

Avery. They own a home in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. Vernon has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with extensive coursework in Business Management and Marketing, from St. Francis College, in Brooklyn. He used his education to become an Accountant for the Industrial Bank of Japan. After working there for two years he joined Showtime/The Movie Channel as an Accounting Coordinator. Following one year in that position he decided to go out on his own and start his own business.

Vernon started a commercial building maintenance company, Reliable Cleaning Corp. His company grew to employ over 25 full time and 15 part time employees. The company was reorganized in 1996, giving employees the opportunity to own and operate their own independent cleaning service business, as an alternative to franchising. Within a four-year period, Reliable, Inc. grew to over 150 accounts. Vernon helped to start over 50 entrepreneurs in their own commercial cleaning business in New York City. Last year, Mr. Jones sold his cleaning business to one of the companies that he helped to start so that he could fully concentrate on the development of his new business venture," *itsaboutecom.com, inc.*" His new corporation is responsible for creating business concepts and developing these concepts into strong independent businesses. "Itsaboutecom.com, inc." will own a majority stake in each developed business. This has been a dream of Vernon's since he was a young boy, to own a majority stake in various businesses that he conceptualized.

The first company developed by "itsaboutecom.com, inc." is New York City Teachers, Inc. This company was developed to leverage the power of the teachers in the NYC Public School system. Through Vernon's marketing and business management experience, New York City Teachers, Inc. already have over 6,000 teachers on board with the company. This is remarkable because the company was just launched in May 2001, with the help of his wife, Marcella.

Just as in the commercial cleaning business, Vernon is using unorthodox marketing strategies. He is giving all 81,000 NYC public school teachers an equity stake in the Corporation. The goal is to have all of the teachers involved, through a monthly newspaper that will be sent to every teacher's home, which will begin within the next 6 months. He is also in the process of partnering with a Massachusetts company, which has agreed to provide Internet access to all NY Teachers and this will form a strong Online community, very similar to America Online. The online teacher community is "NYCteachers.com", and the offline teacher community will be the monthly newspaper, seminars events to honor good teachers, etc.

In between running his businesses and spending time with his family. Vernon coaches youth basketball teams during, the summer, fall and winter seasons. This is his way to educate kids about life.

Mr. Speaker, Vernon K. Jones is a remarkable businessman, entrepreneur and community leader. As such he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I urge my colleagues to joining me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN HEIMERS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Ann Heimers for her many accomplishments and contributions to the people of San Diego and, in particular, our community in East County. Mary Ann, and her husband Wolf Heimers, have lived in my district for over 35 years and have been strong pillars of the El Cajon business community for 48 years. Mary Ann has touched thousands of lives through her many years of service as a volunteer.

Mrs. Heimers is always at the forefront of assisting those in need. She has spent over twenty years in service to our neighborhood's elderly, sick, and those who just need a helping hand. Mary Ann's dedication to others is evident in the work she performs with non-profit groups in San Diego, such as Victory Chapel, SHARE, the Food Pantry, and the countless number of people she helps every day. Last year, she was named Volunteer of the Year for 2000 by a local service club for her outstanding work in San Diego County.

I have personally worked beside Mary Ann on many occasions and have witnessed her commitment to our community and the joy and comfort she brings to those who need it most. Again, I am honored to rise today in special recognition of my friend Mary Ann, and join her friends and family, including her husband Wolf, son Richard, daughter Susan, and grandchildren, to commend her work and thank her for her tireless efforts throughout the many years of service to our community and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE EISENHOWER MEDICAL CENTER

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eisenhower Medical Center on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary.

Eisenhower Medical Center is the only not-for-profit hospital in the Coachella Valley.

The mission of Eisenhower Medical Center is "to provide excellent health care services and education to enhance the health of our community."

Eisenhower Medical Center has provided high quality, compassionate patient care through a full range of state-of-the-art diagnostic treatment, and emergency facilities to residents of the Coachella Valley and beyond for 30 years.

The spirit of volunteerism, philanthropy and patriotism found at Eisenhower is truly impressive. There are more than 800 active volunteers working at the medical center and nearly 1,800 Auxiliary members.

The Boards of Trustees, Directors and Governors, physicians, employees and volunteers are dedicated to maintaining Eisenhower's leadership role in providing quality patient care and community service.

Eisenhower's reputation for outstanding patient care attracts physicians and professional

staff from the finest in their fields. Their expertise in clinical care, combined with compassion and understanding, has made Eisenhower the health care provider of choice in the Coachella Valley.

