

sophisticated network of telephone and radio equipment, which handles calls automatically and keeps a record of every alarm called into the company. Many in the Borough have a direct alarm hook-up to the firehouse which gives prompt notice of a potential industrial fire.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have dedicated not only their time, but also their lives, to the safety of all Eddystone residents as well as surrounding communities. As a former fire chief in Marcus Hook, I am aware of the risks firefighters face each day, under intense pressure, in life or death situations. Our thanks and appreciation can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment, courage and dedication of Eddystone Fire Company members who continue to reflect the same true spirit in which the department was established more than 100 years ago. I am honored to rise today to extend my thanks for what the members of the Eddystone Fire Company do each day and congratulate them on this milestone anniversary.

UPON THE DEATH OF ROBERT K. PILLSBURY, DEDICATED MINNESOTA COMMUNITY LEADER AND VISIONARY ENVIRONMENTALIST

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly to salute a remarkable and visionary public servant from the Lake Minnetonka community in Minnesota who passed away recently. Robert K. Pillsbury of Minnetonka, Minnesota, passed away October 5, 2000, after a long illness. Bob will be sorely missed by all of us who admired and respected his dedicated public stewardship and his love and devotion to his faith, family, friends, and country.

By any measure of merit, Bob was one of our nation's best and brightest—a gifted business leader, civic leader and loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Bob Pillsbury loved his country and was a true patriot, serving a grateful nation with honor and great courage during World War II as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesotans called him "Mr. Lake Minnetonka." Bob lived on the shores of Lake Minnetonka and there wasn't a more dedicated, vigilant defender of the lake than Bob Pillsbury. He was relentless in the amount of time, energy and talent he devoted to protecting Lake Minnetonka for both current users and future generations.

Bob started the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol on Lake Minnetonka. The Water Patrol has made a huge, life-saving difference in providing safety measures on the surface of this busy, metro-area lake, and it has served as a model for law enforcement agencies all around the nation with jurisdiction over navigable waters.

A warm and friendly man with a great wit, Bob Pillsbury represented his community on the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District for many years. His hard work on that citizens'

panel led to many innovative practices to clean up and protect Lake Minnetonka, a highly used lake located in the midst of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Bob's bold vision produced environmental policies that will be followed for years to come.

With Bob Pillsbury, no detail went overlooked. He was always looking for ways to keep Lake Minnetonka beautiful. One of Bob's favorite crusades was his plan to require dock owners to use green boat canopies rather than white, striped and multicolored ones, all the better to blend the intrusion of development into the natural environment. Mr. Speaker, the resolution never passed, but there are more green canopies on the lake than ever before, including mine.

Bob Pillsbury was a highly successful stockbroker because he believed in people and his clients believed in him. He was a man of great integrity and he was a stakeholder in his community in so many ways. He was an original member of the City of Minnetonka's Charter Commission and a long-time member of the Minnetonka Planning Commission.

Bob was an active member of the American Legion and the Zuhrah Shrine Temple, as well as the Fox and Hounds and Lafayette Clubs.

Bob was also a great fan of University of Minnesota Golden Gopher Football. For 25 years, he organized charter flights to out-of-town Golden Gopher football games and did not miss a Golden Gopher game—home or away—for 25 years. He was one of the biggest Gopher football fans ever. Despite failing health, Bob continued to watch every game in recent years at the Hillcrest Health Care Center, where he lived the past 5 years.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's wonderful family: his lovely wife of 58 years, Elizabeth M. Pillsbury; his sons, Robert, Jr. (wife Tody), and Charles (wife Linda); and his daughter, Sandra (husband David), as well as his four grandchildren and their spouses, and his step-grandson and his spouse and family.

TRIBUTE TO A.L. "PETE"
SINGLETON

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to one of the most truly outstanding staff people with whom I have served here in the People's House. Pete Singleton is about to retire as Staff Director of the Ways and Means Committee for the second time, and I know that all the Members of the Committee will miss him dearly.

Pete first served his country as a Marine in World War II. Pete joined the staff of the Committee in 1970 as Deputy Minority Staff Director after having two previous, successful careers—one in journalism as a reporter and editor of several papers including the Washington, D.C., STAR, and one for the then U.S. Steel Company.

He quickly mastered two of the most difficult matters under the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means Committee, Social Security and International Trade. In 1981, he became Minority Staff Director and held that position until 1988 when he first retired. During that period he wrote several books and served on the Quad-

rennial Advisory Committee on Social Security and on the Social Security Advisory Board. Eight years later, I asked him to return to the staff and he became Majority Staff Director, the position he holds today.

