

county commissioner who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty. In addition to being instrumental in bringing Our House for battered women and children and the Boys and Girls Club to Cedartown, Georgia, Mr. Croker has been very active in the Coosa Valley Regional Planning Commission, and he has recently been elected to a new position on the Board of Managers of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). He represents the first ACCG district, which includes 15 counties in northwest Georgia.

The ACCG is a nonprofit agency assisting Georgia's county governments. Formed in 1914, ACCG serves as the consensus-building, training, and legislative organization for all 159 county governments in the state.

Billy had previously been an at-large representative to the Board of Managers, As a board member of the statewide association, he plays a prominent role in shaping ACCG's yearly policy objectives and in directing activities taken on by the Association to help counties meet the increasingly complex demands facing today's local governments.

Billy is recognized as an active participant and exceptional leader in the Association, and by his peers throughout Georgia. He always shows a committed interest in the welfare of the entire state, not just Polk County. He is a true and valued servant of the people of Georgia, and it is an honor to represent him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

CITIZENSHIP DAY AND
CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, although we were not in regular session this past Monday, I would like to remind my Colleagues that September 17th was Citizenship Day and that this week is Constitution Week. The tragic events of the past week should remind us just how important our Citizenship and our Constitution are and what they mean to each and everyone of us.

This year's observances of Citizenship Day and Constitution Week come as we mourn for those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of September 11th. The National Conference on Citizenship urges every American to honor the victims by working constructively within our democratic process, so the United States will remain the world's foremost defender of freedom and a beacon of tolerance toward all men and women of good will.

The National Conference of Citizenship was founded in 1946 to sustain the unity of purpose that had bound together all Americans during World War II. In 1953, Congress granted this Conference a Charter that charged the organization "To encourage ever more effective participation in citizenship activities and to promote a spirit of cooperation on the part of all citizens."

Given the events of the past week, let us rededicate ourselves to this purpose. We are about to enter a period of our history that will perhaps be as important to our freedom as

were the trials and tribulations of World War II. Over the past few days, we have seen how all our lives are bound together. Today, let all Americans continue to express this newfound sense of unity of purpose that we have not seen since World War II and remember that we are a nation of laws and principle.

POW/MIA DAY 2001

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to my colleague's attention that tomorrow has been designated as National POW/MIA Day for 2001. This is an annual commemoration, designated by the President, for Americans to remember the sacrifices of those armed service-members who were captured in wartime, and those whose ultimate fate remains unknown.

Our nation fought four major conflicts in the 20th century. In those wars, over 142,000 Americans were taken prisoner-of-war. Those servicemen and women experienced numerous hardships and treatment which could often be described only as barbaric during the course of captivity. Those Americans imprisoned by the Japanese during World War II faced the worst possible conditions in captivity and were firsthand witnesses to the utter depravity of their fellow men. Americans imprisoned in North Korea and Southeast Asia suffered similar treatment.

The vast majority of these individuals, ore than 134,000, were eventually returned to U.S. control. However, more than 17,000 did not come home, and joined the ranks of the missing-in-action. According to the Congressional research service, over 88,000 Americans remain unaccounted for from 20th century wars. The bulk of these, 78,794, are remains not recovered from World War II. Approximately 1,600 Americans remain missing from the first World War, and more than 8,100 individuals remain missing from the Korean War. Korean War figures have been notoriously inaccurate, and of this aforementioned figure, "only" 2,195 cases exist where death was not witnessed or otherwise well-documented. Regarding the Vietnam War, 1,956 Americans remain missing from that conflict, of which the defense department believes 657 are definitely dead, including 459 who were lost at sea or over water.

I have been a strong advocate of an accounting of our POW/MIA's since I first came to the Congress in 1973. I was introduced to the issue through the experience of two friends and constituents, George and Gladys Brooks, who had lost their son in Vietnam. They were early members of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, an advocacy group for the families that continues to play a key role in this issue to this day. At the time, the POW/MIA issue did not resonate with the American public, who wanted to forget the whole Vietnam experience as soon as possible. Along with like-minded colleagues in the House, I sought to work closely with the Na-

tional League of Families to raise the profile of the POW/MIA issue with the American people and force the Department of Defense to adopt a sustained policy of seeking a full accounting for all those individuals who did not come home, especially with those who were last known to be alive in captivity.

