

of black victims. He tried to convince local youth to get more involved. Statewide membership of the NAACP chapters almost doubled from 1956 to 1959.

On June 12, 1963, Medgar Evers was shot in the back in his driveway. He was coming home. He died later that night. On June 22, 1963 Byron Beckwith was arrested for shooting Evers. Beckwith had two trials with all-white juries. They ended with a hung jury. In February 1994, Beckwith was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. Beckwith died there. Medgar Evers was a hard working man. He was loved very much by his family.

THE STAR WHO COULDN'T SHINE

(By Brynden Danner)

Charles H. Cooper was an N.B.A. basketball star who was never allowed to let his talent shine. On April 25, 1950, Cooper was the first black player to be drafted by the Boston Celtics. He played on a N.B.A. team for six hard years where race was more important than his skills.

Owners of white only hotels refused to rent a room to Cooper separating him from his teammates on long trips. When they played games in the southern states, the Celtics were told to leave Cooper behind. Cooper's teammates supported his right to play and that made the violence grow more and more.

Black players received very little national attention. Even though Cooper played four years for Boston, one year for the Milwaukee Hawks and one year for the Fort Wayne Pistons he was never recognized for his great athletic talent.

Cooper ended his career with a bad feeling about basketball. All of the racial teasing hurt him very deeply. He decided not to have bad feelings about people who treated him so badly. In 1961 Cooper got his masters degree in social work. Nine years later he was named the first black person to head a city government agency. He became the director of parks and recreation in Pittsburgh. At the time of his death in 1984, he was an officer of Pittsburgh National Bank.

Chuck Cooper is an inspiration to me because he suffered many hard times in his life but never gave up. His story will always be a great lesson for me to remember.

LONNIE G. JOHNSON, WATER GUN MAKER

(By Tristen Horton)

Lonnie G. Johnson invented the world famous water gun, the super soaker. For years Lonnie G. Johnson has been inventing things for NASA and other organizations; but he has achieved his greatest fame with his squirt gun, the super soaker.

Johnson started a childhood of creating with inventing things out of old appliances. In his senior year of high school, he won an around the world competition for a remote controlled robot he had built out of junkyard scraps. He went on to more formal training at Tuskegee University where he first earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and then M.S. in Nuclear Engineering. Soon after, Lonnie G. Johnson joined the U.S. Air Force. In the Air Force, he became advanced in space systems.

I am really happy he invented the super soaker water gun because it's just plain fun.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. RICH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor prominent Buffalo businessman Robert

E. Rich who passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 15, 2006. He was a loving and dedicated husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was an inspiring colleague and friend. He was an athletics enthusiast. He was an innovative and legendary entrepreneur and founder. And, he was a generous and compassionate community and industry advocate.

Mr. Rich began his path to frozen food industry fame in 1935 as owner and operator of Wilber Farms Dairy. In 1945, while serving as the war food Administrator in Michigan, he learned about successful research at the George Washington Carver Institute on the use of soybeans to create innovative food products. After investigating the use of soybeans, he developed the world's first non-dairy whipped topping. Rich's industry-leading reputation was as a family-owned business dedicated to treating customers around the world like family. He was also committed to continuing the company's aggressive worldwide growth while maintaining its headquarters in Buffalo, NY.

In 1965, Mr. Rich was a charter member of a group which attempted to bring a National Hockey League franchise to Buffalo. In 1972, through Rich Products, he purchased the naming rights of the new football stadium for the Buffalo Bills. In 1988, he authorized the purchase which kept the Buffalo Bisons, the Triple-A affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, in town. Under his chairmanship of the Bisons, the city constructed Pilot Field, which is now Dunn Tire Park, which has become a source of city pride and national attention.

