

“(b) It is a defense to a prosecution under this section that the badge is used exclusively—

“(1) in a collection or exhibit;
“(2) for decorative purposes; or
“(3) for a dramatic presentation, such as theatrical, film, or television production.

“(c) As used in this section—
“(1) the term ‘genuine police badge’ means an official badge issued by public authority to identify an individual as a law enforcement officer having police powers; and
“(2) the term ‘counterfeit police badge’ means an item that so resembles a police badge that it would deceive an ordinary individual into believing it was a genuine police badge.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 33 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“716. Police badges.”

THE CONNECTICUT STATE TECHNOLOGY EXTENSION PROGRAM

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of a program very important to Connecticut. With Congress presently debating its annual spending bills, people may wonder how the budget affects them and their well being. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about one particular program of which I am a strong supporter—the Connecticut State Technology Extension program (CONN/STEP). CONN/STEP helps Connecticut manufacturers become more competitive through the use of advanced manufacturing and management technologies. Through their team of field engineers CONN/STEP provides onsite technical assistance, detailed assessments, outlines potential solutions, and identifies external service providers. CONN/STEP is funded jointly by the State Department of Economic and Community Development and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the Department of Commerce.

Here's how CONN/STEP helped one local company in Bristol, Connecticut. Ultimate Wireforms manufactures arch wires and other orthodontic appliances from superelastic/memory alloys and stainless steel for orthodonty applications. The arch wires apply pressure to teeth, slowly causing them to move a predetermined amount to correctively position teeth. The company has provided support to the orthodontic industry since 1989 and currently employs 65 people.

Ultimate Wireforms was searching for opportunities to expand their product offerings and decided to focus on the Titanium arch wire business which was undergoing rapid growth. Titanium arch wires apply higher forces to the teeth, which accelerate the corrective orthodontic process. Ultimate, however had no titanium technology experts in house and was being restricted from entering this market by an existing patent, held by a competitor.

Ultimate initially attempted to find a Titanium alloy to leap-frog the patent but all of the can-

didate alloys had one or more drawbacks and, consequently, were not pursued beyond the laboratory phase. With the eventual expiration of the patent, Ultimate was poised to pursue entry into this market, but lacked the in-house expertise to develop Titanium technology. This led them to CONN/STEP for help. A CONN/STEP specialist, knowledgeable in the Titanium industry, identified melting, ingot conversion and wire making suppliers to make small and medium-sized experimental quantities. CONN/STEP soon became the technical interface with the titanium suppliers, resolving problems as they arose until multiple batches with the correct composition and mechanical properties were produced. Ultimate has since entered the Titanium arch market and is now enjoying a 60% increase in sales.

Satisfied with the technical service, Ultimate Wireforms had subsequently entered into several additional projects with CONN/STEP, including a comprehensive assessment of their accounting and financial system to help Ultimate better understand their internal functions as well as their place in the market.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEDICATED SERVICE BY MR. ROBERT TOBIAS

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true leader in the Federal Employees community, Robert Tobias. Since 1983, Bob Tobias has served as the President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) and he has been involved with NTEU since 1968. Bob Tobias has a proud thirty-one year legacy with NTEU and he has improved the workplace for all federal employees. Since 1995 when I first came to Congress, I have had the opportunity to work with Bob on supporting federal employees and their issues.

Tonight, several members of Congress from both sides of the aisle will pay tribute to Bob and his many victories at the helm of NTEU. When my distinguished colleague, Representative STENY HOYER, and I first sent out a request for participation in an evening of Special Orders, I was overwhelmed by the number of my colleagues who expressed an immediate interest in participating in paying tribute to Bob. It is a testament to his ability to work with members of both political parties to find a common ground that protects federal employees and continues to bring our federal government into the Twenty-First Century.

Every major battle that involved federal employees over the past twenty years has included Bob Tobias. He was integral to the creation of the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) in 1983, protecting the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP), restructuring the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), advocating for the closure of the pay gap for federal employees, and instrumental in reforming the Hatch Act which allows federal employees to exercise their rights to participate in political activity.

Bob has not only encouraged federal employees to become more involved politically at both the national and grassroots level, but has also pursued litigation as a tool to advance and expand worker interests. Bob has not only led the fight in landmark court battles, but before the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Federal Service Impasses Panel, and the Office of Personnel Management.

Under his leadership, federal employees won a federal court victory giving them the right to engage in informational picketing; a Supreme Court win that overturned the ban on speaking and writing honoraria; and just earlier this year, another Supreme Court victory in a critical case that established in law the right of federal employees and their collective bargaining representatives to initiate midterm bargaining. That victory gives employees the same rights that agency managers have, and, to a very great extent, levels the negotiations playing field.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned previously, I have worked closely with Bob Tobias on numerous federal employee issues. Bob has dual goals that he has continually achieved throughout his tenure at NTEU—protecting the rights of federal employees, and ensuring that our government effectively and efficiently accomplishes its job. It has been my great honor to work with Bob in meeting those goals.

As one of the primary advocates for federal employees, Bob constantly reminded us of the necessity of hiring the best and the brightest to work in the government, and the necessity of retaining those employees who have the knowledge and expertise to get the job done. He and I have worked together to keep federal employees in the workforce by making sure that they have the same rights, benefits, and protections as do their colleagues in the private sector.

Before I came to Congress, I worked as high-tech executive for a government contracting firm in Northern Virginia. We made it our top priority to treat our human capital as our most valuable asset. Unfortunately, the federal government does not do that with its federal employees who often make numerous sacrifices to be in public service. Instead, it has always been more popular to ask federal employees to sacrifice pay raises, and forego benefits, or to simply perpetuate negative stereotypes of federal employees. Bob Tobias has always known this is inaccurate and he has devoted his entire career to giving federal employees a stronger voice.

For many years, Bob has sought to educate the members of NTEU and federal employees of the importance of participating in the legislative process. I have had the opportunity to speak to the Northern Virginia legislative leaders as well as those who represent their colleagues from across the country at NTEU's annual legislative conference in Washington, D.C. It is apparent to me that the legislative program is thriving because of Bob Tobias and his commitment to ensuring that the voices of federal employees are heard on Capitol Hill.

NTEU was one of the main forces behind passage of a bipartisan bill, signed into law by President George Bush that would close the pay gap between the government and the private sector. Since the Federal Employees Pay