

I am extremely pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Marion McConnell. Her wonderful work is the embodiment of what it means to be a good neighbor, and she is more than deserving of recognition in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REX F. GIBSON HONORED

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, in the chaos of battle, victory is determined, not by the planning of Generals and staff officers, but by the leadership of the junior officers and non-commissioned officers [NCOs]. The Battle of Normandy was no different. In fact, the historian Stephen E. Ambrose, in his book "D-Day: The Climatic Battle of World War II," wrote:

... for all the inspired leadership, in the end success or failure in Operation Overload came down to a relatively small number of junior officers, noncoms, and privates ... if the noncoms and junior officers failed to lead their men up and over the seawall to move inland in the face of enemy fire-why, then the most thoroughly planned offensive in military history, an offensive supported by incredible amounts of naval firepower, bombs, and rockets, would fail ... It came down to a bunch of 18 to 28 year olds ... They were citizen soldiers, not professionals.

This weekend, I will have the opportunity to participate in a ceremony where one of my constituents, Rex F. Gibson, a citizen-soldier, will finally receive his Bronze Star with Valor for his actions in Normandy in 1944.

Rex Gibson personified the concept of the citizen-soldier. In 1939, he joined the Arizona National Guard while he was in college in Safford, AZ. He was selected for Officer Candidate School to be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

Rex was assigned as platoon leader of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Section in the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, a National Guard Division, Rex's regiment was nicknamed the "Stonewallers" after their legendary Southern commander, Gen. Stonewall Jackson. Rex and the stonewallers were about to become famous as well. They would be the first regiment of the 29th division to land on Omaha Beach during the invasion of Normandy. To the horror of the soldiers, the Army-Air Force and the Navy did not silence the German machine guns or destroy the barbed wire and other obstacles on the beach. Their landing craft ramps opened to a wall of machine gun and artillery fire. Chaos broke out as soldiers tried to find safety. Rex and his fellow stonewallers quickly took the initiative and braved the machine gun fire to get a foothold on the beach.

By nightfall, the beach was taken but, at a terrible price. Rex's regiment suffered heavily from the assault. Platoons and companies were decimated because they had lost so many of their soldiers on the beach. The 116th Regiment may have been battered, but they were not out of this battle yet. Rex and the Stonewallers moved forward from the beach into France, fighting the Germans for another month.

The famous war correspondent Ernie Pyle, who later landed on Omaha Beach, summed

up the experience with these words: "... it seems to me a pure miracle that we ever took the beach at all." The miracle was the junior officers like Rex and the regimental NCOs who ensured that the beach was taken, that the battle for Normandy was victorious, and that the war was won.

When the war ended, Rex came home like so many other citizen-soldiers to continue with his life. Until now, Rex thought he had only done his duty as a citizen and a patriot. He did not know that his Regiment, his Division, and his country thought he had done more. Back in June of 1944, his division commander, Maj. Gen. Charles Gerhardt recommended him for the Bronze Star with Valor for his outstanding service during the Battle of Normandy.

Mr. Speaker, 52 years is too long for anyone to wait to be properly recognized for their service to their country. I want to thank Rex for his dedication and patriotism.

RAILWAY LABOR-MANAGEMENT  
DISPUTES

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SUSAN MOLINARI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, three labor disputes, affecting several major unions and most of the Nation's major railroads, are now in the final days of the process provided for in the Railway Labor Act. All three disputes have undergone extensive mediation. When the produced impasses, the President appointed a Presidential Emergency Board [PEB] for each of the disputes, as provided in the Railway Labor Act, to recommend proposed settlement terms. The three PEBs issued their reports on June 23, 1996. The issuance of the PEB reports began the final 30-day "cooling-off" period under the Railway Labor Act for the parties to attempt a negotiated solution to their disputes. In any dispute where an agreement is not reached within this final 30 days, both sides are free to employ "self-help" under the Railway Labor Act—a strike by labor, or a lockout or unilateral promulgation of new rules and working conditions by management. In the three pending cases, this earliest legal time for self-help will be 12:01 a.m., July 24.

The stakes in these negotiations go far beyond the railroad industry itself. Although there are alternative methods of transportation, a number of industries cannot readily eliminate their heavy reliance on rail service. These include automobile manufacturing, paper, chemicals, and coal. As more and more industries have adopted "just-in-time" delivery of supplies and parts to reduce inventory costs, the continuity of rail service has become even more important to the economy. As a result, an interruption of rail service for even a few days can require the complete shutdown of many of the plants in these industries. Overall, some \$2.7 billion of goods move by rail every day. At the time of the 1991 national rail strike, the Council of Economic Advisors estimated the non-recoverable damage to the economy of a rail shutdown as \$1 billion per day after the first few days. Current projec-

tions indicate that a rail shutdown would cause nearly 600,000 non-rail layoffs within 2 weeks, and over 1 million such layoffs after 4 weeks.

Besides the industries directly served by the freight railroads, Amtrak and most commuter and rail services must use tracks and equipment of the freight railroad network. For these rail passenger services, a freight rail shutdown could strand 294,000 commuters and 25,000 Amtrak riders per day.

In light of the vital economic role of continuous and reliable rail service, we urge both rail labor and rail management to negotiate in good faith, using the recommendations of the three Presidential Emergency Boards to inform their deliberations. Although Congress has intervened in a number of rail shutdowns in the past, this should be a last resort. Privately negotiated voluntary agreements are vastly preferable, for the employees, the rail carriers, and the nation.

Meanwhile, to aid the Members of Congress and the public in understanding the issues involved in these three labor disputes, we are making available in the Committee's offices summaries of the three Presidential Emergency Board reports. The PEB reports themselves totaled approximately 150 pages. We hope that this condensed summary will help all concerned understand the issues better, and to evaluate the accuracy of any claims about the content of the PEB recommendations they may hear in the coming weeks.

HONORING JAMES J. McFADDEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, there are many people in the Riverdale section of the Bronx who are worthy of praise for all of their civic activities. One of the most deserving is James J. McFadden, who for many years has given unselfishly of himself to make his neighborhood, his borough and his city a better place.

He is a founding member of the Frances Schervier Home and Hospital Area Board of Trustees. He has initiated programs, to help drop-outs take high school equivalency exams, served as city labor commissioner and has served on the boards of the New York City Department of the Aging and the Yonkers Waterfront Commission. It is a great honor for me to be able to note that he is being named as Riverdalian of the Year by the Riverdale Community Council, a richly deserved honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, this morning I was attending the funeral of a close friend. Regrettably, I missed the first rollcall vote of the day which was a procedural vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."