

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 Pitts Bowers III, all of Columbia; Joe, Henry and Gray Solana of Savannah; one guardian son, Thomas W. Folk, junior (Jan) of Barnwell; two greatgrandsons, Patrick Bowers Green and William Pitts 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, Ransey 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 Pitts, 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, Ceres 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—Ceres 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 Ceres Teel. The strength of our Nation dwells not in the halls of the Capitol but the hearts of our people. Ceres 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

training and employing individuals with disabilities.

The people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities who work under the JWOD Program are given the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life. This program allows people with disabilities enjoy full participation in their community and can market their JWOD-learned skills into other public and private sector jobs.

In the United States, the program serves 40,000 people with disabilities and generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, approximately 1,000 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the great contributions of American workers with disabilities and I encourage others to do so on February 23, which is National Disability Day. More importantly, let us all remember everyday that every person has ability. Everyone has something to share for the greater good. America truly works best when all Americans work. I commend the JWOD Program, its supporters, and its participants for making a difference where it is needed most.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN "JACK"
EMERSON

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to John "Jack" Emerson who passed away on December 29, 2005 at the age of 64. Jack was a loving father and husband, an outstanding public servant, and friend and mentor to many, including myself.

I ask unanimous consent to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the eulogy given by Jack's good friend Barry Balan on January 3, 2006.

Jack Emerson, a devoted husband, caring father, man of compassion, civic leader, mentor and colleague. A man I am proud to call my friend.

There are not enough words to describe this man, who has made such an impact on this community and all who met him. Knowing Jack for 26 years, I will give you a glimpse into the man who has made a difference in so many people's lives.

The Lowell Sun called Jack a man of vision, but I believe he was also a visionary. Webster defines a visionary as not founded on fact, imaginary, and impractical, having idealistic goals or aims incapable of realization.

He had the uncanny ability to take something that was idealistic and incapable of realization and make it real. Thus was born the Chelmsford Sewer Project. People told him that it was impractical, it would cost too much, and it would bring too much growth to this suburban community of Chelmsford. It would change life as people knew it. Jack, in his own inevitable way took up the challenge and for four long years he went on cable TV to every church, synagogue, civic group, or gathering of two or more people, to sell the town on the sewer project. In 1984, town meeting rewarded his efforts and appropriated the first funds for

the project by a unanimous vote then again in 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1996.

Jack, although small in stature, pursued this project with the vigor of a small army.

He had the boundless energy, as seen by the different positions he held throughout his political and non-political activities. Jack was elected to the Sewer Commission in 1980.

He became a selectman in 1982; his mom was so proud of him at that accomplishment that she would introduce Jack to everyone she met, this is my son "the selectman." He is and will continue to be Chairman of the Chelmsford Sewer Commission. He holds the distinction of being the longest continuous serving chairman of any board in the town of Chelmsford.

At one time in the mid eighties, Jack was the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Chairman of the Sewer Commission, and Assistant Director of Public Health in the same year. You could say he had the whole town wrapped up in his hands. Jack was on the Board of Registrars, Dog Pound Committee, Town Meeting Representative, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board, and member of the Chelmsford Elks, Advisory Board of Camp Paul and Good Friends Incorporated, and Catholic Charities. How Jack did all this is beyond comprehension. The only solution I can find is it must have been his mom's chicken soup that kept him going. (She made the best.)

I first met John Patrick Emerson, Jr. (known affectionately by his friends as "the Flea") in Jack's Diner. I started going there when I first moved to town, (yes, I am a blow-in, but so was Jack—he moved here from Lowell in the fifties, so I feel I am in good company.) I would go in for my morning coffee and happen to sit next to this man who was holding court, discussing politics and this sewer project. It was Jack Emerson. He introduced himself, we talked, and the rest was history. We enjoyed each other's company and over the years we became best of friends.

I learned more about Jack's passion to establish a sewer program for the town of Chelmsford and how he felt the need to help people less fortunate than himself. Jack convinced me to run for the sewer commission in 1984 and we have been together since that first campaign.