Pete has made significant substantive contributions to the Committee and the country, especially in the area of Social Security. It was he, in 1977, who drafted the Minority Social Security proposals, most of which later became law. Most recently, he oversaw the Committee's intensive efforts during action on the historic 1997 Balanced Budget Act and Taxpayer Relief Act, as well as legislation to repeal the Social Security earnings limit.

This history of his dedication to the Members of the Committee and the House is, by itself, sufficient to warrant our thanks and best wishes for the future. But, frankly, that pales by comparison with the quality of his service. Pete Singleton is one of the most loyal people I have ever known. His first thought has always been "How does this impact the Committee?" He is one of the hardest working staff persons I have known, and has sacrificed much of his personal life for the Committee. He possesses a sharp wit and a quick mind. He is a true gentleman in every sense, and a wonderful human being. Pete is a fine leader and helped me assemble an outstanding staff which has, for the most part, remained with the Committee during both his tenures.

As he leaves the Hill for the second time, he does so with the gratitude of his Chairman and all the members of the Ways and Means Committee with whom he has worked. He will be greatly missed, but he can derive great satisfaction in the knowledge of his contribution to the Committee, the House of Representatives, and his beloved country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2000

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to modernize and strengthen the Social Security Administration in preparation for the oncoming baby boom retirement. This legislation completes the spirit of the laws Congress has enacted three times since 1983—taking the last of Social Security expenditures off-budget and removing SSA's administrative funds from budgetary restraints which have nothing to do with Social Security's needs.

In preparation for the upcoming retirement wave, Congress and the administration clearly want Social Security resources dedicated only to Social Security to ensure promised benefits are paid. Ensuring responsive public service delivery by the Social Security Administration is part of that promise because worker's hard-earned payroll taxes directly support the running of the agency.

A recent report by the bipartisan Social Security Advisory Board concluded

There is a significant gap between the level of services that the public needs and that which the Agency is providing. Moreover, this gap could grow to far larger proportions in the long term if it is not adequately addressed.

This world-class delivery of services will become more difficult as the baby boom generation enters its peak disability years and then reaches retirement age starting in 2008. By 2010 Social Security retirement benefit claims are expected to rise by 16 percent and disability claims by 47 percent. For an agency facing a substantial number of retirements in its own workforce and high expectations from customers, that's a great challenge.

It may come as a surprise to both Congress and to Americans that part of Social Security is not wholly separated from the federal budget, but it is not. The administrative costs of running the agency and paying benefits are subject to discretionary spending caps—an on-budget restraint that could keep that agency from preparing for the challenge it will soon face as the baby boomers retire and disability cases soar.

Subjecting the agency's administrative funding to the caps really doesn't make sense. After all, these costs are paid for with workers' payroll taxes from the Social Security Trust Fund—they are not paid for with general revenues. When these payroll taxes are used to pay benefits, they are considered off budget and not subject to the caps. But when the exact same payroll taxes are used to pay the administrative costs that support benefit payments, they are treated differently.

Mr. Speaker, my bill creates a new cap for SSA's administrative appropriations for the two remaining years the caps exist. This is not unprecedented. Congress felt that Social Security's responsibility to do Continuing Disability Reviews was so important, that it exempted those management costs many years ago. Since no caps exist after fiscal year 2002, Social Security administrative expenses will then go off-budget like the rest of the program.

However, to insure the public gets the service they paid for, my legislation still requires the Social Security Administration to go through the appropriations process and to defend that request to both the appropriations and authorizing committees.

Each year, new funding requests will be reviewed based upon the Commissioner's documentation that current and future tax dollars are meeting the mission and performance levels contained in the Agency's Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan. Open ended funding without results is not an option. Continued delivery of world-class service, along with ongoing progress on eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse will be demanded first.

I also want the Social Security Administration to be a fully integrated member of the new information age, so my bill provides for technology investment. The agency must submit a comprehensive procurement plan detailing the benefits, risks and returns from the investment. This plan will be updated biannually and GAO will provide the Congress with their assessment and recommendation on SSA's performance to guide our funding decisions.

The way to prepare Social Security for the future is to start now. We have committed ourselves to saving Social Security. Just as important must be our commitment to save the underlying program operation so critical in delivering the service needed by retirees, individuals with disabilities, and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my Ways and Means colleague, Mr. CARDIN, for joining me as an original sponsor of this bill and note that this represents another bipartisan effort to

strengthen the Social Security program for current and future retirees. I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this important, bipartisan legislation.

THE GREATEST GENERATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, most of America's soldiers are just ordinary people. They are people from all walks of life who are sometimes asked to do extraordinary things. Those of us who haven't served in the armed forces will never know the pain they suffer or the hardships they can be asked to endure.

