

which threaten the accomplishments of the civil rights movement. I encourage my colleagues and everyone across the Nation to learn more about this attorney who spent his life fighting for equality in America.

STATEMENT FROM THE NEW YORK  
STATE CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 5, 1997*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the following was forwarded to me by Joseph R. Farina of New Windsor, who is the New York State chairman of the American-Catholic War Veterans. I am inserting his statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

I wish to compliment the Congressional members of this committee (Congresswoman Kelly, Congressman Gilman, Congressman Hinchey and Congressman Shays) for their sincere concern and probing questions in extracting the truth from those who are testifying at this hearing.

The reduction of the Castle Point VA facility from a hospital to an outpatient clinic has devastated the veterans of the Hudson Valley who depend so much on the health care supplied by this facility.

The statements made by Mr. James Farsetta, Director of Veterans Integrated Service Network 3, were very disturbing to say the least.

Farsetta, who at first denied that his reduction in staffing and services were tied to cuts in spending, later amended his statement confirming that he received an annual bonus based in part on reductions in spending and direct patient care to veterans. This entire incentive procedure designed by the VA and implemented by Farsetta placed greed of the almighty dollar at the expense of veterans who gave the prime years of their lives in selfless devotion and pride to their country.

The bonus induced, costs cutting procedures implemented by the VA has resulted in patient neglect, errors in treatment, staff and service reductions, and failure to respond to veterans concerns.

I compliment Congresswoman Kelly for extracting the truth from James Farsetta and having him admit to his bonus arrangement.

Congressman Christopher Shays had every right to read into the Record a statement recognizing James Farsetta's 29 years of devoted service to the VA. But, I take exception to his statement. I condemn Farsetta's action in accepting a bonus based on reduction in services and medical assistance to veterans. A bonus which was earned at the expense of the health of veterans who have already suffered so much hardship and pain in their lifetime.

All we ask if to stop hurting the veterans, we have been hurt enough. Be a little considerate and let us go out with some compassion and dignity.

TRIBUTE TO THE NIAGARA  
SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 5, 1997*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 11, 1997, the Niagara Senior Com-

panion program in Niagara County, NY, will honor 160 senior companion volunteers for giving 110,000 hours of service to their fellow seniors during the past year. They will also be celebrating their 17th anniversary of volunteer service to the residents of Niagara County. This outstanding program is sponsored by the Health Association of Niagara County, Inc. [HANC] and is a program of the Corporation for National Service with additional funding from the New York State Office for the Aging and the United Way.

Senior Companions deserve our applause, respect, and recognition for the countless hours of love, compassion, and dedicated service to the frail elderly and their families in our community. Whether by kind deed or word, they brighten the lives of so many individuals as they help to ease the burden of illness or loneliness through their outreach.

Therefore, I am proud to have this opportunity to acknowledge this special group of senior citizens in the 29th Congressional District of New York in honor of Senior Companion Day, September 11, 1997, in Niagara County, NY.

TRIBUTE TO ROCKY MOUNT'S  
BUCK LEONARD

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 5, 1997*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I cannot be there all in person today for these special events in Rocky Mount wishing Buck Leonard a happy 90th birthday and unveiling a historical marker in his honor.

Everyone in Rocky Mount knows of the many talents of Hall of Famer Buck Leonard. I recently read a description of Buck Leonard. It said that "trying to sneak a fastball by Buck was like trying to sneak a sunrise past a rooster." Buck Leonard began his baseball career as a semipro star right there in Rocky Mount, but was soon forced to leave Rocky Mount during the Depression to chase his dream of playing professionally.

What he accomplished is truly amazing. Buck Leonard led his team to nine consecutive Negro National League championships from 1937 to 1945. Buck led the Cum Posey Grays to back-to-back World Series Championships in 1943 and 1944. In 1947, he batted .410, and in 1948, he led the league in batting and tied for the lead in home runs while leading his team to yet another World Series title. He was always a fan favorite and became a fixture in the annual East-West All-Star classic, setting yet another record by playing in 11 All-Star games.

I only wish that the whole world could have seen the talents of Buck Leonard in the major leagues. Although that national recognition came too late for Buck Leonard, he is enshrined today in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. There is no player more deserving of that great honor than Rocky Mount's own Buck Leonard.

Though Buck was forced to leave Rocky Mount to pursue his professional career, he never forgot his beloved hometown. It is only fitting that today, the city of Rocky Mount honors Buck Leonard not merely for his many baseball talents and accomplishments, but

also for what he has done for this fine community.

Buck, I wish you a happy birthday. Though I missed this celebration, reserve me a seat for your 100th birthday celebration.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES  
ON H.R. 1119, NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-  
CAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 1997*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this motion to recommit. It is crucial that the conference report retain the Traficant language authorizing the use of our military forces to protect our Nation's borders from illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

It's time to face the fact that we are losing the war against drug infiltration into this country and that our Border Patrol is too few in numbers to guard our borders. We have 6,600 Border Patrol personnel to do the work of 20,000. Congress has mandated hiring 1,000 Border Patrol agents a year, but the Immigration and Naturalization Service is having a tough time hiring that number—and it will take another 10 years to reach the level of border support that we need.

If we can send our troops to Europe, Haiti, and to Bosnia, we can certainly send them to help protect our own country against criminal encroachment. Our troops would provide the support and assistance that we need—a visible presence that would have tangible results.

Critics of this language argue that it would raise all sorts of questions about jurisdiction and personal liability. These are issues that can be resolved by the Department of Defense, Justice, and INS. They are small problems compared to the seemingly insurmountable flow of illegal drugs into this country—a problem that costs lives and money and livelihoods and threatens the safety and security of our families.

We also should not be misled by the issue of funding. We are already paying our military for food and shelter and salaries. We might as well use this valuable resource here at home and focus as much effort on protecting our borders against criminal activity as we do in protecting other countries.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion to recommit with instructions.

A TRIBUTE TO RALPH W. MCBANE

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 5, 1997*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues.

Ralph W. McBane, of Bergholz, OH, has been a pillar of the community for over 50 years. Born and raised in Bergholz, Mr. McBane returned to his hometown after attending Mount Union College to work in his family's insurance business, McBane Insurance Agency. He has led this company for