

July 30, 2001

You, and God Bless You. Rest well and if we do as you have done, we will meet again.

I join with the residents of the 11th Congressional District, who mourn the lost of a great civic leader, political activist, family man, and friend.

[From the Cleveland Plain Dealer]

WALTER BURKS, 77, WAS BUILDER, CIVIC LEADER, POLITICAL ACTIVIST

(By Richard M. Peery)

Plain Dealer Reporter

SHAKER HEIGHTS.—Walter Burks, 77, a developer and political activist who built more than 200 homes in Cleveland, died Thursday at University Hospitals.

Burks was a former trustee of Cleveland State University. He served on the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and the State Board of Education. Mayor Carl B. Stokes appointed him personnel director and chairman of the Civil Service Commission.

In 1974, he formed Burks Electric Co. and participated in commercial and public building projects, including the rebuilding of the Regional Transit Authority's Shaker rapid line.

Burks was born in Cleveland. He attended East Technical High School and studied engineering at Penn College.

Drafted into the Marine Corps during World War II, he was a sergeant in an engineers unit on Eniwetok and the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. After the war, he and his first wife, Cynthia, built a home on E. 147th St. in Mount Pleasant. Although banks refused to lend to nonwhites in that area, he obtained financing from a black insurance company. He later helped friends build homes nearby.

Burks worked as a mail clerk for Cleveland Municipal Court and was promoted to supervisor of the trustee division, but he spent evenings and weekends on construction projects. After he joined Stokes' staff in the 1960s, he put special effort into hiring and promoting minorities.

As a builder, Burks concentrated in the 1980s on converting former schools into apartments for the elderly. When he was accused of failing to follow complicated HUD regulations, he said the fault lay with the government. A jury cleared him.

In 1989, Burks undertook what was considered a high-risk project when he constructed Glenville Commons, the first new homes to be built in the area in more than 50 years. Its success was followed by a surge of home building in the city.

At the behest of Mayor Michael R. White, a former business partner, a park on Parkview Dr. in Glenville was named for him.

Burks and his wife, the former Charmaine Colwell, lived in Shaker Heights.

He also is survived by a son, Dr. David of Ann Arbor, Mich.; a daughter, Karen Bailey of Richmond Heights; three grandchildren; two sisters; and five brothers.

Services will be 10:30 a.m. at Antioch Baptist Church, 8869 Cedar Ave., Cleveland.

Arrangements are by E.F. Boyd & Son Funeral Home of Cleveland.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE STATE OF COLORADO ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. One hundred years after the United States became a Nation, Colorado became the 38th state in the Union. In recognition of this historic moment, I stand here to pay tribute to the great State of Colorado. I would like to share a little historical background, and some lesser known facts about the state in honor of this anniversary.

According to the state archives, when the Colorado Territory was populated by only approximately 100,000 people, thirty-nine members of the constitutional convention gathered for the purpose of preparing Colorado's constitution. President Grant declared Colorado a state on August 1, 1876, one week after the Governor's secretary, John Reigart, set off toward Washington, D.C. with a copy of the constitution and other necessary documents.

Since then, Colorado has continued to make history. The stunning view from Pikes Peak inspired Katherine Lee Bates to write one of our country's most popular patriotic songs, "America the Beautiful." On a less serious note, Denver "lays claim to the invention of the cheeseburger," according to 50states.com. Colorado is also home to some of America's greatest heroes. Pueblo, for instance, has held the honor of being the only city in the Nation with four living recipients of the Medal of Honor. In addition, Colorado Springs is home to the distinguished United States Air Force Academy.

Among its natural wonders, Colorado is home to the world's largest outdoor natural hot springs pool, which spans over two city blocks. The pool was visited by former president Teddy Roosevelt, and by "Doc" Holliday, who hoped the natural springs would cure his tuberculosis. Other geological marvels include Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and the Great Sand Dunes, plus fifty-two mountain peaks over 14,000 feet high, and the headwaters of over 20 rivers. The Nation's highest city, Leadville, which boasts an elevation of 10,430 feet, also rests in Colorado. In addition, Colorado holds three quarters of the Nation's land area with an altitude over 10,000 feet, along with 222 state wildlife areas. With such a variety of natural beauty and resources, it is no wonder that Colorado provides agriculture, summer and winter recreation, and a pioneering spirit to millions of residents and visitors each year.