The 261 bed hospital continues to be a leader in providing innovative treatment, leading-edge procedures and important clinical research in cardiology, orthopedics and cancer care.

Eisenhower conducts the type of research typically found at university-based medical centers in the fields of cancer care, orthopedics, infectious diseases and cardiology. The medical center's contributions to exploring new treatment methods in these fields are shaping the future of medicine around the world.

Eisenhower Medical Center is unique among hospitals, bringing health education through the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences, drug and alcohol treatment through the Betty Ford Center, and care for victims of child abuse through the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center.

As Eisenhower looks towards its future, all of the constituents of California's 44th Congressional District can be comforted in knowing of the expansion of their services. The new millennium will usher in the extension of programs in Cardiology, Cancer Care, and Orthopedics.

Again, I would like to recognize the contributions that Eisenhower Medical Center has made to the thousands of constituents who have received medical assistance over the past 30 years.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3423

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a bill to make certain reservists eligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. I am joined by the Honorable FRANK WOLF, Honorable MIKE BILIRAKIS, Honorable STEVE BUYER, Honorable MIKE SIMPSON, Honorable RICHARD BAKER, Honorable ROB SIMMONS and Honorable TOM DAVIS in introducing this measure. Our bill would allow burial at Arlington National Cemetery of (1) reserve members under age 60 who but for their age would have been eligible at the time of their death for retired pay under title 10; and (2) reserve component members who die in the line of duty while on active duty for training or inactive duty training. The bill would be effective for interments occurring after the date of enactment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that this Nation affords a final resting place for every veteran who has honorably served in its Armed Forces. The Department of Veterans Affairs administers 133 national cemeteries throughout the United States, and since 1980 has provided \$82 million in grants to states to establish or expand 42 state veterans cemeteries. Last year, over 82,000 veterans and family members were interred in VA cemeteries and more than 14,000 veterans and family members were buried in state veterans cemeteries. In addition, 3,727 veterans and family members were buried at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), which is administered by the Department of the Army.

I will not recite the storied history of this cemetery nor the famous Americans who are buried there. However, because there is limited space for in-ground burial at the cemetery, in 1967 the Army adopted rules restricting eligibility as to which veterans can be buried at ANC. (ANC will provide space for cremated remains in its columbaria for an honorably discharged veteran eligible for burial at any of the other national cemeteries.) In general, Army rules restrict in-ground burial at ANC to veterans who were wounded in combat, died on active duty, received one of the military services' highest awards for gallantry, were held as a prisoner of war, or retired from military service. In addition, veterans who do not meet these criteria but whose served in a high Federal office (e.g. cabinet secretary, Supreme Court justice, Member of the House or Senate) are also eligible, as are the immediate family members of all veterans buried there.

Under the current Army rules, which few Americans are familiar with, a reservist who has retired from the Armed Forces but is not yet age 60 is ineligible for in-ground burial at ANC. Similarly, members of the reserve components who die while performing training duty on a weekend or for a two-week period are not eligible for in-ground burial at ANC, even though servicemembers who die in similar circumstances while on active duty would be eligible for such burial.

Given the increased responsibilities assigned to our Reserve and National Guard forces, I believe that a compassionate government should treat these reserve component members whose death is in the line of duty in the same manner as those active duty members whose death occurs in the line of duty. We should honor their service and the loss of their lives the same, even though their families may elect not to bury them at Arlington. That is the purpose of this legislation, and I urge Members to support it.

IN HONOR OF SHARONNIE M.
PERRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the outstanding community service of Sharonnie M. Perry.

Sharonnie Perry was born in Bedford Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, New York. She is the mother of two sons, Da-Shawn and Jah-Son and the proud grandmother of Jayla and Jah-Son.

Serving her church and her community for over thirty years, Sharonnie has distinguished herself as a hard worker committed to service. She is part of numerous community organizations, including Our Lady of Charity Church, The Knights of Peter Claver Auxiliary Court 229 and Solid Ground Ministries where she works closely with Father James E. Goode and Grandlady Carmela Rodriguez. Involving herself in the politics of the community. She has served as a campaign manager for some of Brooklyn's most powerful elected officials from all levels of government. Sharonnie is currently the District Director in my Fulton Street Office as well as the Chairperson of Community Board 5.

