

REBUILD LIVES AND FAMILIES
RE-ENTRY ENHANCEMENT ACT
OF 2005**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Rebuild Lives and Families Re-Entry Enhancement Act of 2005. This legislation will be the next important step in establishing policy to help the men and women emerging from our Nation's prisons and jails re-integrate into society and rebuild their lives.

While our national crime rates have fallen over the last decade, we have seen an unprecedented explosion in our prison and jail populations. Over 2 million prisoners are now held in Federal and State prisons and local jails. Each year, approximately 650,000 people return to their communities following a prison or jail sentence, resulting in more than 6.7 million under some form of criminal justice supervision.

Re-entry refers to the return of incarcerated individuals from America's jails and prisons to the community and their re-integration into society. There is a pressing need to provide these individuals with the education and training necessary to obtain and hold onto steady jobs, undergo drug treatment, and get medical and mental health services. However, they are confronted with the "prison after imprisonment"—a plethora of seemingly endless obstacles and impediments which stymie successful re-integration into society. These obstacles have substantially contributed to the historically high rate of recidivism, with two-thirds of returning prisoners having been re-arrested for new crimes within 3 years.

This legislation is designed to assist high-risk, high-need offenders who have served their prison sentences, but who pose the greatest risk of re-offending upon release because they lack the education, job skills, stable family or living arrangements, and the substance abuse treatment and other mental and medical health services they need to successfully re-integrate into society. Title I of the bill reauthorizes and enhances our early adult and juvenile re-entry programs to broaden the availability of critical ex-offender services, while Title II addresses the substantive Federal barriers to successful re-entry. Both titles include provisions requiring that the funded programs be rigorously evaluated and the results widely disseminated, so that re-entry programs can be modified as needed, to ensure that recidivism is reduced and public safety enhanced.

A recent study by Peter D. Hart Research Associates reveals that Americans strongly favor rehabilitation and re-entry programs as the best method of insuring public safety. With this changing paradigm in public opinion, the opportunity is ripe to sensibly reassess the role and impact of criminal justice policies. This legislation translates this emerging public perception into balanced policies and procedures which dismantle the structural impediments to successful re-integration into society.

THE GREATEST GENERATION AU-
THOR TOM BROKAW ADDRESSES
THE ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I just had the chance to read the speech given in October by Tom Brokaw, television journalist and former NBC news anchorman and managing editor of "NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw," at the Association of the United States Army, AUSA. He was presented with the association's highest award—the Marshall Medal, awarded annually to an individual who has exhibited "selfless service to the United States of America," according to the association.

The AUSA Council of Trustees chose Brokaw to receive the 2005 George Catlett Marshall Medal and recognize him for his lifetime contributions as a journalist, reporter, editor, broadcaster and author. I share his address here and commend to our colleagues the speech by Mr. Brokaw, the author of *The Greatest Generation*, the story of Americans who came of age during the Great Depression and fought World War II, and went on to build America. I call attention to Mr. Brokaw's observations of the common sacrifices of the Greatest Generation during World War II and the comparison with today, as our men and women in uniform are fighting to defend our freedoms, "we ask too few sacrifices at the civilian level."

You know in my business, I'm often in settings where they talk about stars. I'm seldom in a setting with so many stars, that have been earned, not just assigned to them by some gossip columnist, and it's a rare honor and a great privilege for me to be with all of you tonight here on the dais and in this great auditorium.

So many people have come up to me to say, on this occasion and others, I love your book. When I set out to write it, I had no idea of the richness of the journey that I was about to embark on. It really began on the 40th anniversary of D-Day, when I went to Normandy for a week to do a documentary about that momentous military landing that really changed the course of history. I thought, we'll have a good time, we'll drink some wine, and maybe we'll drink a lot of wine, and we'll have some good meals, and we'll hear some war stories.

And on the first day of filming, I walked down to the beach, with two men from Big Red One, one of whom went on to earn the Medal of Honor later. One was without legs that he lost in later action. And as I looked at them, I realized that Harry Garton and Gino Merli were the kinds of people that I had known all my life. They were my schoolteachers and ministers, the businessmen for whom I worked. Their wives looked like the mothers of all my friends; they looked like my parents' best friends. They were there in their windbreakers, and as we walked onto Omaha Beach, they paused at their first return and began very softly to remember what it had been like that day.

And within about 20 minutes, I had undergone a transformational experience, the likes of which I had not known as a professional journalist. And their stories, and the stories that I began to collect after that, resonated not just with me, but with this coun-

try in a way that I could not have anticipated. Now there have been some who have challenged my declaration that this was the greatest generation. My answer to them is, that's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

But I believe the generation that came of age in the Great Depression, when life was about sacrifice and deprivation, about dropping out of school, not to buy a video game or a car for yourself, but to put food on the table, when sharing meant sharing a pair of shoes or a shirt or a jacket. They didn't double date, they went three and four couples to a car, to a movie that cost a dime, and went back to someone's home at the end of the night to play the piano, and have coffee and cake.

And they never gave up on their country, even though times were difficult, and just when they were beginning to emerge from those dark days economically, this country summoned them to distant battlefields, across the Atlantic and across the Pacific. And what the British military historian John Keegan has called the greatest single event in the history of mankind—World War II. They fought on six of the seven continents, all the skies, and on all the seas and beneath them as well, and won. Fifty million people had perished, and nations had been realigned, and we were forced to face harsh truths about the cruelties of mankind in the middle of the 20th century.

But they came home from all of that, and they gave us new art and new science and new industry. A number of them continued in the military. Those who did not, did not just lay down their arms and say I've done by share. They went back to their hometowns and their states, and they ran for mayor and the school board and for the church board trustees. They ran for Senator and for Congress, and they ran for President of the United States, and they took their place in the front ranks of public service.

And no one represented their leadership more profoundly, I believe, than the man that you honor here tonight—George Marshall—who I believe is the most single, underappreciated 20th century American, and one of the most underappreciated Americans of all time.

A warrior, a diplomat, and a visionary. And so I am deeply humbled by this award. And for those of you who only know it from one side of the television screen, not the other, let me just confirm what you're thinking—it's not easy for an anchorman to express humility. Let me also say that I'm very pleasantly surprised to know that I'm the first journalist to receive this award.

I have some good news and some bad news for you. Journalists and warriors come from the same DNA. I said this first at the War College, and I thought that the colonels in the audience were going to storm the stage. We like unconventional lives. We can deal with authority, but we know when to bristle about authority. We like living off the land. We like catching the bad guys and holding them up for appropriate punishment. And most of all, we're patriots, who love our country. And the definition of patriotism for me is love your country and always know that it can be better, and that it is the obligation of every citizen to try to make it better, every day.

On these occasions, I like to remind people that I've had the privilege in the last two years, three years especially, of working side by side, night after night, day after day, both in this country and abroad, with three of your best—General Wayne Downing, who is here tonight, General Monty Meigs and General Barry McCaffrey. And I must say as a full blown civilian, it gave me a certain amount of pleasure to say to these four stars, okay men, listen up. We're coming out