

belonging to Sen. Milton Marks. Burton's ultimate decision, though, will take into account whether Willie Brown runs for mayor of San Francisco or Marks' seat.

"I think it's important for somebody to be doing battle with the right-wing Republicans, who are more and more taking over the Republican party in this state," said Burton. "To thwart their efforts to cripple public education, cripple environmental protection and take away women's right to choose. These are tough times, and you should get in the fight and stay in the fight—not drop out and kind of bitch and moan."

Burton's name has been mentioned for The City's mayoral race, but he doesn't see himself running. "My mother didn't raise me to cut back on libraries or playgrounds or AIDS funding, or go after poor people on the street," he said.

Lately, San Francisco has been "penny wise and pound foolish," added Burton. "But, to be fair, the city just doesn't have the resources."

It doesn't seem that long ago that Burton's best friend, George Moscone, was assassinated at City Hall on Nov. 27, 1978. But it's been a long time, and—for Burton—a hard road.

Moscone was his friend from the day they met in 1946 until the day the mayor was shot to death with Supervisor Harvey Milk, said Burton, who still can't understand the killings.

"It was such a f—g nutty thing," he said, looking down at his hands. "I heard some political forces were egging (Dan White) on—'Somebody ought to kill that f—r,' things like that. I don't know."

"During that period I was, shall we say, involved in doing drugs, and I started doing more," Burton said. "I don't know if what happened to George was the reason for it, but I guess I used it as a reason. I mean, George was as close to me as my brothers."

Burton found himself hooked on "what they call crack now, called it free-basing back then. I would get so depressed I couldn't move. I'd stop for a couple of days and had to start again, just to get energy."

"I got into nitrous oxide, too," said Burton. "I'm a very addictive-compulsive person \* \* \* went on a four-month run once, like you see on TV or in the movies, the guy's OK one day and the next he's in the gutter."

"I learned you can't quit for six months and go out and celebrate with a couple of toots or a couple of tokes and quit the next day. The only way to do it is not to do it at all."

By the time of Moscone's death, Burton was already known for stream-of-consciousness speeches from the floor of the legislature that made no sense. In "A Rage for Justice: The Passion and Politics of Phillip Burton," a biography due out this fall, Sacramento political columnist John Jacobs writes, "John Burton was going downhill fast. Rumors surfaced that a dry cleaner found packets of cocaine in his coat pocket \* \* \* friends feared they would find him dead somewhere."

Burton got the message himself, calling an end to his brief Congressional career two days before the filing deadline for the 1982 elections. He remembers the date exactly: Sept. 30.

"I went back to vote against the balanced budget amendment. That was on Thursday. Sunday, I flew down to a hospital in Arizona and checked myself in. It was easy after I really decided to do it, after I acknowledged half-assed to myself that I've got a problem, instead of, 'It's no big deal.'"

"Haven't had a drink since then," he said. "Not too long ago I was at a party where they had that Australian beer—Foster's—I took a little sip and I could feel it going

down. I knew I'd be in trouble if I took a good gulp. And nonalcoholic beer? I had some once and the guy says, 'Tastes good, huh?' and I said, 'Yeah, it *does* taste good. I better not have anymore.'

"I don't miss it," Burton said. "I don't really like being around people who drink. Three drinks and they have a heat on, don't even know what they're saying. Women who take a drink and just get silly."

Burton, who has been married twice and remains divorced, smiled and said, "I'm sure it breaks their hearts, but I just have to pass."

In Jacobs' book, one Republican argued it was worth keeping Burton in office because "at least John Burton stood back in his stupor and didn't do much but vote wrong."

But Burton's legislative record has been anything but passive.

"At one point, before the Republican governors got ahold of it, our aged, blind and handicapped had a better standard of living than the aged or blind anywhere else in the country," said Burton, who sponsored SSI bills for the handicapped. "And our autistic children's program was the first in the nation."

Burton was also proud of his "asset forfeiture law—keeping law enforcement officers from just coming in and grabbing property without cause."

But he acknowledges his own political career doesn't compare to the record of his brother, Phillip.

Some of Burton's best memories come from sharing the spotlight with his brother back in Washington. "I kept thinking about what Phil and I together were doing to all those conservatives in the Old Guard. Driving them up the wall. I laughed my ass off."

"You look at what Phillip's done, it's awesome. There hasn't been a minimum-wage bill since he did it, and he's been dead 10 years. Redwood Park, Golden Gate National Park, miners' lung legislation, and on and on and on. He just brought me along for some of it."

And Burton enjoyed the ride, every minute of it. He remembered walking down the steps of the Capitol with his brother, making up words to a song about angry Republicans, then making them angrier with new legislation.

"Nowadays, there are so many intrusions into people's rights to live decently," said Burton. "If I did something for the quality of life for people, just helped a little, who gives a s— whether they erect a statue to you or not?"

