

had the opportunity to work with Stan on several different projects and the enthusiasm and excitement he has shown is amazing. I would like to extend my personal thanks to him for all the assistance he has given me over the years. For his many contributions, whether professional or volunteer, I rise today to join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating Lieutenant Stanley Konesky on his retirement from the Branford Police Department. I extend my deepest appreciation and very best wishes as he begins a new career and seeks new goals to achieve.

HONORING RAY CHAMPINE FROM
MARTIN, TN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ray Champine, a longtime Postal Service Letter Carrier in Martin, TN, who, with no regard for his own safety, entered the burning home of an elderly customer in order to rescue him. While on his route, Mr. Champine was alerted by a smoke alarm and smoke emitting from the eaves of a house that there was a problem. After asking a neighbor to call the fire department, he bravely entered the house and crawled through the thick, black smoke until he found the elderly man near his bed in the back of the house. Although surrounded by the encompassing smoke and struggling to breathe, Mr. Champine dragged the man away from the fire in order to remove him to safety outside the burning home. He smashed through a window hoping it was the backdoor and local rescuers heard the breaking glass and knocked down the door closest to the broken window. Martin Fire Captain Dickie Hart and Police Captain Don Teal were able to bring both men to safety. Martin Director of Public Safety, J.D. Sanders, praised Mr. Champine and other rescuers, saying, "If they hadn't shown up when they did, both men would probably have died at the back door. As it is, Mr. Champine without a doubt, is a hero."

Mr. Speaker, I also include an article about this heroic deed for the RECORD.

[Volunteer Voices, Feb. 2000]

"... WITHOUT A DOUBT A HERO"—MARTIN
CARRIER RISKS LIFE TO SAVE CUSTOMER

Imagine standing in front of a burning building, knowing there's someone inside, and knowing that unless you do something to help, that person is probably going to die. That's the exact situation Martin, TN City Carrier Ray Champine found himself facing on December 7 of last year. But what he did would definitely fall into the category of "above and beyond the call."

Champine was making his normal deliveries on Oxford Street. He had just put the mail in the box when he heard a high pitched whine.

"I was almost sure it was a smoke alarm, but I couldn't tell where it was coming from," said Champine. "So I went back to the previous house to see if it was coming from there."

As Champine approached Golsby Gatewood's home, he saw a wisp of smoke coming from under the eaves of the house.

"I asked the next-door neighbors to call the fire department, but I knew Mr. Gatewood wasn't real mobile, so I decided to try to help him," said Champine.

After repeatedly calling to Gatewood, Champine finally heard him respond. The front door was unlocked and smoke was beginning to fill the room.

"It was already pitch black inside the house, so I kept calling for Mr. Gatewood," said Champine. "I finally found him near his bed in the back of the house and I tried to help him out the fastest way I could by dragging him out of the building."

But by that time, the fire had spread through the front of the home, blocking the front door. Champine dragged Gatewood to the back of the house then tried to escape by breaking what he thought was the window of the side door.

"The smoke was so thick I didn't realize I was breaking a window that was a few feet from the door," Champine. "If I had known that, I would have just reached out and opened it."

Rescuers who had just arrived on the scene, heard the breaking glass and Martin Fire Capt. Dickie Hart and Police Capt. Don Teal knocked down the door.

Martin Director of Public Safety J.D. Sanders praised Champine's heroic action.

"If Dickie and Don hadn't shown up when they did, both of the men probably would have died right there by that back door. As it is, Mr. Champine is without a doubt, a hero. Without him, there's no question that Mr. Gatewood wouldn't have made it."

Officers on the scene reported that the smoke was so thick in the building that only Gatewood could be seen when the door was opened, even though Champine was standing next to the elderly gentleman.

Champine suffered a cut on his hand from breaking the window, and sustained burns to his face, ears and eyes. He was hospitalized for several days following the incident for severe smoke inhalation.

Postmaster Glenn Shegog added her voice to those who praised Champine.

"Ray is an outstanding employee and a great co-worker and we're all thankful that he's on the road to recovery," said Shegog.

After all is said and done, Champine's only request was a simple one. "I'd really like to find my cap," said Champine. "I lost it somewhere in the house and I'd really like to have it back."

THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL, JUNE 2-11, 2000

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 25th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of and for the National Capital Area's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities and their friends.

Since its beginning in 1975, the Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party into a nine-day series of events. On Sunday, June 11, 2000, the Festival will culminate in a large downtown parade and a magnificent Pennsylvania Avenue street fair attended by people of all backgrounds from the District and the region. In 1999, more than

200 contingents marched in the parade; more than 200,000 people attended the street fair in the shadow of the Capitol; and hundreds of vendors and organizations set up stalls, booths and pavilions. The street fair featured more than five hours of local entertainers and national headline performers.

Last year, when I recognized this celebration in the House, it had been 35 years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Yet another year has passed, and despite evidence of pervasive prejudice in employment, Congress has not yet protected sexual orientation from discrimination. Far worse, in the face of many reports of violence and physical abuse, Congress has not yet enacted protection against abuse solely because of a person's sexual orientation. Congress must pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Congress must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and, now, Congress must pass the Permanent Partners Immigration Act of 2000.

In this new millennium, let us achieve the American goal of eliminating discrimination based on sexual orientation, unite loved ones, celebrate the accomplishments of the Gay and Lesbian Community, and remember those who we have lost.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting the 25th Annual Capital Pride Festival, its organizers, the Whitman-Walker Clinic and One-in-Ten, its sponsors, and the volunteers, whose dedicated and creative energy make the Pride Festival possible. May we truly have "Pride 25."

TAX CREDITS WITHOUT INSURANCE REPORT DON'T WORK: PART 2

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I submitted data (page E247) showing that refundable tax credits to purchase health insurance don't work, unless we accompany the credits with insurance reform.

Yesterday's data on 120 different price quotes for individual and family insurance did not include any follow-up calls to the insurers to see what would happen if there were medical underwriting.

I asked my staff to call 8 insurers in the Los Angeles and Northern Virginia markets which had provided quotes through the Internet service, Quotesmith.com. My staffer confirmed the Internet quoted price and then said, "Oh by the way, four years ago, I had a bout of skin cancer. . . ." You would have thought my staffer had an active case of bubonic plague! The results are listed below.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this small sample experiment shows that refundable tax credits without insurance reform are not worth much. I urge Members interested in this approach to consider the types of reforms included in H.R. 2185.