Mr. Speaker, in closing, with all the historical grandeur Clifton boasts, we have great reason to celebrate today. Accordingly, I extend my warmest congratulations on its 100th Anniversary. Clifton most certainly has distinguished itself through its historical and social presence, and I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding 100 years of excellence.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THEODORE JOSEPH BERARDINELLI

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Theodore Berardinelli has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 141; and

Whereas, Theodore Berardinelli has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Theodore Berardinelli must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Theodore Berardinelli for his Eagle Scout Award.

THANKING REVEREND DONALD C. NOLDER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Reverend Donald C. Nolder for his contributions to the community and congratulate him for receiving commendation from the Mayor and Town Council of the Borough of Chambersburg for his dedication and service to the community. Reverend Nolder was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania and after graduating from Lycoming College, he attended the seminary at Drew University. Once he completed his education, be was ordained as a minister in the United Methodist Church. Reverend Nolder was appointed the pastor at the First United Methodist Church in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in July of 1992. Almost ten years later, he continues to serve his congregation and community faithfully and diligently.

Like so many spiritual leaders in communities around the country, Reverend Nolder has known the value of Faith-Based Community Action Programs long before they became a topic of national debate. President George W. Bush is also a great supporter of faith-based programs and has praised their effectiveness because he knows how beneficial they can be to people in all regions of the country. In his own community, Reverend Nolder has been instrumental in establishing programs that make a marked improvement in the lives of community residents and provide an atmosphere that allows for their spiritual and personal growth. Some examples of these programs are: Summer Neighborhood Ministry for Children, English as a Second Language program, Thursday Evening Community Supper and Service, and a Support Group for Young Men with Addictive Behavior.

I believe it is important that we allow the faith-based institutions in this country to become more involved in helping heal our communities from the damage caused by drugs, violence, and other social ills. Help should not only be available to the congregation, but the entire community, regardless of religious, cultural, or other differences. Reverend Nolder is an excellent example of doing just that—after a tragic fire he welcomed the St. Paul's United Methodist Church into his own, and for the past seven years he opened his doors to a Hispanic congregation. He welcomed both congregations with open arms and provided whatever help the church could. By ignoring cultural or religious lines of division, he increased access to help for people outside his immediate congregation and welcomed the addition of new friends.

I would like to commend Reverend Donald C. Nolder again for his contributions, congratulate him on his successful programs, and thank him for his service at the First United Methodist Church in Chambersburg. I hope that he enjoys his retirement and I encourage him to continue his involvement in community activities.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY COLMERY BY MICHAEL J. BENNETT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week I participated in a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the original GI Bill, and its principal author Mr. Harry Colmery of The American Legion. First enacted in 1944, the GI Bill has helped over 20 million Americans reach their educational goals, and in the process helped transform our Nation.

Michael J. Bennett, the author of the book, ''When Dreams Came True: The GI Bill and the Making of Modern America,'' spoke at that ceremony and I want to commend his remarks to all of my colleagues:

Mr. Dooley, my favorite political philosopher, had this to say about Americans: ''We're a great people we are, and the greatest thing about us is that we know we are.''

I wonder about that. We are a great people—and we know it, but I'm not sure we know why we are. We are a democratic people, citizens of the world's first truly democratic republic. And we are a practical, sensible people; indeed, our national philosophy is often called pragmatism. Yet, all too often, we seem to believe we are great because our Presidents are great, elected leaders whose wisdom is exceeded only by their power, and we are practical and sensible because we study their words and follow their example.

If you believe that, you're in the wrong place today. Franklin Delano Roosevelt preferred an Economic Bill of Rights for everyone in return for everyone, women as well as men, being subject to a universal draft. America got the GI Bill of Rights instead because of the man we're belatedly honoring today. And that is the best proof we have that democracy itself, the wisdom of ordinary people, is what has made us great—and will make us even greater still if we follow the example, in deeds as well as words, of Harry Colmery. For it was Harry Colmery, who crafted the GI Bill of Rights in Room 570 of the Mayflower Hotel over the Christmas-New Year's holidays of 1943–1944.

In just a few short weeks—and in the little more than six months it took the Legion, Hearst newspaper reporters and editors and Congressional allies in Congress to get the Bill through the House and Senate—these men, and one woman, made modern America possible. And they did so, despite FDR, and the vociferous opposition of the nation's elite, the best and brightest of the time.

The GI Bill will turn the nation's colleges and universities into ''educational hobo jungles,'' Robert Maynard Hutchins, president of the University of Chicago, warned. The Bill will benefit ''the least qualified of the wartime generation,'' moaned James Conant, the president of Harvard, who rallied academic opposition to the Bill in Congress. And he might have prevailed. But Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts was shrewd enough to use a Southern segregationist to potentially expose the proper Bostonian as a hypocrite to the improper Bostonian readers of The Boston Record-American.

That's just one improbable—but true—anecdote in a story full of improbabilities, but then, everything about the GI Bill is improbable unless you believe that democracy can sometimes, rarely but sometimes, be the best of all possible governments. And that's what makes the GI Bill truly wonderful, a story full of real wonder and authentic inspiration. For this was a bill conceived in democracy and dedicated to the proposition that those called upon to die for their country, if need be, are the best qualified to make it work, if given the opportunity.

And make the Bill work, the men and women who proudly identified themselves as GI's did. They did so despite the fact that the politically correct Pentagon advised newspaper and magazine editors that the word GI, an acronym for general or government issue is, and I quote, ''dehumanizing, demeaning and disrespectful.'' The GI Bill became the catalyst of America as an essentially middle-class society, and the seedbed of the civil rights movement as GI's built the suburbs, transformed arsenals of mass destruction into industries of mass consumption, and democratized higher education, even getting Conant to admit the GI's were ''the best students Harvard has ever had.''

There's a profound lesson here for all of us, one that transcends the pieties of the left and the banalities of the right; liberal ends are best achieved by conservative means. Capitalism can be democratic. Merit should be determined as much by actual deeds as by test scores. We live in an era of growing rather than lessening class distinctions. Those who go to the college of hard knocks can only expect hard times. And those who are the smartest graduates of the best schools experience little more than virtual reality. In these times, as in World War II, the military is the best preparatory school for life, higher education and citizenship.

Everyone profits. The $14.5 billion cost of the WWII Bill was paid by additional taxes on the increased income of the GI recipients by 1960. Without the prosperity—and social peace—engendered by the GI Bill, America couldn't have afforded the Marshall Plan's $12.5 billion. Indeed, the GI Bill, rooted in eternal verities of individual aspiration and political reality, is a far better model for international development than the Marshall Plan.

The authors of the GI Bill were World War I veterans who kept faith with their children, the veterans of WWII. That made possible the peaceful end in 1989 of the 20th century World War that began in 1914. Now, nine