Speaking of politics, some people may be surprised to know Jack Emerson was a Democrat (as was his Dad before him and presently his brothers Packy and Danny and his sister Ellen, although Jack would say Ellen's politics were even further to the left than his.) Jack was as passionate about his politics as he was about helping people. Jack would rather cast a ballot for a yellow dog before he would vote for anyone who was not a Democrat.

Although he was a Democrat, he did transcend party lines when it came to helping the people of Chelmsford.

He was a master at reading people and situations. Before going to town meetings for a crucial vote on the project, Jack would say "all we have to do is be up front with the voters, if we tell them the facts and are honest and tell the why, we should have no problem, they will give you the vote we need and you know they did. That philosophy has held fast throughout Jack's career and is still held by his friends on the commission.

In 1996, Jack walked up to the town meeting floor microphone and said he needed forty-nine million dollars to proceed with the project and that if need be, he was prepared to give a lengthy presentations to show them how it would be used. In three minutes the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. That was Jack; prepared, truthful, trustworthy.

In his earlier years, Jack was a mason or as he would say, a bricky. (Jack belonged to local 31 in Lowell) He was a strong union man (as was his dad). Whenever Jack ran for political office he would make sure that the union bugs would appear on all his literature and anyone he backed for political office must have the union bug on their literature as well or got his wrath.

Jack was a good listener, he read a lot, he always updated himself on current events, he was also, to say the least, an impatient driver.

When I say Jack was a good listener I mean he would evaluate the situation, ask the right questions and decide on the approach on how to handle the problem. As someone said to me the other day, if you called Jack Emerson with a problem, you knew he would take care of it.

Jack would read the papers and political journals and the project contracts. He would go over the contracts with a fine tooth comb and inevitably would find errors. Whether it was misspelled words, wrong sentence structure, or pricing errors. Jack was involved in all aspects of the project.

Wherever we went Jack had to drive, it was like his security blanket. If you have ever driven with him, you know it is quite an experience. No need to call it road rage, just "Jack" rage. Thankfully, we all survived.

I have given you some of the background of Jack Emerson the man, some of which you already know, some you might have read in the newspapers. Now I want to tell you about something you may not know about Jack Emerson the Person.

I had the privilege and honor of being his friend for 26 years; we talked or saw each other almost everyday. So I can talk from experience.

You know anyone that loved animals had to be a good person. Jack loved his dogs. Through the years he had 6 dogs, Cocoa, Cory, Courtney, Toto, Chelsea and Commish. He loved them, but his all time favorite was Cocoa. They were so close that when Jack developed Pancreatitis, so did Cocoa. Cocoa is the first dog in the country, or maybe even the world to have a pump station named after him. The Cocoa Emerson Pump Station located next to the town dog pound on Old North Road.

In 1959, Jack graduated Chelmsford High School where he had many friends, though none as close as Sam Parks, Paul Leahayes, and Bobby Hughes. They remain close friends to this day.

Jack's charity knew no bounds, whether it was giving to the Secret Santa Fund, or being his own Santa by adopting a family at Christmas, or Thanksgiving. His charity did not stop all year long; he was involved with Good Friends, Inc., Camp Paul and Catholic charities. He was most affected when children were involved. Jack was the most caring and giving person I have ever met.

He was a fun loving person with sharp wit and a keen sense of humor. He loved music from the fifties and sixties; it was one of his passions. On one occasion he had the radio on in the wagon playing "Tuti Fruti Alaroody". I asked him how he liked the type of music the kids of today enjoy. He said hard rock, rap, and heavy metal just don't make any sense, so I said Tuti Fruti Alaroody does, we both had a laugh over that.

Jack had many talents, one of them being dancing. I think if he had a second vocation, he would have been a dance instructor. He loved dancing. Once he got on the dance floor and started his feet moving, he would dance all night.

Jack was an avid golfer as are his two brothers. He was a member of Mt. Pleasant Golf Club for over 30 years. He and his brothers would often play in tournaments. When