Mr. Speaker, there is no end to the wonder and greatness of this state. It is with great pride that I stand here today in honor of the 125th anniversary of the State of Colorado.

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HONORING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF CASEY AND JEAN BROWN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Casey and Jean Brown from Ignacio, Colorado. As family and friends will gather to celebrate this joyous occasion, I too would like to recognize them at this special time. Following their hearts throughout this 50-year journey has led to happiness and a loving life together.

Casey and Jean were married on August 5, 1951 in Hatch, New Mexico after meeting each other at New Mexico State University. Following a honeymoon in Mexico, the couple relocated to Laramie, Wyoming, where Casey received a Master's Degree in Sheep and Wool Production. After his schooling and a brief stint as a college professor, the couple joined Casey's father in his sheep business located in Aztec, California.

Casey and Jean decided to move one more time in 1958 to a small farm in La Plata, New Mexico. It is here that they raised their five children. Following suit with past experience, the family moved one more time to Ignacio in 1978. Jean had always dreamed of becoming a nurse, and this served as the catalyst to pursue her dreams. She was employed by Mercy Hospital in Durango until she retired. While Jean was a nurse, Casey once again started his own sheep business on their ranch. Even amidst all of their responsibilities, they found time to offer services to their community where they were involved in the Woolgrowers Auxiliary, the American Sheep Industry Commission and other organizations.

Love has flourished between these two hearts, but not without dedication and hard work. For this momentous occasion, Casey is treating his devoted wife to a trip to Scotland—her ancestral land. This celebration of 50 years is a remarkable accomplishment and is to be commended. Mr. Speaker, it is with excitement and admiration that I extend my congratulations to Casey and Jean and offer them my best wishes for many more years to come.

HONORING THE GRAND JUNCTION VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I would like to pay tribute to the Grand Junction Veterans Affairs Medical Center for receiving the 2001 President's Quality Award that highlights continued improvement and management of high caliber care to veterans who so diligently served our Nation.

This facility serves all veterans in an area of 50,000 square miles and 17 counties in Western Colorado and Eastern Utah. With the overarching goal of being "the preferred health

care system for all veterans," the Medical Center constantly strives to improve itself and help those in need of their services. The President's Quality Award highlights the Center's integration of their innovative management techniques, outstanding dedication to customer service and dynamic performance that will enhance the Center's capabilities in the new century. The Grand Junction Veterans Affairs Medical Center has implemented a "virtual circle of care" policy that involves every patient, and this program has inspired similar programs around the country. Not satisfied with just internal improvements, the Center has added new community outreach efforts that seek to build upon their primary, specialty and extended care. All of these continued efforts have resulted in consistently higher scores in patient care and satisfaction from the Department of Veterans Affairs and from external agencies and hospitals.

The Grand Junction Veterans Affairs Medical Center truly is an exemplary model of the care that our distinguished veterans deserve. While providing the highest care and improving their overall performance with an emphasis on customer satisfaction, the Center has worked very hard to become one of the finest facilities in the Nation. The invaluable services that Grand Junction Veterans Affairs Medical Center provides truly deserve the recognition of this body.

HONORING OTIS CHARTIER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I would like to recognize Mr. Otis Meril Chartier, who received the Bronze Star for his service during WWII. He served our country 56 years ago and just recently received this distinguished honor.

At a family picnic not too far from Parker, Colorado, Otis was awarded the Bronze Star in recognition of his courage in February of 1945. During WWII, he and another soldier took on a German machine gun haven where they disrupted its activity and eliminated two enemy soldiers. A howitzer shell then bombarded the nest and the area was neutralized. For this valorous effort, Otis was granted the Bronze Star. His courageous act was executed only 4 months before the end of the war.

After joining the Army in 1940, Otis was put in charge of the Victory Garden due to his background in farming, and was eventually sent to infantry school. This was followed by his deployment to France in December of 1944. In his first battlefield experience, his 12-member squad was sent ahead of the group to scout. This scouting effort led to the group being ambushed, leaving only Otis alive as the other soldiers were killed in the line of duty. One other notable battlefield experience that caused his life to flash before his eyes happened as he and two other soldiers were rushing into town when a mortar shell hit immediately in front of them, causing permanent damage in his right ear.

