

The veterans of America are the men and women deeply responsible for the great Nation we live in. The bravery, honor and dignity in which they bestowed their service in the hope of preserving democracy puts all Americans forever in their debt. From the Revolutionary War to Desert Storm, our Nation has relied on our soldiers to keep peace and promote freedom.

I am privileged to honor two of these heroes today before this Congress and the American people.

Today, Col. Mitchell Paige is retired in the great State of California, but in October of 1942 he fought valiantly to stop the Japanese attacks on the Matanikau River during World War II. Col. Paige was rewarded for his heroic action with the Medal of Honor. This Marine was acknowledged in several papers as single handedly securing the perimeter and preserving the lives of many Americans.

Col. Frederick Flo is also an American champion. In World War II he was deployed with the Army to the front lines. Colonel Flo volunteered to lead a patrol on a 125-mile reconnaissance behind Japanese lines with only 13 men in his company. His successful mission provided important information for his superior, General Vandergift, that may well have saved the lives of many Americans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the American people and this Congress, I would like to formally congratulate these two men. They are genuine American heroes and deserve our recognition and faithful appreciation. I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize these two patriots today.

“REVERSE ROBIN HOOD BILL”

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTIAN-GREEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, the Republican tax bill can only be viewed as a “reverse Robin Hood” bill, because it would hurt hard-working families, aspiring students, and the people of the territories of the United States.

Why is it that the deficit must only be reduced on the backs of those of us who are struggling everyday to survive, while those who could best afford to contribute more not only get away scot-free, but actually get more.

Mr. Speaker, the people whom I’m privileged to represent are among the 15 million who are cut out of the Republican led tax bill. Then, as if to add insult to injury, the tax bill further threatens to kill my district’s struggling tourism industry which provides our economic base and on which many Virgin Islanders and residents of other territories depend for a livelihood.

On behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands and the majority of Americans, I plead with the conference committee, to uphold the commitment of the budget agreement, to reject the tax on the domestic portion of international flights, and freeze the departure tax for the smaller members of the American family at the present level so that we can continue to be a refuge for many of those same hard-working Americans who visit us for a well-deserved vacation.

My colleagues, the people of the Virgin Islands survived Hurricanes Hugo and Marilyn,

but we could not withstand Hurricane airline tax.

HONORING ELIZABETH H. “BETTY”
NORWORTH ON HER FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY WITH THE FBI

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to honor Mrs. Elizabeth H. Norworth, or “Betty,” as she is known by me and all of her friends. For the past 50 years she has served as an asset to the FBI’s Memphis office.

Betty began her service with the FBI on September 8, 1947 as a stenographer in Memphis, where she earned a \$2,168.28 per year salary. In 1951, she was promoted to stenographic supervisor. That same year, she married Ned Norworth, who remains her husband. Her steadfast dedication and performance led to a series of promotions including the position of secretary for the special agent in charge, a job she has masterfully handled since 1960. Through the last 16 special agents in charge and the past 37 years, she has perfected her position and learned just about everything that there is to know about the FBI. According to John Hancock, the current special agent in charge of the FBI’s Memphis office, Betty has basically been the sole trainer of all of the last 16 special agents in charge of the FBI’s Memphis office. One of those she trained and worked under was Clarence M. Kelly, the former Director of the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, I know Betty. We worked in the same office building when I was U.S. attorney, so I know how dedicated she has been and continues to be and what an asset she is, not only to the FBI, but to this great Nation. I am proud to recognize her here today.

THE EXPLOSION OF TWA FLIGHT
800; REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS
AND FAMILY, PAYING TRIBUTE
TO OUR COURAGEOUS AND CAR-
ING VOLUNTEERS ON LONG IS-
LAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in prayerful remembrance of the 230 people who lost their lives when TWA flight 800 crashed off the south shore of Long Island, near the small town of East Moriches, 1 year ago today.

I also ask that all Americans join us as we pray for the families and friends of the passengers and crew members who perished in the crash, that they might gain some measure of solace and understanding about their profound and so very public loss.

In one tragic moment on an otherwise ordinary summer evening, the lives of the surviving families and friends were plunged into a tumult of grief and confusion. We cannot imagine the soul-wrenching heartache and

numbing pain they faced in the minutes and days after news of their loss reached them. In the months that followed leading up to this anniversary, some have thankfully found healing grace they need in the personal bonds forged with the other surviving families.

We all grieve for their loss, but perhaps what still weighs most heavily on our hearts is that even after a year, there is still no clear answer as to what caused TWA flight 800 to explode in mid-air over the Atlantic Ocean. Since that fateful July evening, there have been several studies conducted and recommendations made about the ways we can make airline travel safer. Today, there is something that we, as a compassionate Congress, can do to spare the families any further pain. We can move quickly to approve the bill offered by our esteemed colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. MCDADE, a bill that corrects an egregious injustice that prevents the survivors of this or any plane crash over international waters to seek compensation for the pain, suffering and loss of a loved one, as the family of other airline disasters may do. This is a simple matter of fairness and small measure of justice that we can provide, in the memory of those who died aboard TWA flight 800.

Though the headlines tell us that 230 human beings lost their lives in this crash, they are more than just numbers. Each one of those 230 were someone’s son or daughter, wife or husband, brother, sister, and friend. And each of those aboard TWA flight 800 has a story. I would like to tell you about a few of my Long Island neighbors who perished aboard TWA flight 800.

Such as Eric and Virginia Holst, of Manorville. Just a few days away from their own sixth wedding anniversary they were on their way to Eric’s brother Troy’s Paris wedding. Eric was a dentist with a practice in the town of Center Moriches, just a few miles from the crash site. With special talent for easing the anxiety of a child’s first trip to the dentist, Eric Holst decorated his office with the cards and greetings from his youngest patients, who adoringly called him “Dr. Eric.” His parents, John and Joan Holst live in nearby St. James.

Virginia Holst was a partner with her mother, Luz Mari Pelaez, in a skin-care and nutritional products business that she operated out of her home. After having already bravely overcome thyroid cancer, Virginia, in the words of her mother, “got so strong, so full of energy and life, it was amazing. She had fought that war, and she won.”

Or the story of Beverly and Tracy Anne Hammer. Having just recently passed her stockbroker’s exam, Beverly overcame her fear of flying to join her daughter Tracy Anne in Paris, where the veterinary student was to deliver a research paper. Richard Hammer did not join his wife and daughter so that they could spend time together on a once-in-a-lifetime vacation in Europe. Today, he lives in East Hampton, Long Island.

At age 37, Donna Griffith had just begun a new life for herself. The Westhampton Beach native decided to celebrate her recent college graduation by taking her first trip to Europe. The Brooklyn resident was to start classes at New York University’s graduate school after her return.

Rico Puhlmann was an internationally renowned fashion photographer who split his