful careers. Some of its more well known alumni include General Robert White, who piloted the X-15, the nation's first rocket aircraft; Damien Radcliffe, of the movie *Glory Road*; and former Gompers music teacher Alexander Altieri, who performed with legends such as Tito Puente and Eddie Palmieri.

Mr. Speaker, while I am truly impressed by the academic achievements of Gompers, it is the school's commitment to serving the community that makes me most proud. Currently, the school tutors students from neighborhood primary schools, holds food drives for the needy, and plants trees in an effort to beautify the South Bronx. In past years, the school sponsored a shared instruction program for students who attended high schools without trade programs.

"Through a depression and two wars, Samuel Gompers High school in the South Bronx has been supplying skilled craftsmen for the nation's industries," said a New York Post article in January of 1960. Fortunately, forty-six years and three wars later, Gompers continues to provide state of the art vocational and technical training in today's highly technological world.

Mr. Speaker, for its commitment to excellence and tireless efforts to empower those who have the least among us, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Samuel Gompers High School on the occasion of its seventieth anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO COMBAT HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 19, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative LYNN WOOLSEY and Representative JERROLD NADLER, I am introducing legislation that would combat human sex trafficking by using the tax code to put traffickers in prison. Approximately 600,000 to 800,000