Having his political life wrapped up in the wonder of California has made it all worthwhile, Burton said. "California's got so much, you know? Like Pat Brown used to say—'When I fly over this great, big beautiful state of ours. . .'"

Burton, whose desk holds a glass ball that beams, "God Made the Irish #1" and a nameplate with shamrocks on either side, reminisced about the power of Irish districts when he first started out, when "the Mission was Irish, Noe Valley was Irish, the Sunset. Around the Castro it was the Scandinavians, the Excelsior was Italian, Potrero Hill—Russians and Slavs, the Richmond was kind of Irish, kind of Russian, there was Manila Town off Kearny, and the Haight was a mixture."

"The mix has changed, but it's still a melting pot, and it's wonderful. You can't beat it," said Burton, grinning all at once.

"San Francisco. You've got to f— love San Francisco," he said. "I remember once when I went out to eat at a restaurant, must have been down around Westlake, and there's all this fog. I got out there, wound up just walking around the parking lot for 10 minutes, maybe more, taking it all in."

"The woman I was with must have thought I was nuts, but being away from San Francisco and coming back to the fog . . . you've got to love it."

Burton looked around his office, filled with photos from three decades of political hand-shaking and head-shaking and hand-wringing and loud singing in the front room with people from the Mission and Sunset and Bayview. He smiled to himself, hummed a bit of "Big Rock Candy Mountain," and said once more "You've got to love it."

## UNION CITY, NJ, CELEBRATES ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding community, the city of Union City, NJ, and to congratulate the residents on the celebration of the city's 70th anniversary. This is a special anniversary because this year the city, which I am proud to call home, is opening a new addition to its historic city hall.

Union City was originally comprised of two smaller and separate communities, named West Hoboken, incorporated in 1861, and the town of Union Hill, incorporated in 1864. In June of 1925, the two towns merged to form the dynamic, bustling place we know today as Union City.

Union City typifies this Nation's proud immigrant heritage. It has always been home to immigrants seeking a better way of life. The founders of West Hoboken and Union Hill were German and Dutch immigrants who moved to the western shore of the Hudson River to escape the crowded conditions of Manhattan. In fact, many of the original municipal documents were written in German.

In the 1870's, industry discovered Union City and the population began to grow. Woods and fields were transformed into homes and businesses. Streets were cut through, and sewer, water, and gas mains laid. Breweries, silk, chocolate, cigar, and pencil factories moved to the city. It became a hub of the U.S. embroidery industry.

The immigrant tradition continued throughout the years, drawing Irish and Italian immigrants during the first half of the 20th century. Cubans fleeing the tyranny of a brutal dictatorship came in growing numbers during the early 1960's. They established hundreds of thriving businesses along the main commercial strip, known as Bergenline Avenue. They were followed by immigrants from throughout Latin America, who make up the largest segment of the current population. During a short walk on Bergenline one can sample the cuisine of dozens of nations. Goods and merchandise from around the world are sold on the bustling streets.

The people of Union City have always been its greatest asset. Diversity in our schools and in government is viewed as a strength not an impediment. I was proud to serve the residents as their first Hispanic mayor from 1986 through 1992. Earlier, I served on the city's board of education and later as chief financial officer for the school system. Union City is in the forefront of promoting the use of computer technology in the classroom. The new city hall

addition is another example of a city that is not content to rest on past accomplishments. Its programs for the elderly and recreation programs for its youth are second to none.

Union City is a city on the move, ready to take on the challenges of the 21st century. The residents are proud of where they have been and proud of where they are going. I am proud to be a resident of Union City. I ask my colleagues today to join with me in honoring Union City, a great place to live and raise a family.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CARL  
GERSTACKER

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 1995*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a man who devoted much of his life to helping and improving the lives of others. Mr. Carl Gerstacker passed away recently and took the heart of a city with him. Midland, MI, my hometown, was the proud recipient of Mr. Gerstacker's generosity and leadership for most of his life.

Carl was born in 1916, and received the typical upbringing of a child in the Midwest. In 1938, he received his engineering degree from the University of Michigan. Two years later, Carl, like many of the brave young people at the time, answered the Nation's call to duty and enlisted in the Army. He valiantly served his country from 1940 to 1946 and returned home to a grateful nation and community.

He began working for the Dow Chemical Co. Although he possessed an engineering degree, his abilities with numbers and figures won him praise from his superiors and he was placed in charge of the finance department. His powerful character and charisma came to the forefront and his proficiency and demeanor made him a highly respected manager. In 1948, he became a member of Dow Chemical's board of directors at age 32 and was later named chairman of the finance committee. In 1960, he was elected chairman of the board.

Carl's business and personal talents made him a vital component of Dow Chemical's senior management team. He assumed responsibility of the corporation as head of a company with \$820 million in annual sales. His hard work and determination inspired others to achieve the most and when he left the company 26 years later, Dow Chemical had sales of approximately \$4.9 billion. This enormous increase in sales was partly due to Carl's business acumen but more importantly it was his ability to recognize talent in his employees and his ability to inspire their best work and loyalty to the company.

