

Starting back in the Civil War, Black Minnesotans were involved in important undertakings that contributed to the good of the nation. In 1860, although there were only 259 residents of African descent in the state, 104 Black men served in the Union army. Despite being paid less and suffering from racial prejudice, they fought courageously along with their white brethren.

Minnesotans also played important roles in more recent civil rights advances. The U.S. Postal Service recently honored St. Paul native Roy Wilkins as the 24th American honored in the Black Heritage Commemorative Stamp Series. As a leader of the NAACP when this country made significant civil rights advances, his legacy is felt today across this country.

Alan Page was first known to most of us as an all-pro Hall of Fame lineman for the Minnesota Vikings. However, Alan has often said he takes more pride in his subsequent career as a Special Assistant Attorney General and an Associate Justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Nellie Stone Johnson has had a long and distinguished record of public service in support of the advancement of minority concerns, the rights of workers, and equal opportunities for all people. Her life is chronicled with a series of "firsts." As a leader of organized labor in the 1930s and 1940s, she was the first woman vice president of the Minnesota Culinary Council and the first woman vice president of Local 665 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union. She was also the first African American elected to citywide office in Minneapolis when she won a seat on the Library Board in 1945.

Sharon Sayles-Belton, another of Minnesota's greatest mayors, has for almost eight years led initiatives to make our state's largest city a better place to live, work, do business and educate our children.

And Billy McGee, a Public Defender who passed away last year, was a tireless champion of civil and human rights in the Twin Cities community. Everyone knew that they could call Billy at all hours and be assured of his help.

Minnesota native Dave Winfield and World Series hero Kirby Puckett were both voted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame last year. Not only are they great athletes, they are greatly respected and enormously contributing civic leaders.

And William Finney is the distinguished Chief of Police of our capitol city, St. Paul. He has successfully integrated that police force, combatted crime afflicting citizens of all races and nationalities, and helped lead the way for racial and social advances in his city.

Those are just a few of the Minnesotans who have and continue to set ex-

amples for the rest of us. There are many more women and men who are giving their very best to improve our state. As we celebrate Black History Month, we can all do well to look to their examples of activism and excellence. And we can strive to follow their leadership in making this country all that it should be for all our citizens.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING CHASKA POLICE OFFICERS BRADY JUELL AND MIKE KLEBER

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor two Minnesota heroes.

Chaska police officers Brady Juell and Mike Kleber saved the lives of more than a dozen residents as fire burned through an apartment building.

On the morning of Tuesday February 6, 2001 a fire broke out in an apartment building in Chaska, Minnesota. With little regard for their own safety, Officers Juell and Kleber searched and found resident after resident. In some instances they literally pulled people to safety.

Officers Juell and Kleber did their job. But they did so much more: they inspired us because they showed how great and how selfless we can be.

The community will be honoring these brave men on March 3, but I wanted the Senate today to recognize these good and noble men who saved lives and provided us a glimpse of who we can be as a people.

I ask that the following articles from the Minneapolis Star Tribune and the Chaska Herald be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Feb. 7, 2001]

POLICE OFFICERS SAVE PEOPLE FROM BURNING CHASKA APARTMENT

(By Chris Graves)

As he lay choking on smoke and unable to see, Brad Bandas saw the glimmer of a flashlight through the sooty black smoke filling his Chaska apartment building.

The 22-year-old man hoped that whoever was on the other side of the light saw his hand frantically waving.

Out of the smoke came a hand. Then Bandas was on his feet. Then he was outside, standing—and coughing—in the crisp, pre-dawn air.

"The officer just clutched my hand and pulled me out and gave me the boost I needed," Bandas said. "I could have been dead. Smoke kills you."

He was one of more than a dozen apartment residents saved by Chaska police officers Brady Juell and Mike Kleber as fire lapped up the side of the three-story stucco building in the 600 block of Ravoux Rd. about 4 a.m. Tuesday.

One resident, Robert A. Ebert, 38, died in the blaze after he broke out his garden-level apartment window to try to escape.

Chaska Police Chief Scott Knight said a bystander tried to pull Ebert out of his burning apartment, but he fell backward and died in the blaze.

Knight said preliminary findings indicate the fire, which started in Ebert's apartment, was caused by an electrical malfunction and was an accident.

Knight beamed like a father about his officers' actions.

"They are heroes. I know we would have many more deaths," he said, "with the people sleeping and the rapid spread of fire and smoke."

Bandas had made it down to a first floor hall before collapsing. His fiancée, Jackie Gallipo, 19, watched from their third-floor apartment as he was pulled out of the building. The officers, as well as Bandas, were yelling at her to jump. The officers assured her they would catch her.