From 1975-77, I served as a member of the Montgomery Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia, a body which held numerous hearings on the issue of whether live Americans were left behind in our Exodus from Vietnam. Subsequent to this, I co-chaired the House Select task force on this issue with my former colleague from Virginia, Lester Wolf. During this time, I made numerous trips to Southeast Asia, beginning with a trip to Hanoi in 1975.

In 1995, I introduced H.R. 945, The Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995, which was eventually incorporated into the Defense Authorization Act for FY '96. Included in this legislation was language which required the Secretary of Defense to centralize the responsibility for search and rescue operations under one office; instruct the Secretary to establish procedures for dealing with the families of missing persons by protecting the interests of the families; and provide a means by which the families of MIA's can express their concerns and questions about the missing family member. It also called for greater consultation between DOD and family members, and incorporated provisions create accountability and punishment for those in DOD who refuse to follow the law in this area.

Many of the good provisions in the bill were stripped out at the request of DOD in the House/Senate conference on the following year's authorization bill. The bulk of these, however, were overwhelmingly restored by the House in the FY 98 Defense Authorization bill.

Two years ago, I introduced legislation to declassify all of the classified documents from these hearings that were in the possession of the national archives. This resolution, which the House adopted unanimously, made available hundreds of formerly secret documents, allowing family members and academic researchers the opportunity to review previously unavailable material, which might eventually help with securing a final resolution for some MIA cases.

Permit me to focus special recognition on those POW/MIA's from Korea and Vietnam. Despite the prior administration's best assurances to the contrary, many of us in Congress remained unconvinced that the governments of North Korea and Vietnam have been fully cooperating with the united states on this issue. Regrettably, by normalizing relations with Vietnam, I believe that we have withdrawn our leverage over the Vietnamese government on this issue.

It bears noting that we have made some progress. Since the end of the war, 586 sets of remains have been returned from Vietnam, with 285 returned since 1991. However, despite an official position to the contrary, U.S. government efforts on the POW/MIA issue have traditionally focused on remains recovery, with little, if any, emphasis on the live Americans issue. In fact, in answers to questions I posed in hearings on recovery efforts back in 1996, Clinton administration officials

admitted that the discussion of live American prisoners was not even on the agenda when U.S. officials met with their North Korean, Vietnamese, or Laotian counterparts. Rather, they preferred to focus solely on the issue of remains recovery as a measurement of cooperation on the MIA issue from those countries.

The U.S. government, particularly the last administration, has often appeared to equate activity on recovery efforts, regardless of any subsequent results, with progress on the issue. This is not an insignificant point, the Defense Department has expended a substantial amount of money on remains recovery over the past decade, which begs the following question. Are North Korea, Vietnam and Laos truly interested in bilateral cooperation on this issue, or are they using it as a source of badly needed hard currency?

This is especially pertinent concerning the case of North Korea. According to the Congressional Research Service, 208 sets of remains were repatriated from North Korea between 1990–96, and 107 sets since 1996 when joint exhumation efforts began. During the period of 1990–96, the United States paid North Korea \$987,000 for their unilateral retrieval efforts. Once bilateral efforts began in 1996, the price tag sharply increased—we paid \$6.3 million for the 77 sets of remains exhumed through November of last year.

Given that only eight sets of remains have been identified as U.S. soldiers, although ten more appear to be so, we have in effect been paying the North Koreans \$400,000 per body, an outrageous sum and certainly not evidence of North Korean “cooperation.”

While the Vietnamese were not quite so brazen in their profiteering on the MIA issue, there is considerable evidence that they maintained a mortuary storehouse of sorts of U.S. remains, and doled these out over time. Most analysts, including those at the Library of Congress, agree that if this did occur, the supply of stored bodies was depleted in the early 1990s.

Regrettably, in its rush to normalize relations with Vietnam, the Clinton administration decided to overlook any evidence that Hanoi was holding back on cooperation or attempting to profit from it. This pattern was later repeated when the administration sought the establishment of trade relations. The opportunity to use trade and recognition as leverage to achieve faster results on the MIA issue was lost.

I am optimistic about our new President and his commitment to the POW/MIA issue. In a refreshing break from the past eight years, I expect that the Bush administration will adopt a more traditional stance towards Vietnam and North Korea on the POW/MIA issue. At the very least, I expect to see a higher standard applied towards determining whether or not those countries are cooperating and acting in good faith on this matter.

