

In fact, I note for my colleagues that during debate on Colmery's bill some in this body opposed Colmery's plan, as evidenced by the view of Representative Dewey Short of Missouri, for example:

"Have we gone completely crazy? Have we lost all sense of proportion? Who will have to pay for this bill? You think you are going to bribe the veterans and buy this vote, you who think you can win his support by coddling him and being a sob sister with a lot of silly, slushy sentimentality are going to have a sad awakening."

With all due respect to then-Representative Short, the "awakening" associated with Colmery's bold, multi-faceted vision emerged in our robust post-war economy, which I'll discuss in a moment.

Colmery's foresight wasn't limited to job training and education. Before the GI Bill of Rights, the great majority of Americans were renters. Colmery believed those who fought in war should be able to buy their own home, so the GI Bill provided access to low interest mortgages.

Author Bennett noted that based on Colmery's wisdom, "to house these veterans and their children born during the post-war baby boom, the idea of the affordable house in the suburbs was born. Families moved into their new homes by the millions and became proud members of the middle class." Indeed, the GI Bill largely made the United States the first overwhelmingly middle-class nation in the world, but it also is credited with starting the suburbs, a word not spoken in the American vernacular until after the GI Bill took effect.

Colmery's vision cascaded beyond the housing industry. Here's author Bennett's explanation why: "The GI Bill produced a social revolution even greater than Henry Ford's. Whereas Ford put millions of cars on the road and spawned one of the nation's biggest industries, William Levitt (creator of pre-fabricated houses) put people in homes and spawned an even bigger one, while indirectly spawning ancillary industries in furniture and appliance making and sales, supermarketing of food, franchising of restaurants for young families, even expansion of schools."

"The results were quickly apparent. One year after President Truman announced Japan's surrender, 11 million World War II veterans had been discharged, leaving less than one million in service. Seventy percent of the veterans were employed, the majority in jobs other than those they held before the war. Almost one million veterans were in school, another one million drawing checks to supplement farm work, 403,000 employed in on-the-job training, and 318,000 being helped to establish businesses or professional practices."

As of September 1946, only 13 percent were drawing unemployment benefits. During the previous year, 4.9 million had collected unemployment, but, of those, 86 percent were on unemployment for less than 20 weeks. One percent had exhausted the 52 weeks of benefits they were entitled to. Of the remainder, 396,000 were on vacation, taking rehabilitation training, or just resting up, and 86,000 were hospitalized. These data are cited from "What GI's Are Doing Now," US News and World Report, September 20, 1946.

Mr. Speaker, Colmery's GI Bill investment paid off—and kept paying off. Colmery's legacy endures in today's Montgomery GI Bill and ongoing VA and Small Business Adminis-

tration programs for veterans to participate in our economic system their service has sustained.

On June 18, 2004, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Principi cited data that I believe speaks volumes as to why the President—on behalf of a grateful Nation—should posthumously award Harry W. Colmery the Medal of Freedom: "The GI Bill made home ownership and a college education available to millions of Americans. By harnessing the talent and drive of America's veterans, it created six decades of opportunity for the men and women who serve in uniform. About 21 million veterans, servicemembers and family members, have received more than \$77 billion in GI Bill benefits for education and training since 1944. The GI Bill's home loan program has been used by \$17.5 million people for loans totaling \$830 billion."

Mr. Speaker, I earnestly encourage my colleagues to support the Medal of Freedom for Harry W. Colmery.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Valley Center Municipal Water District, which meets the water and wastewater needs of Valley Center and its 23,000 residents.

Fifty years ago, on July 12, 1954, a group of citizens formed an agency to build a water storage and transport system to access the water resources of the San Diego County Water Authority and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. At the time, securing these sources was imperative for continued community growth in a region that had only limited rainfall.

Today, in addition to providing water supply and sanitation services to their customers, the Valley Center Municipal Water District has promoted water conservation through incentives such as vouchers for ultra low flush toilets and high efficiency washing machines, residential landscape assistance, and providing water conservation guidelines for their customers.

Mr. Speaker, the Valley Center Municipal Water District has provided an invaluable service to the community it serves. This agency continues to fulfill its mission of ensuring customer satisfaction through quality service at the lowest possible price. I would like to thank the water district and its current and past employees for their hard work in meeting the water needs of the residents and businesses it serves. Their efforts have allowed a community to flourish in one of Southern California's most scenic and unique locations.

HONORING CADET JUSTIN B. COPE

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cadet Justin B. Cope for his recent ap-

pointment as a Chief Petty Officer of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps was first established in 1958 in order to develop a greater appreciation of the United States' naval history, traditions, customs, and significant role in defense. With only about one half of one percent of Naval Sea Cadets receiving the recognition and honor of being appointed as a Chief Petty Officer, Cadet Cope's ascension to the rank of Chief Petty Officer clearly reflects his superior qualities in leadership, expertise in seamanship, and patriotic character.

Again, I congratulate Chief Petty Officer Justin B. Cope's great achievement and wish him all the greatest success in the future.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF C.
MICHAEL SAVAGE

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to the life of Clarence Michael Savage, a model of compassion, commitment, and community service, who passed away on June 24. Mike was a man of strong personal faith, and a devout advocate of social justice.

A graduate of St. Louis University, Mike began his career of service working on behalf of lower-income neighborhoods in St. Louis and migrant farm workers throughout the country. Mike was known as a champion for the rights of people marginalized in our society. He served as the CEO of the Access Community Health Network in Chicago from 1994 until his tragic death last month. Mike was innovative in his approach to serving the working poor, uninsured and medically underserved. During his tenure at Access, Mike led the organization through unprecedented change as the organization grew from nine to forty-one health centers serving more than 160,000 patients annually.

Throughout his career, Mike was unyielding in his pursuit of justice. Before joining Access, Mike served as Executive Director of Fenway Community Health Center in Boston. He also worked for Heartland Alliance Travelers & Immigrants Aid and United Neighborhood Organization of Near Southwest Chicago. Mike was also active in many organizations nationally and locally, including National Healthy Start Association, United Power for Action and Justice, and the Chicago Chapter of Dignity USA.

Those of us who were privileged to have known him, will remember his incredible passion for addressing the underserved and his commitment to those in the fight with him. He was a visionary, he was a leader, and he was a friend. I extend my deepest condolences to Andy Swan, his partner, his family, and all those who join me in treasuring Mike's memory.