

Tracked Vehicle Mechanic in the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas. He found an environment where he could be all he could be.

Sergeant Christopher Uhrich, the Virginia National Guard Soldier of the Year. A Fuel Handler who served in the United States Air Force prior to transferring to the National Guard in Virginia. He has over 7 years of service to his Nation. He embodies the sacrifice, dedication and commitment to our citizen soldiers.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these soldiers represent the best of America's Army. They are indeed special. They ask for so little. We owe them a great deal and I couldn't be more proud to say to you—these are our credentials.

ST. PAUL, MN SAYS GOODBYE TO REV. WALTER BATTLE

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a fellow Minnesotan, and a friend, who devoted his life to the children of the Twin Cities and the world, Rev. Walter L. Battle. Reverend Battle was the head of a proud family, most of whom I have come to know personally because of their positive activities in our St. Paul community, especially Bob Battle, who is a friend and civic activist. Reverend Battle's interest and commitment to family extended to the greater neighborhood and community of St. Paul.

Reverend Battle was an advocate for children and active in many efforts to assist disadvantaged youth. Recognizing that every child has the potential to succeed, Reverend Battle worked tirelessly to give children opportunities to achieve success. During his 46 years of service as pastor of St. Paul's Gospel Mission Church, he led several efforts to help children. Among these efforts was the establishment of the Institute of Learning. The institute helps guide teenagers away from involvement with crime and drugs and find positive alternatives and goals for their lives. He also enabled countless numbers of inner-city youth to participate in summer camps, an activity that the children's families could not have afforded otherwise. Reverend Battle pursued this interest with a real passion, establishing a site and staffing it with volunteers.

Efforts were not confined to the Twin Cities community; they extended to children around the world. In the 1950's, Reverend Battle traveled to Haiti to help build schools and teach Haitian students to read. Just last year, demonstrating his long-term commitment to the children he helps, he collected over 1,000 pounds of food and medicine to send to Haiti.

Reverend Battle passed away last week, and the Twin Cities community is mourning the loss of our most beloved and devoted citizens. By making investments in the lives of our children, Reverend Battle has given our community a legacy that will live on in the successes of future generations that were influenced by his efforts.

Investing in our children is a fundamental ingredient for America's continued success and prosperity. Unfortunately, here in Washington, Congress is embroiled in a budget debate that is set to shift the priorities of our Nation away

from this type of investment. The new Republican majority's budget package drastically cuts funding for initiatives that aid children in need, including education programs, welfare assistance, health care coverage and low-income tax credits. Dedicated advocates like Reverend Battle deserve better. As we lose soldiers like Walter Battle, who devoted their lives to children and the material and spiritual well-being of our communities, we honor them and must support their mission by providing reasonable programs and realistic funding at the federal level to support their efforts.

The funding reductions being advanced today will hit our Nation's most vulnerable citizens on all sides, reducing Federal support for many aspects of their livelihoods. At the same time, the funds being cut from these programs are being funneled into tax breaks for our Nation's wealthier citizens and corporations. If these funding reductions are enacted into law, efforts such as those begun by Walter Battle will run into expanded challenges in trying to create a better future for our children, especially the increasing population of children in poverty.

Reverend Battle's advocacy for our Nation's most precious resource, our children, and the positive influence he had on so many lives should be remembered, and it will be missed. His activities should not only be praised, but should be supported by a strong commitment from Washington to maintain the safety net our nation has built to safeguard our Nation's citizens.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Dec. 19, 1995]

ACTIVIST WALTER BATTLE WORKED FOR KIDS

My children are going to have some food," the Rev. Walter L. Battle once told a reporter.

That particular time, he wasn't talking about this own kids or those of his St. Paul congregation, but the children of Haiti for whom he collected over 1,000 pounds of food and medicine last year.

Still, that attitude, strength of purpose and sense of mission permeated everything Battle did to keep kids on the right track. During a remarkable 46-year run as pastor of St. Paul's Gospel Mission church, community activist and youth advocate, he performed near miracles—all to give young people better lives.

His death last week, at age 74, of cancer deprived the community of one of its best champions of youth.

Among his many efforts for children were building schools and teaching youngsters to read in Haiti in the 1950s; taking inner-city kids to summer camps for many years; founding the Institute of Learning to give teens an alternative to drugs and street life, and fasting for 40 days to raise money for the Institute's programs.

Battle believed all kids were "his children." And so must we.

The best tribute to him would be to keep his legacy of service to children alive. So as not to lose more children to poverty, crime, illness, ignorance and inattention, we must all—like the Rev. Walter L. Battle—become advocates for children.

ONCE AGAIN REPUBLICANS SHUT- DOWN THE FEDERAL GOVERN- MENT

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republicans "shutdown" of the Federal Government. It is absolutely essential for the American people to know "Why we are"—"where we are." Let's be perfectly clear in telling the American people what is going on.

It is not the Republicans' budget that caused the Government to close. The Republican budget is an issue that should be taken up, and negotiated on—separate from the continuing resolution. The problem with the Republican budget is that it is so devastating to the American people's quality of life that it cannot stand on its own merit.

The primary reason why the Federal Government was forced to shutdown is that more than 2½ months into the fiscal year, the Republicans have failed to complete action on the fiscal year 1996 appropriations bills. Measures which provide agency operating funds.

Mr. Speaker, the legislative schedule provides sufficient time to pass each of the 13 appropriations bills which are needed to keep the Government fully operational. However, the Republicans put action on the appropriations measures on the back burner, while they gave priority—prime legislative time to their "Contract With America."

Mr. Speaker, that is "Why we are"—"where we are" today. There is no excuse for the situation the Republicans have placed the country in today. Just as there is no excuse for the pain and suffering that the Republicans will inflict on children, the disabled, seniors, veterans, and families just to give a tax break to the wealthy. This escalating situation—of Republican displaced priorities—is "Why we are"—"where we are" today.

All that is needed right now to open the Government, and to return an estimated 260,000 Federal employees to work is a clean continuing resolution. The Republicans are afraid to put forth a clean "CR," or to allow the Democrats to pass a clean "CR," because the GOP would no longer have the American people to use as their pawn in the negotiations on the GOP life-threatening budget.

The GOP must not be allowed to continue to hold the American people, and the country hostage. It is time for the Republicans to stop playing games. No amount of smoke and mirrors can hide the pain and suffering that is in the Republicans' budget. Stop the game play—pass a clean "CR"—return Federal employees to work, return critical services to the American people, and let real budget negotiations begin.

CONGRESS' MULTIBILLION DOLLAR DRAFTING ERROR

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the following editorial appeared in the Washington Post regarding the