And they did.

"I climbed out the window and was hanging off the sill. I didn't want to jump," she said. "But I didn't want to burn up . . . so I jumped."

Knight said the two officers crawled through the smoke, banged on apartment doors and yelled to awaken residents. Several times, the two men used their shoulders to break down doors.

"They reluctantly accept the title 'hero,'" Knight said. "They said they were doing nothing short of what their peers would have done. But I have to tell you, they are heroes.

"I'm beaming with pride."

[From the Chaska (MN) Herald, Feb. 7, 2001]
ONE DEAD IN FIRE; POLICE HELP SAVE OTHERS

(By Mark W. Olson)

Dave Cooper's first migraine in six months kept him awake early Tuesday morning. He was flipping from channel to channel when he heard glass breaking. Cooper looked out his Creekside Apartment window at the other Creekside Apartment building across the parking lot. Flames were shooting from a sub-level apartment of the three-story complex, at 625 Ravoux Road, and windows had shattered from the heat, Cooper said.

Cooper called 911, ran outside and into the west entrance of the blazing building and began pounding on doors. His girlfriend, Donna Busch, ran to the east side of the building and began yelling at residents from outside the apartment. By the time Cooper reached the second floor, the building was filled with smoke, he said.

Chaska Police Officers Brady Juell and Mike Kleber arrived about a minute after receiving the 3:54 a.m. call.

The fire began in Robert Andrew Ebert's sub-level apartment. He had apparently broken the bedroom window of his flame-filled apartment to escape and another resident had tried to reach for him, said Chaska Police Chief Scott Knight. By the time police officers arrived, flames six to 10 feet high were coming out of Ebert's apartment windows. Ebert, 38, died in the fire.

Ebert was the only occupant in the apartment. Knight said Ebert had a son, who did not live with him, and relatives in Watertown and Waconia.

The fire may have been "electrical in nature," according to Knight. Preliminary investigations by the State Fire Marshal point to it starting in Ebert's living room in the vicinity of the VCR and television. There is a continuing investigation into the exact cause.

The apartment building could be a complete loss, Knight said. There were 21 occupants in the building, according to apartment manager Brad Bandas. Residents suffered from smoke inhalation and one occupant sprained an ankle, Knight said.

Knight credited officers Juell and Kleber with saving many lives during the fire. "I

can tell you that I am fiercely proud of these men," Knight said, at a Tuesday afternoon press conference. "I'm here to tell you they're heroes."

The officers entered the smoke and fire-filled building to get people out, experiencing "conditions we can't imagine," Knight said.

In one case, the officers saw a hand reach out from the darkness for help. The officers shouted at occupants to walk toward their flashlights. For one brief moment the officers lost each other in the smoke, Knight said. "They had to crawl and shout and came upon people by feel," Knight said.

Bandas, and his fiancée Jackie Gallipo, woke to the sound of smoke alarms. Their apartment was so full of smoke, Bandas said he couldn't see a television across the room.

He headed out the door of his third-floor apartment, thinking Gallipo was right behind him. "I couldn't see a damn thing," Bandas said. He felt his way out of the building by following stair railings. A police officer pulled him out the door. "All I could do was gasp for air," he said. Emergency crews gave him oxygen.

Meanwhile, Gallipo popped out a screen and jumped out a third-story window, into the arms of two awaiting police officers. "I'm just glad everyone got out," Bandas said.

"We thought someone's (clock) alarm was going off at first," said Al Knadel. Knadel and his girlfriend, Missy Schumacher, threw on shoes and jackets and headed for the door. By the time they left, flames were coming from under one of their apartment's doors.

"We just moved in a week ago," Knadel said. "Time to pack everything up and start at square one again."

Tuesday morning Bill and Virginia Standke, volunteers with the American Red Cross of Carver County, were helping the residents find temporary places to stay, and finding out what clothes and other supplies residents needed.

Firefighters from Chaska, Chanhassen, Shakopee, Victoria and Carver all fought the fire.

Chaska's last apartment building fire, on Jan. 15, 2000 at 123 W. 2nd Street in downtown Chaska, left 11 people homeless. There were no fatalities in the 2nd Street blaze. The historic 1891 F. Hammer building, made of Chaska brick, as since been repaired.●

TRIBUTE TO ED JOHNSON

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, this past Monday, the Ohio agriculture community lost a dear friend with the passing of Ed Johnson. He was not only a friend of mine, he was a wonderful human being.

