

After the collapse of Germany, the 146th (C) Engineers, along with other engineer groups of V Corps were assisting with the debris clearance and the restoration of utilities of battered Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. In Pilsen, Captain Hill was named director of the XXII Corps Heavy Equipment School for approximately 65 Czech civil engineers and equipment operators from the V, VII, and XXII Corps. Captain Hill was later given the title of Base Commander at one of several embarkation centers that were responsible for upgrading facilities for pending troop movement. While at the Biarritz American University in Southern France, he learned that he had received a Foreign Award, the Czech Military Medal.

Upon returning home, Captain Hill was discharged on January 8, 1946. He began his civilian life and worked in the petroleum industry for 30 years. He and his wife, B.J. (now deceased), were married for over 50 years. Since April 1992, Mr. Hill has enjoyed his time as a volunteer at the National Legion of Valor Museum in Fresno, California, where he is also an honorary lifetime member. He became the museum Director in July 2001. From 1995–1996, he also served as the American Legion Commander of Fresno Post No. 4.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Arthur Hill upon his achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Hill many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO I. BERNARD
WEINSTEIN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of Dr. I. Bernard Weinstein for his significant accomplishments as a scientist, professor of medicine, physician, mentor, colleague, advisor, administrator, and humanitarian, who passed away on November 3, 2008 at the age of 78.

Dr. Weinstein was a world authority in the fields of chemical carcinogenesis, cancer treatment and prevention, and a founder of the field of molecular epidemiology. His pioneering discoveries and visionary theories, including the breakthrough concept of “oncogene addiction,” opened up new frontiers in cancer research and led to the development of new, effective, life-saving therapies for patients.

For more than 47 years, Dr. Weinstein was on staff at Columbia University Medical Center, where he also served as Frode Jensen Professor of Medicine, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences; Professor of Genetics and Development; and, for a decade, Director of the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center. In recognition of his groundbreaking, seminal scientific work, Dr. Weinstein received some of the most prestigious national and international awards in his field. Additionally, he was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science, a fellow of the National Foundation for Cancer Research, and he served with great distinction as president of the American Association for Cancer Research. Dr. Weinstein also provided his renowned exper-

tise and wisdom as a valued and respected member of many scientific advisory and editorial boards.

In addition to his scientific discoveries, Dr. Weinstein also leaves a remarkable legacy as a mentor and a teacher, having helped train many generations of leaders in cancer and biological research. Dr. Weinstein guided and inspired scores of devoted students, who mourn the passing of this great scientist and remarkable man. It's a loss also deeply felt by his family, to whom he was so loyal and so loving.

In honor of this great American scientist and his commitment and contributions to the field of oncology, I express my gratitude to Dr. Weinstein for devoting his life to preventing and curing cancer. America mourns his passing while also celebrating his inspiring legacy. He is survived by his son Matthew, his two daughters Claudia and Tamara, and two grandchildren.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ARMED
FORCES DISABILITY RETIRE-
MENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF
2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Armed Forces Disability Retirement Enhancement Act of 2009. This measure would simplify and streamline the daunting process injured men and women must endure when navigating the Department of Defense, DOD, disability retirement system. The system is too complex, and it is unfair to confront wounded warriors with such a mess when their focus should be on recovery and their loved ones.

These systemic problems were identified more than 2 years ago when the President's Commission on Care for America's Wounded Warriors and the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission interviewed injured service members, but the problems have yet to be resolved. This bill would ensure that those found unable to serve would automatically receive military retirement benefits based on rank and years of service. This provision would resolve the ‘concurrent receipt’ issue, and it would replace confusing, piecemeal programs.

Those found unfit for service would also automatically receive health and dental coverage. Currently, such eligibility hinges on the findings of a military physical evaluation board. Severely injured servicemembers undergoing the emotional and physical pain of recovery and rehabilitation should not have to endure the added, unnecessary worry as to whether physical evaluation board determinations will grant disability benefits.