On December 20, 1945, Otis returned home to find employment as a carpenter. Although this paid the bills, his true passion was music. He joined a band in 1946 called the Trailblazers and ventured to Montana to play for audiences for about three years, until his hearing would not permit him to continue anymore. Otis then returned to Colorado and was employed by Gates Rubber Company for 31 years. Today, he enjoys spending time with his family.

While much time has passed since the war, the importance and acknowledgement of the heroism that Otis Chartier exhibited shall not vanish with time. He was a part of the victorious effort to ensure peace across the globe. It is my pleasure to offer my congratulations and sincerest thanks to Otis for his dedicated service and patriotism.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. IRA JEFFREY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, in his forty years of working with cancer research and treatment, Dr. Ira Jaffrey has contributed to a movement that has saved many lives and has enhanced the quality and duration of many others and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to him. While his technical expertise has proven essential for providing professional and quality health care, his emotional understanding and support have made him a hero.

After working at Mount Sinai Hospital and School of Medicine in New York, Ira and his wife, Sandy, headed to the western slope of Colorado where they started Western Slope Oncology in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Currently, Ira works with Valley View, Aspen Valley, Clagett Memorial and University hospitals, and the Vail Valley Medical Center. In addition, he is an assistant clinical professor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and a treasurer and state delegate for the Mount Sopris Medical Society. Sandy is a registered Physician's Assistant with extensive training and experience in oncology nursing. Between the two of them, they care for between 350 and 500 patients.

Ira and Sandy have personally experienced the challenges and destruction that cancer brings; Sandy is a breast cancer survivor, and Ira lost his sister to cancer in 1970. Perhaps because they grasp the understanding that can only come with experience, they give their patients the most dedicated care, such as encouraging their patients to call them at home. Ira explained to Heather McGregor of The Glenwood Post-Independent that he deals largely with people for whom cancer will ultimately prove fatal. "My job is to eliminate pain and suffering, to improve their quality of life, and to increase their survival time," he told her. "There are lots of ups and downs, and we have to be there for them."

Mr. Speaker, for forty years, Dr. Ira Jaffrey has not only worked as a skilled and talented oncologist, but he has acted with compassion

and sensitivity toward one of the most destructive diseases of our time. I would like to take this time to thank him for helping improve the quality of life for the many people today who suffer from cancer.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE U.S. MILITARY'S HUMANITARIAN WORK IN EAST TIMOR

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege to be in East Timor on July 2-5, 2001 to assess the current humanitarian situation and see first hand how American tax dollars are being spent. I was quite impressed with the work of the United States military and its ongoing humanitarian assistance in East Timor. This is a story which is not getting told to the American people. The U.S. military is doing incredible work at improving peoples' lives and generating good will towards the United States.

The U.S. military presence is coordinated through the United States Support Group in East Timor (USGET). Colonel Charles E. Cooke, U.S. Marine Corps, is Commander of USGET and is doing a superb job. Commanders for USGET have a three month rotation. USGET's purpose is to be a visible U.S. presence in East Timor and to plan/execute rotational humanitarian assistance missions. Since its inception in September 1999, USGET has conducted community relations and engineering projects, provided free medical and dental care, coordinated U.S. military ship visits, and repaired schools and medical clinics. For example, in April 2001, the USS *Boxer* visited East Timor. It was the largest effort in USGET history. The ship personnel provided medical assistance to 2,028 patients, completed five community relations projects, delivered 165 tons of humanitarian assistance by air and 86 tons of humanitarian assistance by sea. The ship crew also delivered \$53,000 in direct donations from the United States.

My trip to East Timor coincided with the visit of USNS *Niagara Falls*. Thirty personnel from the ship were detailed to repair a school in Dili which was burned down by the militias in 1999. They rebuilt and painted the school, and installed a new electrical system while East Timorese children looked on, excited to get their school back, and thankful to the U.S. military. It was quite an impressive thing to see.

On the morning of July 4th, I traveled on a helicopter from the USNS *Niagara Falls* to observe food delivery to the city of Lospaios in the Lautem district. In June, flooding destroyed many homes in this district and washed out the main bridge which connected the area with East Timor's capitol city of Dili. The U.S. military, working with the World Food Programme, was ensuring that food and supplies were getting into the region.

I am extremely proud of these men and women in the U.S. military for their humanitarian work in East Timor. They represent the best which our great nation has to offer. I salute them for their work and hope it will continue into next year.