

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2003*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes due to a personal matter that kept me at home. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

Rollcall vote 460, on H.Res. 350, congratulating Lance Armstrong for winning the 2003 Tour de France, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 461, on H.R. 2309, the J. Stephen Horn Post Office Building Act, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 462, on H.R. 1533, to amend the securities laws to permit church pension plans to be invested in collective trusts, I would have voted "yes."

SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

Rollcall vote 465, on the motion to table the motion to reconsider on H. Res. 351, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 469, on the Petri of Wisconsin amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 470, on the Tancredo of Colorado amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 471, on the Hastings of Florida amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 472, on the Hooley of Oregon amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 473, on the Kennedy of Minnesota amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 474, on the Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 475, on the Cooper of Tennessee amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "no."

SEPTEMBER 5, 2003

Rollcall vote 476, on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 6, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 477, on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1308, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 478, on the Tom Davis of Virginia amendment to H.R. 2765, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 479, on the Norton of the District of Columbia amendment to H.R. 2765, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 480, on the Hefley of Colorado amendment to H.R. 2765, I would have voted "yes."

## IN MEMORY OF PETER WEISS

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of my friend and Jersey Journal political editor and columnist Peter Weiss, who passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, September 6, 2003. In the countless tributes to his life since his passing, Peter Weiss has been

described as the chronicler of the political landscape and people of Hudson County and the State of New Jersey.

In the three decades that I was fortunate enough to know and work with Peter Weiss, he abided by the highest journalistic standards and pursued his stories in Hudson County, New Jersey, with honesty and dedication. From my early start in politics when, as a 20-year-old, I ran for school board and hand-delivered my first press release to him, to the more recent race for House Democratic Caucus Chairman, Peter Weiss always kept a watchful eye on me.

Those of us, who had the privilege to work with Peter Weiss, will miss his boundless energy, wit, and honesty in pursuit of the story behind the story. His sense of humor was of such an infectious nature that even the most serious matters could be discussed in a more relaxed and friendly environment.

He lived and breathed Hudson County politics, understood the machinations of our world, brought to light the backroom dealings, the infighting and competition among New Jersey's powerbrokers, and helped us understand the historical context of present-day politics. He came to the Jersey Journal in 1970 after having worked at the New York Post and Long Island Press. In those 33 years, his institutional knowledge of Hudson County was second to none—with his death, we lost what amounts to the national archives for Hudson County.

Throughout the recurring turbulence of Hudson County politics, Peter Weiss was always a reliable, steady, and, above all, honest force. And with every request for an interview from Peter Weiss, I knew we would embark on a new adventure. As his own paper described, "He savored the scene as a chess player who took delight in anticipating the next moves. For him, though, it was the progression of the game that was most fascinating, not the end result."

Peter Weiss, the Brooklyn native and graduate of Erasmus Hall High School and Long Island University, was a kind, warm, and selfless man, who will be missed dearly. As we all come to terms with this immeasurable loss, our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Margaret Schmidt, loved ones and the entire Jersey Journal family. We will always feel his presence in our midst, and will never forget him and the incredible void he leaves behind.

## REMEMBERING CHARLIE BENNETT

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2003*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday the nation lost a man who lived his entire life as a public servant. Charles Edward Bennett was a lawyer, a soldier, an author, and a legislator. He will be remembered for representing the views of his constituents, his impeccable voting record, his admirable ethics, and for creating an environmental legacy in Northeast Florida to be treasured by past, present, and future generations.

Charlie Bennett began his public career in the Florida State House of Representatives in 1941. After serving only one term in office, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the infantry during World War II. He courageously

led over 1,000 guerillas in the Philippines and was awarded the Silver Star and the Philippines Legion of Honor for gallantry in action. It was also during his military service that he contracted polio. Throughout his life, Mr. Bennett never let the debilitating disease prevent him from his duties as a lawmaker.

In 1948, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served 22 consecutive terms. Voting over 18,000 times during his career, Charlie Bennett missed only a handful of procedural votes and became known for not missing a single legislative vote between June 4, 1951, and January 3, 1993.

Widely regarded as one of Jacksonville's most trusted public servants, Mr. Bennett was nicknamed "Mr. Clean" for sponsoring legislation to create the House Ethics Committee. Once asked to list the most important legislation he sponsored, Bennett named the making of "In God We Trust" as the U.S. motto and requiring it be included on all coins and currency; creating an ethics code for government service; cosponsorship of the bill enacting the Americans With Disabilities Act; and legislation providing federal assistance toward school construction. Also notable were his roles in creating the Interstate Highway System and the placing of Mayport Naval Station in Jacksonville, Florida.

For his interest in preserving North Florida's natural environment, Charlie Bennett became known as Mr. St. Johns River. As Florida's longest serving congressman and one of the longest serving members of Congress in this nation's history, Mr. Bennett led efforts to clean up and restore the St. Johns River and preserve its cultural and historical significance for future generations. He worked to conserve and enhance wetlands and was instrumental in the creation of the Fort Caroline Memorial and the Timucuan Preserve near Jacksonville. Mr. Bennett was a member of the Jacksonville Historical Society and wrote several books on Northeast Florida's environment and early history.

I am fortunate to have known Charlie Bennett throughout my life. He was a good family friend. Mr. Bennett and my father practiced law together and served in the Army during World War II. It was when my father was stationed in Texas and my mother was about to give birth to my brother that Charlie sent my parents a box of Florida sand. Charlie said he wanted the baby born over Florida soil. That was vintage Charlie Bennett.

Charlie Bennett was well known and respected. He served in Congress with honor and dedication. He set an example we can all recall as we ponder what it means to be a public servant. Mr. Bennett demonstrated his convictions and those values that enable people to place faith in their government. Charlie Bennett was a good man. He was an institution. Charlie Bennett's life is a model for lawmakers everywhere and at every level of government. He will be missed.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2003*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to convey remorse at having missed two votes