It's well past time to eliminate these burdens for those who have already sacrificed dearly for our country. I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address this difficult issue now rather than leaving it to future generations to resolve.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF SENIOR CORPORAL NORMAN
SMITH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Senior Corporal Norman Smith who died in the line of duty on January 6, 2008. An 18-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department, Sr. Cpl. Smith spent his career bravely serving the residents of Dallas, TX. With a heavy heart, I pay tribute to him and the impact he made in our city. My condolences are extended to his family and his fellow officers who are mourning the loss of a husband, father and friend.

Sr. Cpl. Smith, 43, joined the Dallas Police Department in 1991 and most recently served as a member in the Gang Unit for the past 12 years. Deeply committed to stamping out the influence of gangs, he worked tirelessly to free neighborhoods crippled with violence, crime and drugs. He was instrumental in taking back neighborhood blocks long controlled by gangs in Dallas for years. His work in this area is now credited as a textbook case for Federal and local officials working to rid communities of criminal organizations. Throughout his career, he received numerous commendations and was honored as a Dallas Police Department Officer of the Year.

There is no doubt that Sr. Cpl. Smith was not only exemplary of those who choose to serve and protect, but admired and deeply respected by all he met. He will be remembered for his strength of character, respect for all those he encountered and his deep commitment to his police work. He is described by his own Police Chief as having the “heart of a warrior.” Dallas has truly lost a hero, and we will forever remember the positive changes he brought to the community. His life was a testament to all that can be achieved through dedication to public service.

My prayers are with his wife, Dallas Police Lieutenant Regina Smith, and his teenage son and daughter. He first met his wife while she was a young police officer, noting that she was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. During the time they had together, there is no doubt there was much happiness and a unique shared passion for their life's work.

Madam Speaker, today we mourn the loss of one of Dallas' finest—Sr. Cpl. Norman Smith. Our city is forever grateful for the sacrifice he has made in the line of duty. His legacy will live on in our hearts and in the community he served.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO
AWARD DR. JOSEPH B. KIRSNER
THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce this bill to award Dr. Joseph B. Kirsner the Congressional Gold Medal for his

outstanding work in the medical field of gastroenterology.

The son of Russian immigrants, Kirsner overcame adversity as a young man and graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine at the top of his class. He went on to earn his medical degree at the University of Chicago. While training in Chicago, he became an expert in gastroenterology and helped to make the University of Chicago the premier center for research and therapy of inflammatory bowel disease. His leadership and research led to unprecedented medical advances in the field of gastroenterology, enhancing the lives of people across the world.

Despite his devotion to his research, Kirsner was compelled to join the armed forces in World War earning a third Battle Star in the battle of the Philippines before serving under General Douglas MacArthur in Japan. Following the war, Kirsner became a full Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago. During his time as a Professor, he published over 700 papers and 15 books, and gave over 25 named lectureships. He has served as a leader on a number of boards and foundations, such as the National Institutes of Health, the American Gastroenterological Association and the Chicago Medical Society. Despite all of his world-renowned successes, he continues to provide personal care to patients from across the country.

Dr. Kirsner, a World War II veteran and devoted civil servant to the field of medicine, has lived his life in service to others, deserving of national recognition for his honorable contribution to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in two votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on January 7, 2009.

The first vote was H.R. 35, to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on that question.

The second vote was H.R. 36, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on that question.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF BOB WATERSTON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California Mr.

RADANOVICH and Mr. NUNES to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Bob Waterston. After 8 years with the Fresno Board of Supervisors, including two as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Mr. Waterston is retiring as Supervisor for the 5th District in Fresno County, California. We thank him for his hard work on behalf of the county.

