

lead us into the next millennium, and so on. I was hoping to just leave a good taste in your mouth and set the stage for future articles of more substance. Well, you know what they say about the best laid plans of mice and men. It appears my first article is going to be more than what I expected.

As you know, a dark cloud is hovering over the Naval Academy right now. Some of the recent happenings here, which I'm sure you've been made abundantly aware of by the media, are not things we, as Midshipmen are proud of. In fact, we can hardly believe what is going on. We are making the paper and the nightly news much too often for all the wrong reasons. There seems to be a general sense of crisis amongst administration, faculty, and Midshipmen alike. Every last person I know is scratching their head and struggling to fathom what could lead members of the Brigade to conduct themselves so disgracefully. I am sure this sentiment of disbelief and disappointment is echoed resoundingly in the minds of Alumni everywhere.

The bottom line that must be kept in the front of our minds, though, is this: Yes, these events are shocking, yes, they are damaging to us as an institution, but in no way are they indicative of what we, the Brigade, represent. They are nothing more than infuriating, high-profile aberrations. My point? Now, more than ever, is when we need the support of our Alumni. It would be tempting, if you were led to believe that these happenings reflected the character of the Brigade as a whole, to abandon ship on us, but you must not. Right now, there are thousands of Midshipmen who are just like you were when you called the confines of Mother B home. We are worthy of your support and trust. The times we live in are different—that's true, but there is a grand universality to many portions of the experience by which we all, young and old, are inextricably bound together—the Annapolis experience. My desire is to communicate to you, our predecessors, that although we live in different times, people never truly change. All but a profound minority of us espouse the same ideals, harbor the same hopes, and are haunted by the same fears that most of you had as young men and women attending this school. We are here for love of country and a desire to serve. With an exerted show of solidarity, we can all help to quiet those who would like to end or severely break down 150 years of tradition based on a random outbreak of isolated incidents. There are, admittedly, those who like to see this happen. They are banking on the assumption that we, the Naval Academy family, can be divided. Don't let that happen. Hang on tight and ride out the storm with us, better days are ahead.

On a final, brighter note, a hearty congratulations to the Class of 1996 for completing a grueling four years and winning the prize. Best of luck in the fleet; make us proud!

That's all I have for this month, but I'll be back keeping you apprised of the latest gouge in the next issue. Until then, fair winds and following seas.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD HERBERT

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of Mr. Donald Herbert, a Buffalo firefighter injured in the line of duty.

On December 29, 1995, while serving the city of Buffalo as a firefighter at a residential fire, Mr. Herbert suffered traumatic injuries when the roof of the building he was in collapsed. Despite the extensive nature of his injuries, and after a very trying first few months, Donald Herbert's personal strength and commitment to God and his family have enabled him to make his way toward recovery.

Today, the Herbert family, the Buffalo Professional Firefighters Association, and our Buffalo community have organized an event to honor Mr. Herbert, and to convey to him our grateful appreciation for his service, valor, professionalism, and bravery. Donald Herbert can count on our Buffalo community, because we have always been able to count on him.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the Herbert family, the Buffalo Fire Department, the city of Buffalo, our western New York community, and indeed, all of those who have dedicatedly served our Nation and ensured our safety as firefighters to honor Mr. Donald Herbert for his dedication, hard work, and commitment to our city; and offer him my sincere best wishes for a speedy recovery.

LEGISLATION TO ALLOW PENALTY-FREE WITHDRAWALS FROM RETIREMENT PLANS DURING UNEMPLOYMENT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would allow people to receive penalty-free withdrawals of funds from certain retirement plans during long periods of unemployment. I am pleased that Representatives SAM GIBBONS, CHARLES RANGEL, PETE STARK, BARBARA KENNELLY, ROBERT MATSUI, BILL COYNE, JOHN LEWIS, and RICHARD NEAL have joined me in cosponsoring this legislation.

This legislation would allow penalty-free withdrawals from individual retirement accounts [IRA's] and qualified retirement plans—401(k) and 403(b)—if the taxpayer has received unemployment compensation for 12 weeks under State or Federal law. Under the legislation, the distribution of funds would have to be made within 1 year of the date of unemployment. In addition, a self-employed individual would be treated as meeting the requirements of unemployment compensation if the individual would have received such compensation if he or she had not been self-employed.