Carl was a strong advocate for education. He served on the boards of several universities and worked tirelessly on behalf of students. His hiring practices were among the most progressive of his era not because he was trying to institute social policy, but because he constantly sought the best people. His investment in them reaped tremendous rewards. His policies went beyond company profits to ensuring the company invested in the people and community.

Carl was committed to environmental protection. He helped institute many of the reforms that made the Dow Chemical Co. a leader in environmental protection and accomplished this while continuing to expand job opportunities and assisting the community.

Carl had the power to understand people. A tireless champion of community projects, Carl established the Gerstacker Awards in 1956, which honors outstanding citizens. Teachers, law enforcement officers' and firemen are among those who have received the Gerstacker Award for outstanding community service. In addition, Carl established the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation in honor of his father to help fund civic projects in the Midland area.

Carl donated his home to the local church as a parsonage and later bought it back to provide office space for local foundations. He gave generously to the city to help build housing for seniors. Although his financial contributions helped fund the projects, it was his time, effort, and encouragement that made these projects successful. His commitment went beyond financial contributions to include personal involvement.

His community activism continued far into his retirement years. He served on the board of the Midland Rotary Club, and the Midland Red Cross. He founded the Midland Community Foundation and served as campaign chairman for the United Way of Midland. He was a man who wished to be measured not by what he could get out of something but by what he was able to give back.

Carl Gerstacker's unbounded generosity and exuberance inspired everyone he met. His sense of humor put people at ease and his ideas and dreams challenged people to think and challenge themselves. Carl Gerstacker helped build a city and a company, but more importantly, he helped build a community and a family. His loving wife, Esther Gerstacker; family members including our colleague, Bill Schuette, Bette, Lisa, Sandra, and Gretchen continue in his path of community service and dedication. As a neighbor, Carl's counsel and wisdom were invaluable to my family and friends and his words and deeds continue to influence us today.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will join my colleagues and me in honoring Mr. Carl Gerstacker, his many contributions, and his enduring legacy. He has provided us with the tools to succeed; now it is up to us to continue his work.

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN CONGREGA-  
TION IN NEW JERSEY

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 1995*

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this weekend a very special ceremony will be held in Newark, NJ to commemorate an event of historic importance, the founding of the first African-American congregation in our State 160 years ago.

It was on April 27, 1835, that 37 freed slaves and free-born blacks left the Old First Presbyterian Church and resolved to become the First Colored Presbyterian Church of New-

ark. In May of that year, the Presbytery of Newark acted upon the resolution and they organized into a Church with the Reverend John Hunt as their pastor. The Church later became the Thirteenth Avenue Presbyterian Church, which merged with Clinton Avenue Presbyterian Church in October of 1967.

The establishment of the Church in 1835 by 37 men and women of courage and vision reflected their determination to affirm their own culture and identify in their worship.

Now, 160 years later, the pastor and the congregation continue the proud tradition of the founders. In a spirit of love and service, the Church continues its commitment to the community.

This weekend, on Memorial Sunday, a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held. It will include the lighting of 37 candles to honor the founders of the Church; a dramatic presentation by the Youth Group; a wreath laying ceremony in honor of loved ones and friends of Thirteenth Avenue whose names will be recorded in an Annual Memorial Booklet, and the dedication of a Computer Learning Center to provide training for the youth of our community as a commitment to the future and a renewed affirmation of our self-determination.

I have asked that during the memorial service a wreath be laid to honor Mr. Marcellus Marble, a long-time member of the church. During my childhood, Mr. Marble and his wife, Jeanette, showed great kindness in including me in special church-related activities. I remember with great fondness the yearly church picnic, held at Eagle Rock Reservation, where youngsters were able to enjoy games and other recreational activities.

I will always be grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Marble for the guidance they gave me during those years and the positive role they played in my development.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring the pastor of the Clinton Avenue Presbyterian Church, Reverend Dr. Alfred B. Johnson and the entire congregation in wishing them many more years of success, joy and spiritual growth.

PHYLLIS A. WARD AND FOREST  
CRUMPLEY HONORED AS OUT-  
STANDING VOLUNTEERS

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 1995*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise, today, to acknowledge and extend my heartfelt congratulations to Phyllis A. Ward and Forest Crumpley, who are being honored by the Committee on Political Education [COPE], as Outstanding South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council Volunteers. Ms. Ward and Mr. Crumpley will be honored at the COPE Award Banquet on Friday, June 2, 1995.

COPE is about working people joining together to participate in our political process. Since 1955, COPE has fought to secure full rights for working people and to increase government responsiveness to the needs of the labor movement. This responsiveness includes a commitment to public service.