Ed Johnson grew up on a dairy farm in Fairfield County, Ohio. From the time he was a young boy, Ed realized that the only way to get ahead in life was through honest, hard work. This philosophy translated itself into a tremendous work ethic, which, combined with his robust energy and love for farming, made Ed an enthusiastic and well-regarded spokesman for Ohio farmers.

With a background in agricultural economics and agricultural education, Ed started out his professional life as a teacher before joining the Ohio Farm Bureau as Organizational Director for

Fairfield, Pickaway and Ross Counties. He worked hard on behalf of "his" farmers and was a great source of agricultural information for both farmers and non-farmers alike. It was while he served at Ohio Farm Bureau that he discovered he had a real knack for radio, reporting on Farm Bureau events, then sporting events and farm market news.

Ed, it seems, had found his niche. He took his love of farming, combined it with his communication skills, and became a true media entrepreneur. He assumed the risk of starting up his own radio network, ABN, Agri Broadcasting Network, and developed a multi-state service to small stations by delivering market news and covering agricultural events. It wasn't long before Ed became an accomplished radio personality. As his success grew, he developed an early industry service of up-linking and down-linking sporting events for major radio, WBNS Columbus being one such station.

Ed also branched out into television, hosting his own weekly morning show, Agri Country, which aired in Ohio and three other states. With Ed at the helm, Agri Country has been popular to both farming and non-farming audiences since 1982.

In addition to his radio and television work, Ed advanced agriculture with "Ohio's Country Journal," a monthly publication that, even though it struggled for its first few years, has blossomed as readership numbers shot up. It is now "the" farm publication for Ohio's agriculture.

Ed's great contributions to agricultural media were surpassed only by his humanitarian giving in terms of his leadership and his time. His unselfish dedication to further the causes of his alma mater, the Ohio State University, the 4-H Foundation, the Future Farmers of America, and all Ohio farmers for that matter, were unparalleled.

Ed's personal caring and concern for society and his fellow man made him an outstanding communicator. Ed could talk with anyone—rich man or poor man; farm hand or a nation's president—he had an uncanny ability to put anyone he talked to totally at ease.

Throughout the years, I came to rely on Ed's knowledge of Ohio agriculture and his viewpoint on the agricultural situation throughout the state of Ohio. I appreciated his tireless efforts to promote agribusiness both within the state and nationwide.

Because of Ed's contribution to agriculture in the State of Ohio, I was pleased to induct him into Ohio's Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1997. On that occasion, I said "I don't think there's anyone in the state who is more readily identifiable with agriculture by the average person than Ed." Indeed.

I've often said that it's not the number of years that one lives, but what

one does with those years that counts. In his sixty-three years, Ed lived his life to the fullest, and in so doing, touched the lives of countless individuals. Ed took risks, celebrated his successes and learned from his defeats, and, through it all, Ed never lost his focus, his positive attitude, nor his ever-present grin. There is no one comparable, and the void his loss has created in Ohio will not soon be filled.

Ed Johnson has been taken from us too early, and I will miss him. It is my hope that his wife, Marilyn, his children, Julie and Bart, his foster daughter Julie, his grandchildren—Adam, Eric, Nathan, Sarah, Elizabeth, Gage and Lauren—his brothers and sister and his entire family will take comfort in the knowledge that Ed is with our Father in Heaven.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL NASH

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor Paul Nash. Paul has been a highly-valued member of my legislative staff for more than 4 years, and I wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for all his years of hard work and dedication to the people of South Dakota. Paul will no longer be working on my staff after next week, and I, along with my entire staff, will miss his contributions greatly.

Paul was one of the original members of my Senate staff when I began serving in this body in January of 1997. Paul has worked on a number of issues in my office, and for the past several years has been my legislative assistant responsible for staffing my Banking Committee assignment, as well as taxes, telecommunications, campaign finance reform, government employees and labor issues. Paul has been an instrumental part of some of my key legislative accomplishments since I have had the honor of serving in the Senate, including passage of the Johnson amendment to the Financial Services Modernization Act, and legislation to provide access to local television stations for rural satellite owners. Paul has also been actively involved in helping to produce bipartisan legislation in the past Congress and at the start of this Congress to reauthorize the Export Administration Act. His efforts have earned him the respect of many people he has worked with, including other Senators and staff of the Banking Committee.

Paul has also worked closely with members of the South Dakota financial services community, and I know he will be missed by them as well. Paul's efforts on telecommunication issues for rural America, as well as his hard work on many other issues, such as campaign finance reform and tax policy have also been important contributions to my legislative efforts of the past 4 years. He has been a true public