Rich founded and headed up the University at Buffalo's Christmas Scholarship Fund which made 30 annual scholarships available to outstanding scholar-athletes. In 1991, he was inducted into the inaugural class of the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Rich continued his commitment to his Buffalo home in 1989 with the decision to renovate and redevelop the historic 1200 Niagara Street complex on the banks of the Niagara River on the city's West Side. Today, the state-of-the-art facility is home to the Rich Research Center, hailed as the industry's finest, the Rich Renaissance Niagara Atrium and Conference Center, site of weddings, banquets and business meetings, the Rich Wellness Center, and the Rich's Family Center, Western New York's first on-site child daycare center which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1999.

In 2004, Rich's made a significant pledge to the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation to establish the Robert E. Rich Aspiring Entrepreneurs Scholarship. Four scholarships each year support the continued education of undergraduate students pursuing careers in the restaurant and foodservice industry.

In 2005, Rich Products celebrated its 60th birthday posting annual sales in excess of \$2.5 billion. The company sells more than 2,300 products in more than 85 countries and employs more than 7,000 Associates worldwide, including more than 1,300 in its headquarters in Buffalo, NY.

Frozen food industry pioneer, architect of the nation's largest family-owned frozen foods manufacturer, sportsman, and community leader all describe Robert E. Rich. Rich Products will continue to grow and thrive as a family business under the ongoing leadership of

his son, Bob Rich Jr. But Western New York will sorely miss Robert E. Rich.

IN MEMORY OF CORRIN FITTS BOWERS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, all South Carolinians mourn the loss of the late Corrin Fitts Bowers of Estill who was the devoted husband of the beloved Mary Eleanor Bowers who served with distinction as Office Manager in the Second Congressional District Office for ARTHUR RAVENEL, FLOYD SPENCE, and JOE WILSON.

The following obituary ran in The State newspaper on February 23, 2006:

Corrin Fitts Bowers, 77, died February 22, 2006, surrounded by his loving family. He was born July 5, 1928, in Luray, South Carolina, to Grover Ford Bowers and Corinne Fitts Bowers. He was the grandson of Louisa Johnston and Dr. Paul Ford Eve Bowers and Francis Gray and Eugene deTreville Fitts, all of Luray.

He attended school in Luray and Estill, where he finished high school in 1945. He attended both the University of South Carolina and Newberry College. He was the owner of the hat that became the Bronze Derby, Newberry and Presbyterian Colleges' much contended sports trophy.

He was a lifelong farmer who farmed the family land and grew cotton, corn, peaches and watermelons. He served for many years on the Production Credit Board in Walterboro. He served as a member of Hampton County's ASCA as well as the State Board under President Jimmy Carter. In Estill, Mr. Bowers was the Democratic Committee Chairman for 10 years. In 1960 he placed in the "Outstanding Young Farmers Award" and won the State Cotton—5 acre contest. He served for many years on the S.C. District Housing Committee #2 as the chairman. He served as the first President of the Estill Jaycees and Co-Chairman of the 1964 Watermelon Festival, which was held in Estill. Mr. Bowers was instrumental in bringing astronauts Gus Grissom and John Young to Estill on Mendel Rivers' Day. He was one of the founders of Patrick Henry Academy, serving as the first temporary chairman. He served on the board of Patrick Henry for many years and remained a Trustee until his death.

Corrin Bowers was a member of Lawtonville Baptist Church and served as an active and inactive deacon there for 50 years. He taught Sunday School, Training Union and was chairman of the Building Committee several times. Mr. Bowers served on one pastor search committee and sang bass in the church choir.

Corrin and his family were avid hunters who loved to entertain. He and his two brothers, Grover and "Det," were the Lowcountry jitterbuggers. A girl cousin once said, "You have not lived if you haven't been to a dance with one of the Bowers boys." Corrin was a charter member of the Monday Night Couple's Bridge Club for 56 years. He was also a member of Estill Supper Club as well as the Estill Lions Club.