Under current law, when a taxpayer withdraws money from an IRA or a qualified retirement plan before age 59½, he or she is forced to pay an individual 10 percent tax on the amount withdrawn. This additional tax is intended to recapture at least a portion of the tax deferral benefits of these plans. This tax is in addition to regular income taxes the taxpayer must pay as the funds are included in the taxpayer's income. The early-withdrawal tax also serves as a deterrent against using the money in those accounts for nonretirement purposes.

The vetoed Balanced Budget Act of 1995 includes a provision which is the same as this

legislation with respect to withdrawals from IRA's. This provision recognizes that when an individual or family is faced with long periods of unemployment, they may have no other choice but to draw upon these funds to meet their everyday living expenses. During this financially stressful time, an additional 10 percent tax for early withdrawal is unfair and only serves to make the family's financial situation worse. This legislation would accomplish the goals of that provision by allowing penalty-free withdrawals during long periods of unemployment from IRA's as well as qualified retirement plan 401(k) and 403(b) accounts.

Many small businesses offer participation in 401(k) plans, this amendment would help unemployed people who at the time of separation from employment chose to leave their 401(k) funds with their former employer. Then, because of unanticipated long periods of unemployment, need access to those funds. Accordingly, many small businesses would benefit from this amendment. In addition, employees who are laid-off from their former employment may need access to those funds in order to start up their own small business. State and local government employees who are displaced through downsizing, also may need access to the funds in their 403(b) plans for similar purposes.

The benefit this legislation would offer the long-term unemployed is the right thing to do in this period of economic uncertainty. You can plan for many things in your life financially, but the impact of long, unanticipated periods of unemployment can create financial havoc on any individual or family, including those that thought they had adequate savings to get them through such a situation. Long periods of unemployment are similar to major illnesses that can result in catastrophic medical expenses. Under current law, taxpayers are allowed penalty-free early withdrawals from qualified retirement plans to meet catastrophic medical expenses, therefore, it makes sense to extend this benefit in cases of long periods of unemployment.

Passage of this legislation would allow unemployed taxpayers a chance to get back on their feet without having to pay an unnecessary financial penalty when they can least afford it.

OFFUTT APPRECIATION DAY

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Offutt Appreciation Day. In my district in Nebraska, Offutt Air Force Base is the home of more than 10,000 military personnel and their 17,000 family members, employs more than 1,500 civilians, is a valued part of the Omaha/Bellevue area community and plays a vital part in our global military strategy.

In Congress, I have shown my appreciation for the families of the Offutt community by fighting for funding for Impact aid, the program which compensates public school districts for revenue lost due to the presence of military bases like Offutt. Although Impact Aid was almost zeroed out during last year's budget battle, we were eventually able to fund the program at 100 percent of the total for fiscal year

1995, providing approximately \$7 million to the Bellevue Public Schools and about \$510,000 to the Papillion School District. I'm pleased to note that this year the Labor-HHS appropriations bill increased funding for Impact Aid by \$35 million. I fought hard to make sure this funding was included in the bill because I care deeply about the Offutt community. I want to ensure that the children of military families receive a quality education.

In honor of Offutt Appreciation Day, most of the townships and cities surrounding Offutt have passed proclamations recognizing this event. I am pleased to include the text of one of these proclamations by Robert Eccles, mayor of Ralston:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Offutt Air Force Base's families are a valued segment of the City of Ralston and other communities in Nebraska where everyone works as neighbors to ensure that Nebraska continues to be "where the good life began", and

Whereas, personnel stationed at Offutt Air Force Base and their families continually dedicate their lives to guarantee our freedom and defend this great nation,

Now, therefore, be it *Resolved* that I, Robert J. Eccles, Mayor of the City of Ralston, join with the Offutt Advisory Council, the Air Force Association, and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce in saying thank you and do hereby designate July 12, 1996 as Offutt Appreciation Day in the City of Ralston and urge all citizens to join with me on this day in saluting the members of Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

In Witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Ralston to be affixed this last day of July 1996. Robert J. Eccles, Mayor.

NEWMAN AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Newman African Methodist Episcopal Church, that is located in Michigan's Ninth Congressional District. The Newman African Methodist Episcopal Church is recognized as the first African-American church established in Oakland County, MI, and as the birthplace of the Oakland County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The church was organized in 1861 by Rev. Augustus Green. Although Reverend Green and his brethren did not have available to them a permanent home in which to pray, they were determined to worship. The first services were held in a church basement and in a schoolhouse. Eventually, the strength of their collective faith prevailed, and the congregation incorporated in 1868 and purchased their own church building in 1872. That original temple served to enable the congregation to prosper a grow. In 1961, the present house of worship was built and has been a focal point of faith within the community.