However, I do want them to know the depth of our gratitude.

For this reason, I'm happy to share with my colleagues a speech by Kootenai County Commissioner Ron Rankin entitled "The Greatest Generation," which emphasizes the sacrifices made by the World War II generation. He calls them this because they lived up to the challenges forced upon them by both our country's worst depression and our greatest war.

Commissioner Rankin knows the sacrifices made by this generation. He learned this as a Marine fighting the Communists and the violent seas at Incheon, Korea. We can never thank this generation enough, but I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to both Commissioner Rankin and the American servicemen who so bravely served our country. They met the challenges forced upon them in our country's hour of need.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I commend the example of Ron Rankin to my colleagues, and hereby submit to the RECORD for their consideration "The Greatest Generation" speech.

GREATEST GENERATION

(By Ron Rankin)

Fellow Veterans—Families and Friends of the Greatest Generation: In December of 1776, just five months after the Declaration of Independence had been signed and the thirteen colonies were swept up in the American Revolution, Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands now deserves the love and thanks of all men and women."

We . . . American's greatest generation . . . are gathered here today to remember all of those great patriots who stood fast and held the line against tyranny, from the bridge at Concord to the sands of the Persian Gulf, and to say thank you . . . for without their courage, their dedication and their willingness to die for what was right, we would not be here today.

I didn't serve in the Navy but many of my Marine Corps brothers would not be here today were it not for Navy ships bombarding the beaches before the troops landed . . . and for the ships that shelled the enemy lines . . . directed by forward observers on the ground—miles from the ships that targeted the enemy with surgical precision.

Fifty years ago this very week, I climbed down the nets at the Incheon Landing executed by the Navy, fighting 30-foot tides, a landing which became an epic in Navy and Marine Corps history.

Until Korea, my first-hand knowledge of the Navy was troop ships, LST's and LCT's. Later in Korea, two regiments of the First Marine Division were completely surrounded by over 100 thousand Chinese troops on the top of icy mountains at the Chosin reservoir, 78 miles from the sea. . . Ten divisions of Chinese troops had determined to annihilate our Division. We survived, thanks in part to the constant, dawn to dark napalming of our perimeters by fighters many from carriers off the coast . . . keeping the Communist troops at bay while we regrouped for—our bloody fight to the sea.

My fellow Marines and I—members of the "Chosin Few"—owe an everlasting debt of gratitude to the heroes of the United States Navy for our survival. . . Our bond with the Navy was sealed on October 14, 1989 when the guided missile cruiser USS Chosin was christened.

Others we remember today died so that we might enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Their legacy carries with it a tremendous burden—the responsibility to so live our lives that we may hold inviolate that for which we bravely fought and for which so many gave their lives . . . our freedom.

Freedoms won on distant battlefields and on distant seas can be lost in an instant here at home if we fail to carry on the fight against tyranny.

No one knows better than a Veteran that service to America does not end when you come home from war. We fought for freedom and we've seen our friends die for freedom, but in spite of the great sacrifices of our fallen patriots of the past, we have become a nation morally adrift—without compass or rudder, sacrificing the generations we fought and died for to an enemy we cannot see.

In our wars, fought on the seas and on the fields of battle, the enemy sailed great warships, he wore uniforms and carried weapons—rifles, bayonets, grenades—he was identifiable and we were armed and trained to recognize and defeat him and defeat him we did!

Today, another insidious enemy is already on our shores striking at the very soul of America. This enemy does not wear a uniform or fight with great ships at sea or with bayonets or grenades . . . or sneak attack our fleets at anchor. He is among us. He uses our media to desensitize us against threats from abroad . . . to lull us to sleep to facilitate future Pearl Harbors. He prays on the carnal desires of our communities. He pollutes our children's minds with filth and their bodies with drugs. He has taken God out of our institutions and desecrates our flag with the approval of our government. There are no distant drums of war signaling this peril—no Pearl Harbors, no foxholes, trenches, bayonets or grenades in this war. The ammunition is knowledge, which we must all continue to seek . . . and the battle is being fought in the city halls, the courthouses, the legislatures, and in the Congress, to rebuild our decaying military, to return dignity and respect to our men and women in uniform living on food stamps.

I say to you here today, you patriots and protectors of our progeny and their heritage, as Patrick Henry stated, "the enemy is in the field . . . why stand we here idle?"

Thank God we survived the wars. Thank God that our fallen buddies . . . patriots all . . . cared enough about our country and its future that they laid down their lives to preserve it, and thank God that with His help, we may have the strength and determination to carry on and make this again the "One Nation Under God" for which we served and our buddies died. It is a tremendous responsibility, but we owe it to them and to future generations.