would be his home during the ensuing conflict. Located on the island of Guadalcanal and three months after the main conflict there, the American held a rudimentary airstrip called Henderson Field. Surprise confrontations and unplanned attacks stemming from the Japa-
nese still plagued the island and resulted in many casualties. Obtaining and maintaining control of the waters surrounding the island was critical, and it is here that one of the most gruesome battles occurred and Vernon fought. On the night of November 12, 1942, as 14 ships from the Japanese fleet attacked the Henderson Field, the U.S.S. Atlanta and 12 other U.S. ships confronted the aggressors. After the battle, the area would be known as "Ironbottom Sound" due to the number of casu-
alties and sunken debris. Twenty-seven ships attempted to destroy each other.

The U.S.S. Atlanta, by the end, had been hit 49 times before it ultimately sank. Although Vernon was the thirteenth man in his crew, he was the only survivor. Amidst flame and fur-
ther attack, the U.S.S. Atlanta lost 170 men that night and although men of this generation were taught not to cry, a tear fell from Vern's eyes as he recounted the demise of this great ship and her crew. Only upon further examina-
tion did we discover that Vernon went from one firestorm to another because he also served in the battle of Midway and also in the Solomon Island Campaign. During these mo-
mentous times and occurrences, Vern was only 17 years of age.

Following the trials of war, Mr. Charron was employed by the Russell Stover Candies company and continued his position there for 49 years. While the U.S.S. Atlanta rests below 80 fathoms of water near Guadalcanal, Vern uses his experiences to light the fires of patriotism in youth to perpetuate the great spirit of Amer-
ica. His service is commendable as he gave of himself unselfishly to our remarkable nation. I
touch my deepest sympathy and warmest regards to Max Clifton's family and my thoughts and prayers are with them.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today, I intro-
de the Maloney Amendment to H.R. 2500. Ac-

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have recently introduced HR 2273, the National Bank Offshore Activities Act of 2001, which was referred to the Committee on Fi-
nancial Services on June 21, 2001. If enacted, this legislation would amend banking laws with respect to offshore activities, investments, and affiliations of national banks, which are char-
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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 23, 2001

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PAYMENT OF OUR WHISTLEBLOWERS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA
OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 23, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today, I intro-
duced legislation in Congress amending the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA) to restore protections for federal employees who risk their jobs by disclosing waste, fraud, abuse or violations of law they witness on the job. This legislation is critical to restore the flow of infor-
mation to Congress and the public about wrongdoings within the government. It is nec-
essary because the original congressional inten-
tent has been partially nullified by certain judi-
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