

in Italy, Ted married his wife Mary, who he met in the labor camps in Russia. She also served in the Army, in transportation, as a truck driver.

The mountainous country on the Allied road of advance was extremely difficult, perfect for the German defense. The Polish Army under the command of General W. Anders made the final assault in front of the strong German fortified line, called the Gustav Line with its key point—Monte Cassino. In the battle of Monte Cassino, the Allied forces suffered heavy casualties. They continued fighting in Italy along the Adriatic Coast liberating many cities until the end of the war in 1945. Ted was awarded the Bronze Cross of Merit with Swords, Army Medal, and Cross of Monte Cassino from Poland for his bravery, valor and service. Britain also recognized his courageous acts by awarding him the 1939–45 Star, Italy Star and Defense Medal. Ted served with the Polish Resettlement Corps in England until February 16, 1949.

For Ted Nitkiewicz and the other Polish soldiers, victory was bittersweet. First, during the sixteen month campaign in Italy, the 2nd Polish Corps lost 809 officers. Another 10,570 of other ranks were killed or wounded in action. Second, because the Allies gave control of most of Poland to Stalin's Soviet Union, officially confirmed at Yalta, Poland, the country they remembered, did not exist. In effect, these Polish survivors became homeless. As a result, they scattered across the world, mostly settling in the USA and Britain.

Early in 1950, Ted Nitkiewicz immigrated to the United States and moved in with an uncle in Toledo, Ohio. There was little work available at that time, but he eventually landed a job in Textile Leather factory. He made enough money to pay his rent, buy some food and still had a little left over. For all of these opportunities, he felt grateful. He became a U.S. Citizen in the 1950s.

When asked how he was able to survive the terrible ordeal, Ted responded, "someone was praying for me and God answered their prayer."

Originally, this story was recorded in part for the Library of Congress Veteran's History project. Because Ted was not a U.S. veteran, but a veteran of the Allies, his story cannot be accepted by the Library of Congress, as yet. However, Joseph Walter, the local Toledo archivist for the project and the University of Toledo, has graciously accepted his story as part of our local history. The valiant accomplishment of Ted Nitkiewicz and his compatriots should not be lost but should be recorded as freedom's legacy. Three million Polish Christians died in the death camps alone should never be forgotten. The Poles suffered greatly at the hands of the Nazi and Soviet oppressors. We commemorate their noble struggle. We honor those who made the final sacrifice, in hopes that those who followed could live in a peaceful, democratic world.

On September 1, 2008, we mark the 69th anniversary of the invasion by Nazi Germany of an independent Poland that commences the Second World War. Let us not forget our brave Allied soldiers and citizens who made our Western world safe from the tyranny of Fascism and Communism to inspire our nation to its highest ideals. May their eternal memory shine down onto our world and inspire us to

work toward an everlasting peace and freedom.

PREVENT ALL CIGARETTE
TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this Act. The Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act, or PACT Act, introduced by Congressman BOB WEINER of New York, strengthens our law enforcement capabilities against illegal smuggling of tobacco products. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Every year, tens of billions of cigarettes are illegally smuggled across State lines and across borders. This fraudulent activity not only harms the public health, but deprives State and local governments of sorely needed tax revenues.

In fact, tax evasion is a chief motivator for cigarette smuggling—buying the cigarettes in a State where the cigarette tax is low, and selling them in a State with a higher tax. Because of the tax evasion, the trafficker can sell the cigarettes at a discount and still turn an illicit profit.

States lose a billion dollars in uncollected taxes each year as a result of cigarette smuggling. The illicit profit also helps finance other criminal activity—a revenue stream for organized crime.

Because of the scope and interstate nature of this activity, States cannot adequately address it on their own. It has long been recognized as a Federal matter.

But the existing Federal statutes—the Jenkins Act, which requires reporting interstate cigarette sales to tax officials in the buyer's State, and the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act, which prohibits knowingly dealing in contraband cigarettes or smokeless tobacco—are simply not up to the task in the Internet Age.

The Internet, in particular, makes it possible for today's tobacco smugglers to be even more mobile and invisible, and to operate with near impunity.

Even when the smugglers can be identified and pursued, they can simply shut down operations and quickly reappear under a new name and website.

The PACT Act addresses the shortcomings in current law by targeting the delivery systems for illegal Internet tobacco sales—the postal system and commercial delivery services.

With limited exceptions, sending tobacco products through the U.S. mail will be criminally prohibited. And vendors using commercial delivery services for retail sales will be required to notify the tax authorities in the receiving State, conspicuously label all tobacco products, verify that the purchasers are of legal age, and keep careful records of all sales.

The bill raises cigarette trafficking from a misdemeanor to a felony. And it authorizes the

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to inspect the premises and files of sellers of significant quantities of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco.

H.R. 4081 enjoys support from a diverse spectrum of entities, including the National Association of Convenience Stores, Altria, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the American Wholesale Marketers Association, and the National Association of Attorneys General, among others.

I commend my colleague, Mr. WEINER, for his leadership on this important legislation. I also commend Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Lamar Smith for his leadership in making this a bipartisan effort.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM STERLING
JOHNSON

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Simi Valley Police Department Lieutenant William Sterling Johnson, who retired in July after 27 years of dedicated and exceptional service to the department and the city it serves.

Simi Valley, California, has been my home for more than 40 years. I served as City Councilman before being the city first elected Mayor. From my days as a city official to today, I have periodically accompanied officers on their rounds to keep myself familiarized with the challenges they face. It is a professional department, and Sterling Johnson epitomizes that professionalism.

As an officer, Sterling Johnson served as a field training officer and a member of the SWAT team, in addition to working three dogs as a K-9 handler. In addition, Sterling is a licensed paramedic and created the department's SWAT paramedic program.

Sterling and his first canine partner, Atlas, twice won the World Police & Fire Games, Police Service Dog Competition, in 1989 and 1991. In recognition of his professionalism and dedication, in 1994 his fellow officers selected him Officer of the Year.

As a sergeant, Sterling served as a patrol supervisor and SWAT team leader. Upon his promotion to lieutenant in 2003, Sterling worked as a patrol watch commander and was assigned to the Auxiliary Services Unit.

In addition to his law enforcement duties, Sterling has worked part time for American Medical Response, the city's 911 responder; taught advanced cardiac support and pediatric advanced life support at the UCLA Medical Center; and has been the CPR/First Aid instructor for the city and police department for more than 12 years. Sterling also served on the State of California Commission for Emergency Services from 1997–2006.

In short, Lieutenant William Sterling Johnson has left a positive mark on the police department he served for nearly three decades.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Sterling Johnson for his dedication and professionalism with the Simi Valley Police Department and in wishing him well in a long and fruitful retirement.