Corrin Bowers is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary Eleanor Wiggins Bowers; his brother, Grover Ford Bowers (Macie); a son Corrin Fitts Bowers, junior (Sallie) of Estill, daughters, Sharon Bowers Green (Roy) also of Estill, and "Liz" Bowers Palles (Mitch)

and Graham Bowers Solana (Mark) of Savannah, Georgia; three granddaughters, Mary Crane Palles of Columbia, Louisa Sims Bowers of Estill and Mary Tippins Solana of Savannah; eight grandsons, John C. Green (Deana) of Jacksonville, Florida, Corrin J. Green (Hanna) of Columbia, South Carolina, and Andrew N. Green, Mitchell D. Palles III, and Corrin Fitts Bowers III, all of Columbia; Joe, Henry and Gray Solana of Savannah; one guardian son, Thomas W. Folk, junior (Jan) of Barnwell; two great-grandsons, Patrick Bowers Green and William Fitts Green of Jacksonville, Florida; four nieces, Martha B. Simons (Paul) of Aiken, Laurie W. Hanna (Chris) of Estill, Stephanie W. Bates (Rob) of Chapin, and Tracy Wiggins of Columbia; seven nephews, deTreville Bowers (Polly) and Dr. Ford Bowers (Susan) both of Chapin, South Carolina, Ransley Bowers (Mary Wells) and Tison Bowers (Julie) of Columbia, Bill Bowers (Val) of Savannah, Georgia, Grover Bowers III (Derbi) of Okatie, South Carolina, and Bob Wiggins (Rachael) of Estill, South Carolina; one brother in law, R.G. "Bro" Wiggins (Kay) of Estill, South Carolina. First cousins, Betty Fitts, Cecilia Baker of Estill, Mary Eleanor Rouse, Robert and Mary Bowers of Luray; Paul Bowers of Allendale; Frances F. DeLoach of Beaufort; Deloris F. Jenkins of Barnwell, SC., Franklena Geiger of Atlanta, Georgia and Araminta E. Harris of Salisbury, N.C. He was predeceased by his brother, deTreville Bowers and survived by his wife, Evelyn Pendarvis Bowers Kuebler. The pallbearers for Corrin Bowers are his grandsons with his nephews standing nearby, in a group. The honorary pallbearers include: Harry Hanna, Montague Laffitte, Dr. Luke Laffitte, Clarke Baker, Paul Peeples, Dr. J.D. Rouse, junior, Ashley Bush, Dr. Harrison L. Peeples, Lester Cook, Richard Mixson, George Barber, Coy Johnston, Bill Ratcliff, Bill Stewart, Clyde Eltzroth, Harold Mack, Bill Sprague, Homer Peeples, Mendel Davis, Billy Wier, Billy Yonce, Bart Waller, Randolph Murdaugh III, Lee Bowers, Karl Bowers, Hughsie E. Long, Tony Reardon, Hugh T. Lightsey, Damian Centgraf, John D. Carswell, his faithful employees and his kind and loving caregiver Jerrod Steven Wilson. Visitation will begin at 3 p.m. Thursday, February 23, 2006, at 362 Wyman Blvd. in Estill, South Carolina and continue until 1 p.m. Friday when Mr. Bowers will be taken to the church.

Funeral is 3 p.m. Friday, February 24, 2006, at Lawtonville Baptist Church with Reverend Dr. James Norris, officiating.

Burial: Lawtonville Cemetery.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to Lawtonville Baptist Church Parsonage Building Fund, P.O. Box 1057, Estill, SC 29918.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CERESE TEEL

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, last month, Ceresse Teel retired as executive director of the Oktibbeha County chapter of the American Red Cross. Through 7 years of ice storms, wind storms and the mother of all storms—Hurricane Katrina—Ceresse served her community with diligence and a noble spirit.

During her time as executive director, she oversaw the chapter's expansion as they moved into new headquarters and purchased and outfitted an emergency response vehicle.

She opened and operated emergency shelters and provided leadership to more than 1,300 volunteers from the area.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress joins me in recognizing the public service of Ceresse Teel. The strength of our Nation dwells not in the halls of the Capitol but the hearts of our people. Ceresse loved her neighbors and served them. Mississippi has been blessed by her work and we honor her for her dedication, vision and compassion.

IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL B. WARD,
JR., LONGTIME CHESTER
HEIGHTS FIRE CHIEF WITH A
LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE,
COMPASSION, COURAGE, AND
DEDICATION

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of my good friend, Samuel B. Ward, a longtime Chester Heights Fire Chief, veteran, engineer and community leader. As his family, friends and neighbors mourn the passing of Sam Ward, I want to take a few moments today to remember his work and the difference he made in the community he served so bravely and selflessly.

Mr. Ward was born in Chester, but grew up in Chester Heights, a community with whom he had a life-long affiliation. After enlisting at the end of World War II, he attended Pennsylvania Military College, now Widener University, where he played football and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering.

Commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Ordinance Corps, he was detailed to the Infantry and served in Korea as a Heavy Mortar Platoon Leader and Executive Officer, earning his Combat Infantry Badge. After returning from Korea, he was assigned to the Tank and Automotive Command in Michigan before leaving the military and returning to Chester Heights.

After his military service, he returned to the fledgling Chester Heights Volunteer Fire Company, and was elected to positions of increasing leadership including Engineer, Assistant Fire Chief, and finally Fire Chief, a position he held for 35 years.

Firefighting is a matter of life and death, and individuals like Sam Ward assume an enormous responsibility when they accept the job of running a fire department. They are responsible for the lives, homes, and livelihoods of thousands of citizens throughout their community. And on a day-to-day basis they become directly responsible for the health and welfare of all the men and women they supervise. Chief Ward discharged his enormous responsibilities with real distinction. During his 35 years as chief, a good department became even better. Chief Ward was respected for his commitment to public safety and his ability to get things done.

An innovator in the fire service, he developed the first workable portable Air Bank in the county, a system which recharges the air packs worn by firefighters. As chairman of the

Delaware County Radio Committee, his work laid the foundation for the county-wide fire response radio and the 911 service.

Within the community, Mr. Ward served the borough of Chester Heights in numerous capacities, including Fire Marshal, Council Member and President of Borough Council. In later years, he used his expertise from the fire service to serve as Coordinator of Emergency Preparedness.

Mr. Ward's service activities also included a very active role in the Boy Scouts of Troop 260, where as a boy he earned his Eagle Scout. His leadership on the troop committee provided opportunities for boys of the area to experience adventure activities and other projects to enhance their scouting life. His other community involvement included various service organizations, including the Lions, Jaycees, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Concordville Rotary.

Mr. Ward worked throughout his career as a metal fabricator, eventually founding his own business, which had a reputation for quality and innovation for more than 34 years.

He married the former Mary Frances Ahearn, his high school and college sweetheart, in 1951, who died in 1995. He is survived by one daughter, Joan and four sons, Steven, James, Lawrence and Joseph, and one sister, Polly (Madeline); and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the 7th Congressional District has lost an exceptional public servant, and I have lost a good friend. I wish Chief Ward's family, my heartfelt condolences and may they find comfort in knowing that the many people he impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity and the example of his life and work. Chief Samuel B. Ward exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. This man was a genuine community leader. He not only did his job well, he loved it, and the community he served. We are safer because of his life and service. I am personally grateful to have known Chief Ward as a friend, and mourn his passing.

SUPPORT FOR JAVITS-WAGNER- O'DAY PROGRAM

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a startling statistic—the 50 percent unemployment rate of people with disabilities in this country. For those with severe disabilities, the number is even graver at 70 percent.

It is easy to focus on the disability of a person, not the ability. But people with disabilities want to work, and can work. We must recognize the potential of all Americans, and provide the opportunities needed to allow people with disabilities to become self-sufficient, independent, tax-paying citizens.

To that end, I am proud to support employment opportunities for people with disabilities, particularly through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day, JWOD, Program.

The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to