Bob is a lifelong Fresno native. Prior to embarking on his distinguished career with Fresno County, Bob was a twenty-nine year veteran of the Fresno Fire Department serving 4 years as a firefighter, 8 years as a driver and 17 years as a fire captain. He also served on the Clovis City Council as an elected member and then as a Mayor Pro Tem. Bob has also been a State certified paramedic for 24 years. His professional career includes Board Certified Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Life Support Affiliate Faculty for the American Heart Association. Most recently he became a California State licensed Contractor specializing in swimming pool construction and has maintained his commitment to the community as a County Supervisor all while managing his home business.

Bob Waterston's involvement in his community has been far-reaching, ranging from Chairman of the America Health Walk in 1998 to the Fandango Advisory Board Committee in 1999 and as Community Advisor for the Junior League of Fresno in 2000 and 2001. Bob served on Community Services for the California League of Cities, and he was an Executive Board Member of the Sequoia Council Boy Scouts of America in 2004. Bob has also given back to his fellow firefighters by serving as a past Chairperson for the CPR Committee with the Central Valley Fire Agencies, and he is a founder of the annual "Firefighters Creating Memories" program at the Fresno District Fair.

Throughout his distinguished career, Bob Waterston has served on numerous boards and has given back to his community. He served on the board of directors of the Fresno Business Council, the Economic Development Corporation of Fresno County and the Fresno Regional Foundation. He is also a member of the "Make a Wish" Foundation, the American Heart Association Board of Directors, and the Public Education Committee for the Fresno City Fire Department. He is also a past board member for the Fresno Firefighters Association Benefit Fund and the South San Joaquin Division Committee on California League of Cities.

Bob's accomplishments were recognized as early 1989, when he was awarded the first Fresno Fire Department Employee of the quarter. He was also honored by Governor George Deukmejian for "Recognition in Excelling in the Performance of Duty." In 1996 Bob was honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars as Peace Officer of the Year, and he was honored by Exceptional Parents Unlimited for his efforts to "Silence the Violence."

I commend Bob for dedicating his life to his family and his community. His accomplishments have touched the lives of many, and his impact on our community will be long remembered. I extend my best wishes for his continued health, happiness, and service. Bob Waterston is a distinguished member of the community, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize him today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING CONSUMERS THROUGH PROPER FORBEARANCE PROCEDURES ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Protecting Consumers Through Proper Forbearance Procedures Act. This legislation, which I also introduced during the 110th Congress, is intended to correct persistent procedural problems created by two words in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this common sense legislation.

Section 10 of the Communications Act permits a telecommunications carrier to file a petition with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) asking the FCC to forbear from applying certain statutory or regulatory requirements to it. In turn, the FCC may grant forbearances if it finds that doing so is in the public interest.

As I have stated in the past, the Congress certainly has the prerogative to create a statutory regime that permits a regulatory agency to forbear from applying a statutory requirement, so long as the agency finds that consumers will continue to be protected and well served. What is problematic about this circumstance is that the Communications Act states that the carrier's petition will be "deemed granted" if the FCC does not act within a prescribed timeframe. In simpler terms, if the FCC cannot agree on the merits of a petition, it is automatically granted.

We must act to correct this untenable situation for two reasons. First, in the case of a petition that is "deemed granted" without an accompanying written order, it is impossible for the Congress or the courts to ascertain the scope of relief granted or the legal rationale supporting the FCC's action. This makes it difficult for the Congress to conduct proper oversight of the implementation of the Communications Act, as well as oversight of the telecommunications industry.

Second, the "deemed granted" language leads to unsound decision-making at the FCC. When faced with contentious and complicated issues, which are often the subject of these petitions, the FCC now routinely waits until the last moment to make a decision. At the same time, the threat of an automatic grant of forbearance hovers over the proceedings. It is unlikely that such a disjointed process results in public policy that benefits consumers.

The Communications Act, as amended by this bill, would still permit carriers to seek forbearance, which the FCC may also still grant. However, by removing the "deemed granted" language from statute, we will vastly improve the ability of the Congress and the courts to conduct appropriate oversight, better protect consumers, and restore transparency to the decision-making process. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.