

many occasions, Jerry followed that command almost literally. He was constantly giving his time and money to other people. He was quick to forgive debts.

This same generosity applied to the dogs, cats, and cattle that had the good fortune to have him as their master. For several decades, now, Jerry has spent more money on hay and upkeep for his cows than he ever made by selling them at market. Truth is, Jerry never owned the cows—the cows owned him. And that was just fine with him.

The result of this lifetime of generosity and giving is that Jerry did not die a rich man. Money was not what drove him. Jerry understood that we make a living by what we make, but we make a life by what we give. He was forever giving: himself, his labor, his money. As a result he takes to the grave the only wealth that really matters: the wealth of a life well lived . . . the wealth of our respect and admiration and love.

Of course, for Jerry, his greatest wealth was his family, especially Tweetie, his beloved wife and partner of nearly a half century. Yes, Jerry had a powerful love for his daughters Laura and Marguerite. And yes, he loved his grandchildren. But truth be told, in his last years, he had a very, very special place in his heart for the youngest: his great-grandson Daniel.

And as Danny grows up to be a teenager and then a man, he will have the enormous privilege to learn more about Trigger, the great-grandfather he loves so much. Daniel will do well to live by his great-grandfather's example.

There is an old expression: Sometimes life is not as simple as it seems—it is even simpler. And so it is with people. Sometimes their lives can be captured best in the fewest, simplest words. To capture the essence of Jerry's life, I once again go back to his great-grandfather, Jeremiah. Jeremiah is buried at Ebenezer Baptist church not far from the Greenville farm. And on the gravestone, his epitaph is exactly eight words long. It says: "Confederate Soldier, Christian Citizen, Faithful to Every Trust."

With one necessary amendment, those same words can now sum up Jerry Cleveland Whitmire's life: American soldier, Christian citizen, faithful to every trust.

We will remember him with love.
May he rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL HONOREES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Officer Edward Ryan, Firefighter Brian O'Sullivan, and EMT Lt. Raymond Branagan, all of whom will be honored by the Knights of Columbus on March 31, 2001.

For the past eight years, The Fourth Degree Assembly 675 Knights of Columbus of Bayonne, New Jersey has honored officers from the city's three branches of service. The award honors both individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty and the departments that employ these brave men and women.

Police Officer Edward Ryan is being honored for evacuating the occupants of two burn-

ing buildings. On January 22, 2000, Officer Ryan was dispatched to a call regarding a fire at 86 W. 16th Street. Upon arrival, Officer Ryan found the building engulfed in flames with the fire spreading to the adjoining residence. Despite a rapidly spreading fire and severe smoke conditions, Officer Ryan heroically evacuated all residents from both buildings, allowing the fire department to immediately concentrate on fighting the fire, rather than on performing a search for trapped residents.

Firefighter Brian O'Sullivan is being honored for recently saving a life. He is a member of Bayonne's Engine Company 6. In December 2000, Engine Company 6 was dispatched to Marist High School in response to a call about an unconscious female. Upon arrival, Firefighter O'Sullivan recognized that she was not breathing, so he used an automatic external defibrillator and a bag valve mask to save her life. Brian O'Sullivan became a firefighter in 1999, and was a member of the first class trained as both a firefighter and an EMT.

Lieutenant Raymond Branagan is an EMT, and is being honored for his administrative and instructional work with McCabe Ambulance. He is currently the lead instructor and administrative assistant to the Director of the McCabe Institute of Emergency Preparedness. Lt. Branagan is in charge of arranging courses on CPR for the American Heart Association, on First Aid for the National Safety Council, and on OSHA/PEOSHA blood and airborne pathogens for the Bayonne Police and Fire Departments, the Bayonne Board of Education, and Bayonne Head Start.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Officer Ryan, Firefighter O'Sullivan, and Lt. Branagan for their courageous contributions to their community.

SHAVER RETIRES AS CHIEF DEPUTY CORONER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joe Shaver, who is retiring after 32 years as chief deputy coroner of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Joe was born in 1934 in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, graduated from Wyoming Memorial High School in 1952, and graduated from the McAllister School of Mortuary Science in 1953. He began his long career by helping out parking cars and handling other chores at Metcalfe's Funeral Home in Wyoming while he was still in high school, and he served an apprenticeship at the Luther M. Kniffen Funeral Home in Wilkes-Barre from 1954 to 1957.

From 1957 to 1963, he served in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps, including active duty in West Germany from 1957 to 1959. In 1959, Joe became a partner in the business that was renamed the Metcalfe & Shaver Funeral Home, and he became the owner in 1986. He was recalled to active duty with the Army from 1960 to 1961 due to the Berlin crisis and served an additional year at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

In 1969, Dr. George Hudock Jr. was appointed coroner following the death of the previous coroner, and his first act was to appoint Joe as his chief deputy. At that point, Joe had already served as a deputy coroner for six years and had been assisting Dr. Hudock with autopsies for three years. In Joe's 32 years as chief deputy coroner, he has assisted in more than 2,800 autopsies.

While Joe's memberships and affiliations are too numerous to list them in full, a few examples will serve to show his long history of community involvement. He is a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Kingston and has served on its council for several years, in addition to having served in the choir. He is a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Wyoming and a Paul Harris Fellow, a member and past president of the Wyoming Business Club, a life member of Wyoming Hose Company No. 1, and a member of VFW Post 396 in Wyoming, Irem Temple in Wilkes-Barre and Mountain Grange 567 in Carverton.

Joe and his wife, the former Janice Ludwig, were married in 1962. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the long history of Joe Shaver's service to the community, and I wish him and his wife the best in his retirement.

2001 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, during the month of March 2001 we celebrate Women's National History Month. This year's theme is "Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision."

All across this country, Americans are promoting community, school and workplace celebrations honoring women's accomplishments, contributions, courage and vision.

In the Nation's Capital, the District of Columbia Commission for Women will participate in the national observance of Women's History Month to recognize the courage and vision exhibited by women of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, women of every race, creed, color and economic background have contributed to the growth and strength of our community. For more than three decades, programs of the District of Columbia Commission for Women have provided all our citizens with opportunities to bring attention to the creative, civic and professional accomplishments of women.

This year as part of its Women's History Month observance, the District of Columbia Commission for Women will establish a scholarship at the University of the District of Columbia to support women in pursuit of their academic and career endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all our colleagues to join with me in commending the District of Columbia Commission for Women and its members for their dedication, courage and vision.