

the call when their neighbors need them, and 50 more volunteers working in support of the Department.

As we honor the heroes of September 11th, including so many members of New York's Bravest, we stand in prayerful wonder and immeasurable gratitude for what firefighters sacrifice and risk on our behalf. They are, truly, the best of neighbors and the best of citizens.

The Seaford Volunteer Fire Department has been a part of that great tradition for 100 years, and on behalf of the people of my state, and on behalf of the United States Senate, I am proud to extend congratulations to Chief Steve Mayer, President Rich Toulson and all the men and women who have kept the Department and the community strong into a second century of service. Again, we are very proud, and we are deeply grateful.●

CONGRATULATING BARBARA ELY RITTER ON 30 YEARS' FEDERAL SERVICE WITH THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate an exceptional Federal employee and friend, Barbara Ely Ritter, who on October 18 of this year will complete 30 years of Federal service with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mrs. Ritter is currently Chief of Budget Execution for the USFWS here in Washington, D.C. But her career extends back to 1971 when, as she tells it, as a newly arrived "Cheechako" in Anchorage, Alaska, confronting an extremely tight job market, she was faced with a choice between two career paths: night clerk in a liquor store or temporary clerk/typist with the USFWS. Fortunately for the Service and for the taxpayers, Mrs. Ritter chose the latter path.

Thus began a career that has taken her from Alaska to New Mexico to North Carolina to Washington, D.C. to Oregon, and back again to Alaska and the District of Columbia. In each transfer Mrs. Ritter has moved into positions of greater and greater responsibility, establishing along the way a reputation for getting things done and done right. Indeed, she is known in the Service as one of the "go-to" people on budget matters. In addition, she has chosen to share her experience and knowledge with up-and-coming USFWS managers and budget specialists by mentoring and instructing prospective managers through the Service's "Stepping Up to Leadership" program.

She is a regular lecturer at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepardstown, WV, as well as co-developer of the NCTC's course of budget instruction. In addition, in her various management positions Mrs. Ritter has effectively implemented the Federal

Government's oft-stated hiring goals of diversity and quality in its workforce. As an example, she personally led efforts to hire the first visually impaired employee in the USFWS Portland, OR, office—an employee who is, herself, coming up on 10 years' service with the USFWS.

Our nation's future depends to a large degree on the quality and professionalism of the Federal employee. Oft-maligned unjustly, the Federal employee is the person who, ultimately, has to get the job done for America. Barbara Ely Ritter's 30-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and her inspiring rise from temporary employee to division chief, stands as a vivid example of what our dedicated, hard-working, professional Federal employees are capable of.●

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND DOCTOR FREDERICK GEORGE SAMPSON

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to the achievements of a beloved religious leader, heroic civil rights advocate, inspiring preacher and dedicated father from my home State of Michigan, Reverend Doctor Frederick George Sampson.

For the past 30 years, my home town of Detroit has been able to claim Reverend Sampson as one of its own. However, his deep faith, keen intellect, and concern for others enabled him to touch the lives of countless people the world over.

Born in Port Arthur, TX, Reverend Sampson's insatiable thirst for knowledge compelled him to earn three bachelor's degrees, two master's degrees, a doctor of divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary as well as certificates in economics and medicine. In addition, three colleges awarded him honorary degrees.

While he was indeed a man of learning, Reverend Sampson was also a man of action who sought to integrate his education and faith into all he did. His learning and faith could be heard in his powerful sermons. Such was the influence of these sermons, that Ebony Magazine twice named Reverend Sampson as one of the Nation's "Greatest Black Preachers in America."

Central to all the Reverend's work was his untiring advocacy on behalf of the civil rights movement. A close aide to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. Sampson helped organize the 1965 voting rights march in Montgomery, AL, and he helped write and edit many important speeches given during the early days of the civil rights movement. In addition, he was a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as well as a former President of the Detroit branch of the NAACP. Much of the success of the civil rights move-

ment has been due to the untiring efforts by people of faith, such as Reverend Sampson, who reminded us about the dignity and worth of all people regardless of their race, creed or gender.

After serving two decades in various churches throughout the nation, Reverend Sampson came to Detroit to serve as Senior Pastor at the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. During his tenure as pastor, this parish of 5,000 served as a beacon of hope to the entire community. Tabernacle Church cares for the body and mind as well as the soul, and Reverend Sampson deserves much of the credit for this. The church offers computer training, GED tutoring, runs a soup kitchen, administers a food pantry and among other things has a scholarship program in addition to its services and Bible studies.

As one who early in his life deferred a career in medicine to serve God as a preacher, Reverend Sampson was able to use his role as a minister to increase awareness about health matters. Besides speaking extensively about health and spirituality, Reverend Sampson was able to display considerable courage in his personal life when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. After this diagnosis, Reverend Sampson and his daughter Freda sought to highlight the threat that prostate cancer poses, particularly to African American males, by teaming with the American Cancer Society and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to raise awareness of this disease.

Reverend Sampson has been a community and spiritual leader for nearly five decades. I have been able to witness, firsthand, his passionate oratory, his love of his Lord and his commitment to helping others. Reverend Sampson touched the lives of all who met him. I know my Senate colleagues join me in commemorating the life of Reverend Doctor Frederick George Sampson, and in offering their condolences to his son Pastor Frederick Sampson III, his daughter Freda and his extended family.●

NATIONAL BUSINESS WOMEN'S WEEK

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, this week, for the 73rd year, our nation will commemorate National Business Women's Week. Since it was first observed in 1928, the event has been sponsored by Business and Professional Women, (BPW)/USA as a national tribute to all working women. It has helped increase awareness of the continuing challenges that working women face, and has highlighted their many successes that have strengthened our nation.

With well over 60 million women in the American labor force, including more than 70 percent of women with children, and an increasing percentage of women who help care for an elderly