

"Greatest Generation" from the First District of Ohio, Mr. Walter J. Rischmann. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 28, 1920, Walter served in the U.S. Army during World War II in campaigns in France, Italy, and North Africa, where he took part in the American advance on a key German fortress on Hill 609. This significant battle was featured in the December 27, 1945 issue of Life magazine.

Soon after returning home from the war, Walter began working for a lithographing company from which he retired in January 1982. He has eight children, 19 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11 reminded us anew of how much our freedom and security depends on the heroic service and bravery of men like Walter Rischmann. On behalf of the Ohio community that Walter has devotedly served all his life, I'd like to extend my fondest regards and gratitude to this fine American.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUSAN SMITH

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Susan Smith and thank her for her extraordinary contributions to her community and to her state. As a resident of Pueblo, Colorado, Sue has dedicated herself to helping her community by selflessly giving her time and energy to a number of philanthropic endeavors. The remarkable work she has done with the people in her community, both young and old alike, is surpassed only by the level of integrity and honesty with which she has conducted herself each and every day. It is her tremendous efforts that have led to her recognition as the recipient of the Colorado Women 2002 Power of One Award, and I would like to applaud her efforts and express my thanks for all she has done.

The amount of work that Sue has done in and for her community is truly remarkable. She has served as a board member of Start-Up Education, a youth entrepreneurship program, since it relocated from Atlanta to Pueblo. She was instrumental in the start-up phase, coordinating the donation of desks, workstations, chairs and computers, as well as identifying a facility to house the program. Sue was also responsible for writing several successful grants to fund the program. She often takes time to visit the program, offering her support and encouragement while serving as a mentor to the program participants.

Additionally, Sue volunteers to help coordinate numerous veterans' affairs in Pueblo, including the 2000 Jubilee of Liberty Medal of Honor Ceremony and the Veterans Day celebration at Pueblo Community College. She is a board member for SEEDS (Sharing Electronic Equipment District and Statewide), and helps to secure resources, write grants and allocate supplies for the organization. For the past three years, she has volunteered for the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation's annual Horizons Telethon, the organization's major fundraising event, as a runner, greeter and telephone operator. She also finds time to

volunteer at a number of food drives in Pueblo and even reads to fourth graders at a local elementary school once a week.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Sue Smith is a woman of unparalleled dedication and commitment to her community and to the people with whom she works. It is her unrelenting passion for each and every thing she does, as well as her spirit of honesty and integrity with which she has always conducted herself, that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. She is a remarkable woman who has achieved extraordinary things and enriched the lives of so many people. It is my privilege to extend to Sue Smith my congratulations on winning this award and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

THE SPEAKER'S TASK FORCE ON THE HONG KONG TRANSITION

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, following his visit to Hong Kong in April 1997, then-Speaker Newt Gingrich tasked this Member with the responsibility of creating the House Task Force on Hong Kong's Transition, and of observing and reporting on Hong Kong's status following its return to the People's Republic of China (PRC). Former Speaker Gingrich asked the Task Force to provide the House of Representatives with quarterly reports which was done through the fifth report of February 2, 1999. Following that report Speaker DENNIS HASTERT concurred with this Member's recommendation that the reports be issued on a periodic basis. The Task Force has been bipartisan in nature, with four members chosen from each party. All members of the Task Force were drawn from what was then the International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. They included Representative HOWARD BERMAN (D-CA), Representative SHERROD BROWN (D-OH), Representative ALCEE HASTINGS (D-FL), Representative ENI FALCOMAVAEGA (D-AS), then-Representative Matt Salmon (R-AZ), and Representative DON MANZULLO (R-IL).

On behalf of the Task Force, this Member would like to inform his colleagues that the ninth report of the Task Force on the Hong Kong Transition has been filed. It follows eight previous reports, the most recent of which was dated August 1, 2000. The report focuses on events and developments relevant to U.S. interests in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) between August 2000 and December 31, 2001.

In August 2001, this Member traveled to Hong Kong to meet with senior political officials and routinely meets with delegations from Hong Kong when they visit Washington, D.C. From these meetings, the Task Force has gleaned that the transition continues to progress satisfactorily.

Mr. Speaker, a copy of the Task Force's ninth report is available on this Member's internet website: <http://www.house.gov/berreuter/press.htm> under the "Speeches" section.

ON BEHALF OF THE UNIFORMED FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CITY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a statement from the Uniformed Fire Officers Association of New York. Captain Peter L. Gorman, President of the UFOA, asked that I present this UFOA statement to Congress in memory of the fallen firefighters of New York City and on behalf of the UFOA leadership: Vice-President John E. Ginty, Lt.; Treasurer Arthur J. Parrinello, DC; Recording Secretary Stephen J. Carbone, Lt.; Financial Secretary James J. McGowen, Lt.; Sergeant-At-Arms Michael C. Currid, Capt.; Captain's Representative John J. McDonnell, Capt.; and Chief's Representatives Nicholas J. Visconi, DC and Richard Goldstein, BC. I am proud to present the following UFOA statement, entitled, *It Will Get Worse Before It Gets Better*:

The Uniformed Fire Officers Association represents 2,500 lieutenants, captains, battalion chiefs, deputy chiefs, supervising fire marshals and medical officers of the New York City Fire Department.

The UFOA wishes to thank the Governor and the State Legislature {of New York} for all you have done, almost every time we asked, for our members and their families, especially the widows and children of firefighters killed in the line of duty.

But now we believe state government has a new and even greater responsibility to the public interest, the 8 million people who live in New York City and the millions of commuters and visitors that the FDNY protects every minutes of every day. The Fire Department has been badly crippled to the attack on the world Trade Center, and it will get worse before it gets better. Now an entire city needs your help.

The Fire Department lost 343 members on September 11, 2001. Of that number, 254 were members and 89 were superior officers—45 lieutenants, 20 captains, 17 battalion chiefs, 3 deputy chiefs, 2 staff chiefs, the Chief of the Department, and the First Deputy Commissioner. If that wasn't terrible enough, our Catholic Chaplain was carried to a nearby church and laid to rest at the altar.

It is important that you know what we at the UFOA now know. Many veterans fire officers, more than ever before, are saying they will leave soon, mainly because they feel a heightened obligation to the families.

This year we will be asking you to go beyond anything we've asked the State Legislature and the Governor to do before. We will be asking you to save the New York City Fire Department; to make a commitment to the restoration of a crippled emergency service that may soon lose two and even three times as many veterans fire officers as we lost on September 11.

This struggle isn't just for the fire Department of New York City. It is for every one of the 8 million people who live in our city, and the millions of commuters and visitors who protect every day.

Again, our thanks go to everyone in the State Capitol for all you have done for the FDNY and its firefighters over the year. But no, than every, we need each other. Things are going to get worse for the Fire Department before they get better, and unless you help, things will get worse than that.