

wasn't qualified, when the school board told him, "But you're the only one we can find." Undaunted, Ray went on to excel, assuming his role in the newly formed Greenup and Toledo county school district, and later as superintendent of Effingham Unit No. 40 schools and the Mattoon schools. Ray was not only a gifted administrator, but an innovator in curriculum as well, developing new kindergarten and English rhetoric programs that were adopted by the State board of education. His first love has always been music, and he was instrumental in adding staff in this area and other programs that traditionally received less attention, like special education. Professional affiliations included the National Education Association, the American Association of School Administrators, the National Association of School Business Officials, the Illinois Education Association, the Illinois Association of School Administrators, and Phi Delta Kappa.

All the while, Ray has been active in other community endeavors, including the United Methodist Church, the Masonic Lodge, the Elks Club, American Legion, and the chamber of commerce. What makes his Kiwanis participation perhaps extra special is that it has paralleled all his other achievements and this tribute just scratches the surface of his voluminous contributions to central and eastern Illinois. He has served as president of all three of his Kiwanis clubs, and his service will not be forgotten. He and wife Pauline have accomplished a great deal while also raising two sons. Mr. Speaker, my respect for Ray Lane is momentous. He is an example of all that we can accomplish if we take on life eagerly and acceptingly. It is an honor to represent Ray in the U.S. Congress. I wish him health and happiness in the future, and thanks for his efforts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PORT REVITALIZATION ACT OF 1996

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to address the nationwide problem of disposing of contaminated sediments that accumulate in our ports. This bill is entitled "the Port Revitalization Act of 1996. I am pleased to have joining me as original cosponsors Representatives FRANK PALLONE, DICK ZIMMER, and RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN.

Ports around the country must continually dredge their channels to ensure the safe passage of ships to their berths. If these channels are not dredged, oil tankers, container ships, and even passenger ships face the risk of running aground. While dredging has been a common practice for decades, the presence of contaminants in the mud at the bottom of our harbors now prevents the use of the ocean for disposal of a significant amount of dredged material.

This problem is especially acute in the Port of New York/New Jersey. Almost none of the 6 million cubic yards of required maintenance dredging will occur this year. Large container ships are now either scraping bottom or waiting for high tide to dock, and some shipping lines are already diverting their cargo to ports to Canada.

The Port Revitalization Act has several important features to address dredging crises at ports around the country. First, it expands the use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, which currently has a \$500 million surplus, to allow it to be used for more than just the operation and maintenance expenses of Federal channels. This legislation allows the Fund to be used for the actual disposal of dredged material and for the construction of confined disposal facilities required for the safe disposal of dredged material, such as subaqueous pits, containment islands, and upland disposal options.

Second, under current law, the Federal Government can participate only in the ocean disposal of dredged sediment at a cost sharing ratio with a local sponsor of 65/35. This legislation offers a Federal cost sharing mechanism for the upland disposal of dredged material, as well as the construction of confined disposal facilities.

Third, this legislation reauthorizes, and increases funding for, the decontamination technology pilot study now underway by the Environmental Protection Agency. We must continue to invest in dredged sediment decontamination technology to make the material eligible either for beneficial upland use—golf courses, parking lots, etc., or ocean disposal.

Finally, this legislation authorizes a dredged material containment facility for the Port of New York/New Jersey, subject to the findings of the Army Corps of Engineers' Dredged Materials Management Plan for the Port of New York and New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has bipartisan support, as well as support from businesses, labor groups, State and local governments, and environmental groups. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO TWO PROUD VETERANS

HON. GERRY E. STUDDS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two courageous men whose personal triumphs over discrimination in the military helped hasten the day when all Americans will have the right to serve their country.

Today marks the retirement from active service of Petty Officer V. Keith Meinhold, an openly gay man who successfully challenged the military ban in court and has continued to serve with honor in the U.S. Navy.

The case of Meinhold versus Department of Defense began in 1992, when Petty Officer Meinhold affirmed on national television that he is gay. It ended more than 2 years later, when the Justice Department declined to appeal a decision in Meinhold's favor by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The court ruled that Petty Officer Meinhold could not be discharged simply for stating that he was gay and ordered the Navy to reinstate him.

Since then, Meinhold has served with distinction as an aviation warfare systems operator first class at the Naval Air Station on Whidbey Island, WA. By all accounts, his performance as a sonar analyst and instructor has been exemplary. His latest evaluation de-

scribes him as "a top notch professional * * * with uncompromising standards. * * * highly respected and trusted by superiors and subordinates alike."

His commander notes that "his inspirational leadership has significantly contributed to the efficiency, training, and readiness of my squadron." That squadron has been called the most combat ready unit in the Pacific fleet. So much, Mr. Speaker, for "good order, discipline, and morale."

At 13:30 hours Pacific time today, Petty Officer Meinhold will say goodbye to his comrades in Patrol Squadron 46 and give his final salute—a proud gay veteran who has honored us all by his courage and dignity.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this past week also brought news of the death from AIDS of another pioneer in the fight against discrimination in the military. Sergeant First Class Perry J. Watkins was a true hero who challenged the ban years before it became a major national issue.

Sergeant Watkins was an outstanding soldier who served on active duty for 14 years, including tours in Korea and Vietnam. His commanding officer called him "one of our most respected and trusted soldiers," awarding him 85 out of a possible 85 points for performance and professionalism.

Watkins had been completely candid about this sexual orientation from the start of his Army career in 1968. He was permitted to reenlist three times before the Army adopted a more stringent policy on homosexuality and sought his discharge in 1981.

In 1989, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ordered the Army to allow Watkins to reenlist, citing the fact that it had done so repeatedly "with only positive results." In 1990, the Supreme Court refused to hear the Government's appeal.

Sergeant Watkins never returned to the Army. A year after the appeal was rejected, the Army settled the case, agreeing to let Watkins retire with full benefits, back pay, an honorable discharge, and a retroactive promotion to sergeant first class.

I wish that Perry Watkins, who did so much to end this cruel and senseless policy, could have lived to see his goal finally achieved. It is in large part because of what he did that it will be achieved, and for this he will always be remembered.

THE GROWING INCOME GAP IN AMERICA

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my continued deep concern over the growing income gap in America. Last week, I stated that we must address this problem now, by enacting policies that encourage responsible corporate citizenship. Today, I would like to offer one example of how we can do so.

It is clear from our recent budget debates that all Members want the legislation we pass to expend Government resources wisely, getting the most value for our Federal dollars and granting the benefits of Federal policy to those who truly deserve them.

Americans from across the political spectrum have decried high CEO pay and perks,