Mr. Speaker, the work of the church has led to an increased level of worship within the city. There is no doubt that the Newman African Methodist Episcopal Church has played a sig-

nificant role in Oakland County religious life. Under the leadership of Bishop Basil A. Foley, the current pastor, it continues to be an instrument of positive change in our community. In recognition of its historical importance, a marker will be erected by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Michigan Department of State, that will declare the Newman African Methodist Episcopal Church as a historical site in the State of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to rise before my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor a church and its congregation who have contributed so much to society.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICK
EMMANUEL

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I address the House of Representatives today in recognition of a remarkable man's professional and personal achievements. Rarely does a man come along who truly makes a difference in the life of his community. As Robert Kennedy once observed, few men possess that special quality that allows them to actually bend history. Through 50 years of dedicated service and unwavering integrity, Patrick Emmanuel has made a difference in the life of northwest Florida and the national legal community.

Today, the First Congressional District of Florida celebrates Patrick Emmanuel's 50 year commitment to excellence and professionalism in the legal field. Mr. Emmanuel's extraordinary achievements put him in a league of his own. He has honored his community by serving as president of the Florida Bar, as a member of the Board of Governors for the Florida Bar, as president of the Florida Bar Foundation, as a fellow for the American College of Trial Lawyers, as fellow for the American College of Probate Counsel and as a fellow for the American Bar Foundation. Perhaps his finest hour as a member of the legal profession was his courageous stand against the American Bar Association's ideological drive to politicize that organization instead of focusing primarily on the promotion of professionalism in the legal field.

If Patrick Emmanuel's accomplishments were limited solely to the legal field, his contribution to our community would be commendable. But many consider his achievements outside the legal field to be his greatest contribution to northwest Florida. Mr. Emmanuel served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Florida Crippled Children's Home for over 20 years. He was also appointed by the Governor as a member of the Florida Children's Commission and served as chairman of the Advisory Board of Sacred Heart Hospital. Most importantly, he succeeded where it counts the most: as the respected father of 7 children and 11—and counting—grandchildren.

While many have respected Patrick Emmanuel from afar, I had the privilege of working with him as a summer law clerk in 1989. I recall the law clerks and attorneys holding Mr. Emmanuel in a level of esteem remarkably

high for such a cynical age. Most importantly, I observed his total commitment to excellence and integrity. That commitment not only served as an example to summer law clerks such as myself, but also to his clients, his law firm and his community.

On my Capitol Hill desk sits the pen set Mr. Emmanuel presented me at the end of my summer employment. The set is a reminder of a summer where I was introduced to a great man who had a great impact not only on my life, but on the lives of so many others who may never have had a chance to thank him. As the U.S. Representative for that region, I thank Mr. Emmanuel tonight on behalf of all those lives he has enriched. Thank you, Mr. Emmanuel.

REPORT FROM INDIANA—FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a special Report from Indiana. It is a special report because I was truly moved by a recent visit to a church in my hometown of Muncie, IN.

On June 28, Ruthie and I visited a very special place, the First Baptist Church. Ruthie and I were so grateful and honored to be included in a patriotic celebration called Liberty, in honor of Independence Day.

The musical celebration was directed by Steve Clarke, the minister of music. It truly captured the spirit of America in song.

Dr. Edward Strother read patriotic passages from Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan during the interludes. He echoed President Reagan's inaugural address in asking God that "You would continue to hold us close as we fill the world with our song—a song of unity, affection, and love." He also quoted from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in saying, "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

The production was amazing, screens flashed to the lyrics as our favorite patriotic songs were coordinated by a cast of all ages, from youngsters to seniors.

Songs: Star Spangled Banner; Yankee Doodle; Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean; You're a Grand Old Flag; America the Beautiful; Fifty States in Rhyme; Oh Susanna; Home on the Range; Dixieland; Shenandoah; I've Been Working on the Railroad; Johnny Has Gone For a Soldier; U.S. Air Force; Caisson Go Rolling Along; Anchors Aweigh; Marine Corps Hymn; Battle Hymn of the Republic; From Where I Stand; The Golden Dream; My Country Tis of Thee; and The Pledge of Allegiance.

The volunteers and staff at First Baptist Church, in Muncie, made "Liberty," a special patriotic program, a big success. Folks like, Elaine Hamilton, produced the event, worked the sound, made a huge contribution from behind the scenes. Their tribute and respect in honor of our Nation's birthday, made me proud. It made so many of us proud.

So many folks made this patriotic event a very moving program. The entire staff and all