

HONORING HANOVER COUNTY
SHERIFF V. STUART COOK FOR
HIS LEADERSHIP DURING THE
SNIPER ATTACKS

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hanover County Sheriff V. Stuart Cook for his outstanding leadership during the sniper attacks that shook Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

After the Ashland, Virginia shooting of October 19th, Sheriff Cook was instrumental in leading a quick and efficient response. In addition, he and his team performed a thorough investigation after the shooting that certainly aided in the capture of the suspects on October 24th and will prove vital to the incrimination of the suspects during trial. Furthermore, Sheriff Cook served as a strong voice of reason to many in the area who were terrified and anxious because of the attacks.

Sheriff Cook is an outstanding law enforcement officer who has served Hanover County, Richmond, and the Commonwealth of Virginia with distinction for over 37 years. His professionalism, commitment to his team, and dedication to duty are truly deserving of special recognition. He is a highly dedicated man who has faithfully contributed to his community and the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are fortunate that he serves in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sheriff Cook.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT: TOO
LITTLE, TOO LATE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to protest the "compromise" provision included in the Defense Authorization Act regarding the issue known as concurrent receipt.

As we all know, current law requires an offset between military retired pay and VA disability compensation. In effect, our disabled military retirees are paying for their own disability!

Both the House and the Senate, in their versions of the Defense Authorization Act, passed significant and appropriate provisions to address this inequity. The Senate bill provided concurrent receipt for all veterans who were qualified to receive both military retired pay and VA disability compensation. The House bill provided. It for those veterans with a disability rating of 60 percent or more.

Now, we come to the so-called "compromise" before us. A compromise, to me, means that you meet somewhere in the middle. This compromise does no such thing. It would set up an alternative "special pay" for only military retirees who have combat-related disabilities. These are military retirees with 20 years of service who also:

1. Have a Purple Heart and a disability rating of 10 percent or more for the condition for which they received the Purple Heart, or

2. Have another "qualifying combat-related disability" rated at least 60 percent.

I have heard that this "compromise" is being sold as a good first step. It is not a good first step. It is hardly a step at all.

During my ten years in Congress, I cannot recall more than one or two other issues besides concurrent receipt on which I have received so many letters, e-mails, and calls. The expectations of our military retirees have been raised by the House and Senate versions of this bill. It is a disservice to give so little to so few at the last minute. While these veterans with combat-related disabilities are absolutely deserving of recognition, so are the others whom we have been fighting for!

I understand that it is expensive to pass concurrent receipt. But disabled veterans did not hesitate when called to serve. They returned home with disabilities they have had to live with ever since. How can we even doubt the need to keep our promises and give them what they deserve? They earned their military retired pay. They deserve their VA disability compensation. The "compromise" that is before us today is a disgrace.

KUNTU REPERTORY THEATRE

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to an important cultural resource in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Kuntu Repertory Theatre of the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Africana Studies has been presenting the works of African, African-American, and Caribbean playwrights and poets since 1974. The Theatre was founded that year by Vernell A. Lillie to showcase the works of Rob Penny, the school's playwright in residence, as well as those of other authors whose works explore the Black experience. It plays an important role in Pittsburgh by providing an important voice in the region's cultural mix. In addition, the Kuntu Repertory Theatre is the only ongoing African American theater group in Pittsburgh; consequently, it provides African American actors, writers and technicians with opportunities that might not be available elsewhere.

Over the last 28 years, the KRT has produced more than 80 plays under the direction of Dr. Lillie, who has been a faculty member in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Africana Studies since 1972. This year marks both Dr. Lillie's 70th birthday and her 30th anniversary at the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I want to commend Professor Lillie and the members of the Kuntu Repertory Theatre for their important cultural contributions and congratulate them as they begin their 28th season of high-quality, thought-provoking plays.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF
VINCE O'BRIEN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a World War II veteran, a successful businessman and family man, a true civic leader and my friend, Mr. Vincent O'Brien of Dyersburg, Tennessee.

Vince's life has always been marked by a desire to change the world he lives in for the better. That dedication is still proven by his continued work for the city of Dyersburg.

He has served for 30 years as a member of the Dyersburg Planning Commission and has chaired the commission for 20 years. During that time, the city of Dyersburg has experienced tremendous growth, including the development of many new businesses and a shopping mall that have become vital to the economy of West Tennessee.

Vince served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and received the distinguished Flying Cross.

A few months after the war, Vince married Virginia Marr of Dyersburg, and they eventually moved to Dyersburg and established Marr Cleaners, which operated successfully for more than half a century. Virginia passed away 10 years ago. Vince still enjoys spending time with their daughters and their families, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Now, at 86 years old, Vince shows no signs of slowing down. While still continuing his work for Dyersburg, he splits his time between Dyersburg and Caruthersville, Missouri, home to his wife Dorothy.

Vince O'Brien is an example for us all. He has always lived a life of compassion, involvement and service. His accomplished leadership has been vital to our community, and I am proud to call Vince O'Brien my friend.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF OHIO
SENATOR RICHARD H. FINAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Senator Dick Finan, a dear friend and leader in my home state of Ohio. Because of term limits, Dick will be completing his final term in the Ohio Senate this year.

Dick is a Cincinnati native. He graduated from the University of Dayton with a B.S. in Business Administration in 1954, and he earned his law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 1959. From 1954 to 1956, Dick served our country in the U.S. Army. Last year, he was appointed as Ohio's Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army.

Dick has been an outstanding public servant to the Cincinnati community and the people of Ohio. He was first elected as a Councilman of the Village of Evendale in 1963, and went on to serve as Mayor of Evendale from 1969 to 1973. He served in the Ohio House of Representatives from 1973 to 1978, and, since