

HONORING CHARLES PALERMO ON
HIS RECEIVING NEW JERSEY
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2002

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a South Jerseyan who has been honored for his brave service in World War II. Charles Palermo of Ocean City, New Jersey, a World War II veteran, was presented with the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal on December 17, 2001 at the Cumberland County College. The New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal is the State's top military award and was given to Mr. Palermo in honor of the sacrifices he made for his country as a combat soldier.

Sergeant Palermo enlisted in the Marine Corps and was shipped out to the Pacific Theater where he spent nearly three years in combat, coming face to face with death several times. In the South Pacific, Sgt. Palermo escaped death more than once, when Japanese bombs hit the amphibious tank he was aboard. He recalled this harrowing escape later saying, "The worst experience was on August 11th and 12th at Guadalcanal. We had 13 men and four tanks. All the lights went out and we were stranded in the ocean. There was a big battle (during which Palermo's tank got hit by a bomb seconds after he and his crew jumped out). The next morning, there were a lot of dead bodies in the water—both Americans and Japanese," he said. Another time, Palermo did not escape the tank before an enemy bomb hit struck the vehicle. This time he was injured, suffering burns from the waist up. "It wasn't that bad," Palermo commented. On the island of Peleliu, he witnessed two of his friends enter a cave to seek out the enemy. But they never came out, he said.

The New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal was authorized by the State of New Jersey to honor all of the returning combat veterans and acknowledge the debt the State owed them for their service. "The New Jersey veterans receiving the Distinguished Service Medal are a credit to our State and our Nation. Their sacrifice and their bravery in combat is truly deserving of New Jersey's highest military award," said Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco, of the honorees. Mr. Speaker, I concur with that sentiment and extend my thanks and appreciation to Mr. Charles Palermo who, like so many of his fellow World War II veterans, came forward to defend America and freedom.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR BRIAN
HONAN

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember Boston City Councilor Brian Honan, an effective, passionate and admired public servant who was taken from us far too soon. I had the privilege of working with Brian and witnessed firsthand his dedication to the

Allston-Brighton neighborhoods he represented.

Whether it was fighting to preserve affordable housing or working to enhance the quality of life for his constituents, Brian approached every issue with a determination to lend a helping hand. His interest was never getting a headline, only that his constituents benefited from his efforts.

Brian loved public service, something quite evident to anyone who watched him perform the duties of a Boston City Councilor. Every person, and every issue, was important and he worked tirelessly to represent the men and women who elected him. No issue was too trivial and no concern was too small.

Brian's devotion to the community extended beyond his official responsibilities. In particular, he was especially interested in creating opportunities for youth. You need look no further than the number of local institutions with which he had a powerful, positive relationship—the West End House Boys and Girls Club, the Oak Square YMCA, St. Columbkille's School, the Gardner School—the list could go on. Each serves young people and each enjoyed Brian's unswerving support.

We lost a bright light and a powerful voice this summer, but Brian's legacy of hard work will live on. The impact he had on the neighborhoods of Allston-Brighton is evident in countless ways and the City of Boston is a better place because of him. My thoughts and prayers are with Brian's family and friends.

I am honored to have known and worked with such a compassionate and effective public servant.

COMMEMORATION OF ARTBA'S
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2002

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as a Representative of California, I appreciate the importance transportation plays in the daily lives of Americans. Whether it be the movement of goods and services or one's personal utilization of our expansive transportation network, America's transportation infrastructure has continued to thrive and evolve at unprecedented levels. The knowledge and efforts dedicated by groups such as America Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) have played a vital role in ensuring America's roadways, airports and waterways continue to effectively and efficiently meet our transportation needs.

This country has become the prosperous and efficacious nation that we live in today, due largely to the ingenuity and persistence demonstrated by so many Americans. Horatio Sawyer Earle, one of ARTBA's founding fathers, set out in 1902 to materialize a vision he had of connecting all the states' capitals through a network of highways. What ensued was an organization and set of ideas that has, for 100 years and counting, been at the vanguard of envisioning and implementing improvements to our nation's transportation infrastructure.

In areas of commerce, as well as personal commute, transportation has incorporated

itself as an indispensable aspect of America's growth. America's transportation network enables us to partake in a tremendous \$6 trillion worth of freight. The transportation construction industry itself is worth \$160 billion a year and employs 1.6 million people. America has seen the successful implementation of these transportation endeavors in large part due to ARTBA's fielded expertise and fruitful consultations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to personally express both my admiration for ARTBA in reaching this 100-year milestone, and my gratitude for their unparalleled contributions to America's transportation infrastructure.

RECOGNITION OF LARRY T. WILSON, NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTOR ON THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS (NAFCU)

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2002

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Larry Wilson, the President and CEO of Coastal Federal Credit Union, for his recent election to the Board of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

Larry has been President and CEO of Coastal Federal Credit Union, located in the Fourth District North Carolina, since 1974. During his tenure, Coastal Federal Credit Union has grown in assets from \$2.7 million to \$1.245 billion; it now serves over 100,000 members from the great State of North Carolina.

Larry Wilson's accomplishments are impressive indeed. He was named NAFCU's Professional of the Year in 1985, and in 1992, Larry was crowned Executive of the Year by the Credit Union Executive Society. His illustrious career further includes leadership in the North Carolina Credit Union League, the North Carolina Credit Union Network, the Eastern North Carolina Better Business Bureau, and the Triangle Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Larry's contributions also shine through in Coastal Federal Credit Union's track record. In 1991, Coastal Federal Credit Union was recognized as Credit Union of the Year by NAFCU. Earlier this year, at NAFCU's Annual Conference, Small Business Administration Administrator Hector Barreto singled out Coastal Federal Credit Union for its significant contribution to improving the lives of the underserved.

Coastal Federal Credit Union participates in and sponsors an array of programs that benefit the local community, as well as communities throughout the State. During the holidays, Coastal Federal Credit Union sponsors and sells a Christmas card designed by a child who is a patient at Duke Children's Hospital, with all proceeds going to the hospital. Coastal Federal Credit Union has also helped to raise more than \$400,000 to establish the bone marrow transplant unit at Duke Children's Hospital.

Coastal Federal Credit Union, in participation with credit unions throughout North Carolina, joined together to raise \$265,000 to purchase and staff a motor home that travels to