The new president has demonstrated a proven commitment to this important issue, and his relevant appointments to the State and Defense departments, including the new head of DPMO, Jerry Jennings, have the policy background to provide greater integration of the POW/MIA issue into our relations with Southeast Asia and North Korea.

On this point, I believe that Vietnam is the lynchpin that will determine the success or fail-

ures of any future endeavors. The Vietnamese are the key to gaining more information from both Laos and Cambodia on missing personnel. Moreover, the Vietnamese, despite recent certifications to the contrary, realize that there is much more they can do on this issue. On the issue of documentation alone, there is far more they can provide than what they have offered up to this point.

The Bush administration is in a much stronger position with regards to North Korea. This country has a far greater need for hard currency than Vietnam, and our new President is unlikely to continue the policy of outright appeasement on both nuclear power/weapons development and MIA remains recovery. It will be interesting to see how the white house approaches North Korea on these issues.

I believe we in Congress also have a role to play regarding North Korea. We need to have the new administration press the North Koreans harder on the issue of prisoner transfers to the USSR during and after the Korean war, as well as the matter of the possibility of live Americans still being held by P'yongyang. While this possibility, if it still exists, becomes more remote with each passing year, the escapes of several South Korean veterans of the 1950–53 war in recent years means this cannot be totally discounted. If any Americans are still being held in captivity in North Korea, and we know that four defectors/deserters still reside there, they should have the opportunity to return home before they die.

It is my hope that our bilateral relations can improve and will lead to a further clarification regarding the safe return of any living POW's who may still be in captivity in Korea or elsewhere.

Americans should always remember the love of country that America's veterans have shown as well as their personal sacrifices, courage, convictions and dedication to freedom that these individuals have exhibited.

To quote a portion of President Abraham Lincoln's letter to a mother who lost five sons on the battlefield: “I cannot refrain from tendering to you the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.”

May it be of some solace to the families and loved ones of our missing and POW's that there are many of us in the Congress committed to a full and final accounting of our missing.

In light of recent events in New York City, we hope that we will not be faced with a future POW/MIA issue from any resulting military action that we may undertake in Southern Asia.

HONORING MARTI DUPREY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and acknowledge the selfless contributions of an extremely important mem-

ber of our community. Ms. Marti Duprey has spent the majority of her life caring for and helping others. She has continuously put the well being of others ahead of her own.

Ms. Duprey, a Catholic nun, moved to Glenwood Springs, Colorado in 1973 after having spent eighteen years working with the Rev. Jesse Jackson's “Operation Breadbasket” in Chicago. Her education, consisting of Bachelor's Degrees in education and social work and a Master's Degree in counseling, provided her with the proper tools for her work with the community of Glenwood Springs ever since. She provides three very important functions for the residents of Glenwood Springs. Whether it is her involvement in the Defiance Community Theatre, her counseling in the Helping Hands Grief Group or as Program Manager for Mountain Valley Weavers, she unselfishly helps others find ways of expressing themselves in a more self-reliant manner and provides them with outlets that will increase their confidence and happiness.

Marti Duprey provides very important services for the grieving, the disabled and many other members of her community. Her compassion for others makes her a truly valuable member of the Glenwood Springs community. I would like to recognize Ms. Marti Duprey for her wonderful efforts and contributions that have touched the lives of so many. Her acts of care and compassion deserve our recognition and I would like to extend my best wishes and warm regards to her for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD T. FARRAR

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Ronald T. Farrar of South Carolina, on the occasion of his retirement from the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Farrar is the epitome of what a college professor should be, and he is respected and loved by faculty and students alike.

In 1986, Dr. Farrar became a professor of history, media law and introduction to journalism at the University of South Carolina, until assuming the position of interim dean in July of 1999. Dr. Farrar's career achievements speak for his dedicated service as an extraordinary college professor, teacher, administrator, mentor, and respected member of the media.

After earning his Ph.D. in Journalism History from the University of Missouri in 1965, Dr. Farrar went on to serve as a professor/chairman in the journalism departments of Indiana University, Southern Methodist University, the University of Mississippi, and the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Farrar served as a reporter, news editor, general manager and circulation manager of the Arkansas Democrat, Daily Press, Arkansas Gazette, and Daily Iowan newspapers. From 1957 to 1958, he served as 2nd Lieutenant of the U.S. Army.