Following her motto: "I have come to serve and not be served", Sharonnie has received numerous awards and acknowledgements for her tireless efforts. By extending her hands to those in need and dedicating her life to her brothers and sister. Sharonnie has brought hope to those on the verge of giving up. As Co-Chair of the Ladies HIV/AIDS and Homeless Ministry, she helps to provide meals, shelter and the comfort of visitation to those many choose to forget. As the founder of the First Women's Day to be held in the Catholic Church, Sharonnie raised over \$75,000 in funds to buy a church van for Our Lady of Charity Church and to make renovations in the Malcolm-Bethune Hall.

Sharonnie has evangelized on both the local and national levels. Performing the opening prayer service at the National Convention for the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary for the past six years has been one of her greatest pleasures. She has had the honor of being invited to be the keynote speaker at the Young Black Achievers program and the HIV/AIDS prayer service in the Archdiocese of New York. Using a very personal and "hands on" approach, Sharonnie has been invited over and over again to conduct workshops across the City. Most recently, she facilitated the HIV/AIDS workshop for the Office of Black Catholics in the Bronx. Sharonnie, also conducted a workshop in July 2001 for the National Gathering of Black Catholic Women sponsored by the National Black Sister Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, Sharonnie Perry's contributions to Brooklyn have definitely improved the quality of life for her neighbors and her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH ERVIN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deborah Ervin of Edinburg, Illinois, and her effort to honor all those who gave their lives for the United States of America.

Ms. Ervin is a woman with a cause. Like so many brave young Americans, her brother in law was killed while serving his country in the Vietnam war. Sometime after this tragic event, Deborah decided to fly a flag in his honor—only to find that no flag specifically honoring those who died in combat existed. Not to be deterred, Ms. Ervin decided that if such a flag did not exist, that she would just have to create it.

It was a long process, but I was lucky enough to be presented with the results: a beautiful flag meant to honor all those men and women who have died for their country. The flag portrays an American eagle in flight to represent the strength and freedom of America; above the eagle is a blue cross that is meant to represent the sacrifice of those who have died. Both the eagle and cross are within the outline of a solemn tombstone, with a background of red and white stripes.

Ms. Ervin wished me to fly the flag in honor of her brother, and I have honored her re-

quest—it now stands proudly outside of my office. In addition, she also wished us to forward a second flag on to Mayor Giuliani in New York. This we have done in honor of the brave policemen, firefighters, men, women and children who lost their lives to terrorism on September 11th.

Mr. Speaker, in creating this flag Ms. Ervin has done us all a great service. Recent events have served to remind us that we can remain free only because our people are willing to defend that freedom, and this flag is a fitting tribute to them. Ms. Ervin deserves our thanks, not only for creating such a heartwarming symbol, but also for her patriotism and devotion to her country. May God bless her, and may God bless the United States of America.

THE OVER-THE-ROAD BUS SECURITY AND SAFETY ACT OF 2001

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, the leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has introduced the Over-the-Road Bus Security and Safety Act of 2001. This bipartisan legislation puts in place a bus security program to better protect the bus riding public.

The latest figures from the American Bus Association demonstrate that the over-the-road bus industry, comprised of private bus and tour and travel operators, transports 774 million passengers annually. The industry's 800 bus operators and almost 200 tour operators, using 40,000 motor coaches, transport more passengers than the airlines and Amtrak combined (650 million passengers). In addition, Greyhound Bus Lines and its interline partners take passengers to some 4,000 destinations, more than 7 times the number served by air or Amtrak.

Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Committee has reemphasized its examination of all modes of transportation security. As an important element of multi-modal transportation, the over-the-road bus industry must increase its security measures. Unfortunately, recent terrorist acts on foreign buses and bus stations demonstrate the necessity for bus security. In fact, an analysis of worldwide terrorist activities from 1920–2000 shows that 49% of terrorist attacks involve a bus or a bus facility.

While bus operators have made some security improvements, Congress must provide assistance to their ongoing efforts. Our legislation establishes a grant program that will be administered by the Secretary of Transportation. Eligible uses include expanding the passenger and baggage screening process, establishing electronic ticketing, hiring security officers and making physical security improvements to bus stations. This program is authorized at \$200 million in the first fiscal year. After an appropriation is made, a twenty-five cent per ticket fee will be taken on tickets over five dollars. This fee will be used to fund the bus safety program in the following fiscal years.

This is an affordable bill that brings the priceless bargain of security to the bus riding public. I hope that my colleagues support this bipartisan effort to better protect the bus riding public.