

Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Gold Stars in lieu of 3rd Award, the Navy Achievement Medal with Gold Star in lieu of 2nd Award, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Action Ribbon with 4 gold stars in lieu of 5th Award, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal with Bronze Star in lieu of 2nd Award, the Vietnam Service Medal with bronze star in lieu of 2nd award, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 bronze stars in lieu of 4th award, the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal and various Unit Awards.

Sergeant Major Guerrero has worked to raise the public's awareness of the many contributions the military makes to the local community. He has also committed himself to working with schools to help increase appreciation for our armed forces among school children.

It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Sergeant Major Guerrero for his distinguished 30 years of service to country, to congratulate him on his retirement and to wish him the very best in the years ahead.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ENACTMENT OF GI BILL

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2004*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, sixty-years ago today, President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, known thereafter as the GI Bill.

This piece of legislation promised those who served their country an education, aid in finding employment, help toward home ownership, and proper healthcare. What President Roosevelt accomplished in his four terms in office was extraordinary; the effects of which are still felt today. High among this list of accomplishments is the signing into law of the GI Bill, with which President Roosevelt rewarded this country's heroes by educating, aiding and caring for them.

In the six decades since the GI Bill's inception, large numbers of troops have been sent to the beaches of Normandy, the Sea of Japan, Korea, Vietnam, the deserts of the Gulf and the Indian peninsula. What remains is sixty-years of sacrifice and battle scars, each a distinct imprint of the high cost of democracy and independence.

To repay their efforts, we have granted stipends for their college education and doctors for their wounds, offered them aid in housing and provided training for jobs. We have dedicated millions of dollars toward programs geared to enhance their lives through knowledge, healthcare and job growth. Still, the trade-off will forever remain wanting.

Countless young men and women enter into the armed services every year. My state of New York is home to over 1.2 million veterans, with another 26,000 servicemen and women on Reserve and Active duty and over 4,000 enlisted with the National Guard. It is for these honorable adults and those across the nation that we pledge to fund and aid the programs created sixty years ago. These national heroes have defended the freedoms enjoyed

by every American citizen from the time of the Revolutionary War. There are millions of men and women who rely upon this, risk life and limb, and make the commitment to our country and fellow citizens.

It is distressing that this occasion be marked with such unfortunate and ironic efforts to lessen the GI Bill. This as a day meant for respectful remembrance, to all that has been and will be accomplished by those who served in combat. I see a tremendous amount to be proud of in this bill, what it stands for and what it means for all Americans. Sixty years ago, this country invested a great deal into this bill. I believe what we received in return can be measured in far more than dollar signs.

Despite our best intentions, we as Americans find ourselves asking for the same sacrifice from our young men and women as our relatives did six decades prior. 1944 was a year worn by war. Sadly, 2004 will be as well. The service men and women earned the title "greatest generation", from the sacrifice of World War II. The contributions of today's men and women will one day merit such praise as well; praise that can now be enhanced and aided by the continued emphasis in favor of the same GI Bill that aided to the success of the generations since 1944.

HONORING LIEUTENANT JAMES P.  
LEARY

**HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2004*

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant James P. Leary who is celebrating his retirement from the Abington Police Department after nearly 30 years of faithful and devoted service.

Lt. Leary has served in many different capacities during his tenure on the Abington force, working as Watch Commander, Platoon Commander, K-9 Commander, and Auxiliary Service Commander. After joining the department in 1974, he quickly ascended the ranks, receiving a promotion to Sergeant in 1979 and then to Lieutenant in 1981.

His dedication to the community has never faltered, even during his toughest assignment in 1996. In that year, Abington Township fell victim to a severe flood and Lt. Leary worked tirelessly with residents, community leaders, and municipal government agencies to help the area recover. Lt. Leary faced another difficult challenge when he and five patrol officers rescued two severely burned children from a burning building. Bringing those children to safety has been the proudest accomplishment of Leary's career.

In addition to his service to the Abington community as a member of the Police Department, Lt. Leary served his country as a Sergeant in the 5th Special Forces Airborne in Vietnam. He and his wife Martha are the proud parents of four sons and two daughters. Lt. Leary actively participates in the community, where he enjoys spending time with family and friends, and has served for 15 years as the Defensive Coordinator and League Commissioner for the CYO Football Program.

Our community has been privileged to have such a devoted servant and it is my pleasure

to congratulate Lieutenant Leary on his retirement. I wish him all the best as he moves on to his new position as Chief of the Rockledge Borough Police Department.

THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT  
REFORM ACT OF 2004

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2004*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Committee on Resources, today I am introducing a bill that would bring the management of our Nation's ocean fisheries into the 21st century. In this regard, I am pleased to note that the "Fisheries Management Reform Act of 2004" is being introduced with 15 original cosponsors including the gentleman from California, SAM FARR, who serves as co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus.

For my part, I am introducing this measure for two fundamental reasons. First, I believe that we have a responsibility to ensure that our fish stocks—a public resource that belongs to all Americans—will be managed sustainably and based on science, not politics. More importantly, because without sustainably managed fisheries, there will be no fishing industry at all. I do not come to this point lightly, and I appreciate the importance that this issue holds for many Members and their constituents.

As it stands, two separate and well-respected commissions—the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Ocean Commission—were both charged with reviewing our ocean management systems and both made recommendations regarding the need to reform our fisheries management system. Their reports represent several years of research by ocean experts who traveled to coastal communities dependent on commercial and recreational fishing. The Fisheries Management Reform Act of 2004 represents the first legislation proposed to implement those expert recommendations. This is a small step of many that we, as Congress, can take to remedy a system of governance that has not done enough to protect our oceans and, consequently, the communities that depend on them.

In this regard, the "Fisheries Management Reform Act of 2004" would require a broader public interest representation on the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the bodies that are stewards of our Nation's fisheries and are currently dominated by commercial and recreational fishing interests. I am aware of no other public trust resource where management decisions are being made by the very industry that is to be regulated. The bill would require training of all appointed members in fishery science and basic stock assessment, social science and fishery economics, and the legal requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and other pertinent laws. Not only will these two provisions diversify the interests on the Council, but also ensure that those appointed are knowledgeable about fisheries management.

Second, the bill would strengthen current conflict of interest provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. An individual would not be allowed to vote on a Council decision affecting