TRIBUTE TO FIRE CAPTAIN GLEN VETRANO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding public servant, Fire Captain Glen Vetrano of the Paterson Fire Department, who was recognized on Thursday, October 18, 2001 for his lifelong commitment to helping others.

Fire Captain Vetrano was chosen as the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson's 2001 Man of the Year. The enduring relationship between Glen and the Boys and Girls Club began long ago, when he was only 12 years old.

While enrolled in the old Hawthorne Boys and Girls Club, young Glen demonstrated his altruism and leadership by partnering with community leaders and parents in building a new, vastly improved facility. Even at such a young age, Glen's dedication and ability to lead was recognized, as he was named Youth of the Year for his efforts in the construction of the new building.

Glen Vetrano's desire to serve others certainly continued into his adult life as he chose a career in public safety. After being appointed to the Paterson Fire Department on June 2, 1986, he quickly rose into leadership positions, chosen by his peers as president of the Firefighters Association from 1992–1996 and as the current president of the Fire Officers IAFF Local 3860.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong resident and former Mayor of Paterson, I can definitively say that fire Captain Vetrano's capacity for giving is second to none. As a member of the Board of the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson, Glen has been instrumental in the Club's successful growth initiative. Chairing the Marketing Committee and hosting the Club's Annual Winter Beefsteak, Glen Vetrano's devotion and steadfast leadership have produced countless successes for the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson. He has touched countless lives.

No time of year better illustrates the character of my friend Glen Vetrano than the Christmas season. He takes a very special interest in aiding those who might otherwise be overlooked during the joyous holiday season. Glen has founded the Holiday Dinner for the Clergy. He pioneered this dinner to honor those who have devoted themselves to the needs of our residents all year long. Of course, Glen is a staple at the Boys and Girls Club Holiday Party, assisting Santa and helping young people enjoy the Christmas season.

I consider my friendship with Glen Vetrano a blessing, and believe honoring him in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, is absolutely necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson, the City of Paterson, Glen's family and friends, all those who have been touched by his altruism, and me in recognizing the invaluable service of Fire Captain Glen Vetrano.

HONORING LIA M. JELINGER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit for the RECORD an essay written by Lia M. Jelinger of my district. Such a kind woman, she serves as an example for all of us and it is important to share her story. Her message is timeless, though it need be oft repeated:

It all started in WWII, whilst suffering under the German Occupation. I was a teenager then, and experienced suffering, hate and destruction. I made a vow, as young as I was not to be part of all this evil, but to show love and compassion the rest of my life toward my fellow men.

It was in 1957 when I immigrated to the United States with 5 kids in tow. My first job opportunity was to work as a nurse in pediatrics in a local hospital. After that I proceeded to become a foster mother and took care all together of 25 foster babies. A few years later I worked for Special Olympics, sewing banners, flags, and ribbons at home so I could be there for my family. I received the ''Service to Mankind Award'' and personal awards from Eunice Shriver.

In 1990 with so many blessings given to me I started working for the VA here in Toledo 3 days a week under a senior program. Lately I found myself with too much idle time on my hands, which could be utilized and decided to volunteer on my off days.

I am 73 years young now and still going strong. I reckon that there are days of achy cracking bones, but that does not stop me to spread love and compassion I have for my coworkers and patients alike being cheerful and to make their day.

I had always wished to some day meet a WWII veteran and one day the opportunity presented itself. A frail old man entered the office and asked for some help with his hearing aid and made clear he was a WWII veteran. I proceeded to ask him where he was in combat and he told me he was in the Netherlands, fighting in the Battle of Arnhem and in Germany. I was overwhelmed since I came from the Netherlands and asked him permission to hug him and so I did thanking him for his contribution towards our freedom. He then started to cry and told me that nobody ever did that to him.

I want to honor those who lost their lives and those who are still living. It was a horrible experience that we went through as civilians also, but the good thing about it for me is, that it formed character.

God bless this great country of ours and may God keep all those courageous men and women then and now safe with his protection and loving care.

TRIBUTE TO JOY BRYSON

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to undertake a sad, yet heart-warming mission—to honor a most cherished staff member, Mrs. Joy Bryson, on her retirement from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Joy has been serving for the past eight years as Administrator to the Minority. Previously, she served for nine years as Chief Clerk to the then majority—a position she devoutly wished to reclaim. Throughout all of these years she served all of the Members of the Committee and to staff with grace, uncommon ability, and a cheerfulness that always bespoke her name—with joy.

Prior to joining the Committee, Joy served as Office Manager for our late distinguished Chairman, Jim Howard. More importantly, Joy served for 14 years the people of the Third Congressional District of New Jersey as if they were her own family, in the process earning their gratitude and affection.

In recognition of her abilities, Chairman Howard asked Joy to take on the important position of Committee Administrator. She continued in this position under the following three Chairmen, Glenn Anderson, Bob Roe, and Norm Mineta, and filled a similar position when we became the minority in 1994. I know that Chairman Roe and Secretary Mineta share my gratitude for Joy's many important contributions to the effective operation of the Committee and its staff.

Joy has been the Committee's expert on the intricacies of the rules governing the Congressional Administrative process; such as our internal budget rules, and our rules on travel, ethics, and retirement. As a former congressional staffer I know well the complexities involved. When someone knows the rules and procedures as well as Joy does, she can anticipate and solve problems of which Members and staff may be blissfully unaware. I know of many occasions when Joy's expertise saved Members and staff much time and effort, and ensured that administrative actions were done right, the first time.

Although Joy knows all the rules and procedures, she is anything but a ''green eyeshade'' type of public servant. Her professional talents include considerable literacy skills. She has a graceful writing style and a good sense for the telling ancedote—told with a special Southern charm. Joy's talents were particularly well displayed when she helped Members prepare speeches, letters and extensions of remarks, expressing our appreciation for distinguished public service, or our thanks for assistance we received.

Joy was also an excellent recruiter for the Committee. Through her efforts, the Committee consistently attracted an exceptional group of staff assistants, who were highly competent, enthusiastic team players; invaluable for the successful functioning of the Committee.

Joy's greatest contribution to the Committee flowed from her personal qualities—her cheerfulness, her interest in her colleagues, and her maturity and common sense. Joy worked with a number of Staff Directors most of whom had little supervisory experience. She took it upon herself to carry out the sometimes thankless task of breaking them in to the human side of the job, their responsibilities in dealing with personal and work problems of the staff. Joy's dedication to this task, her empathy for the perspective of the administrative staff, and here charm and perceptiveness, gave her great influence, and made the Committee a much better place to work.

Supplementing her public service, Joy has been an active volunteer in community service. I particularly appreciate her dedicated service on behalf of the Jo Oberstar Memorial Lecture Series on Breast Cancer Awareness,