

TRIBUTE TO BILL MILANO

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bill Milano of Pittsburg, CA, who was honored by his brothers and sisters in the labor community and the city of Pittsburg last Saturday, October, 14, 1995, when the United Steelworkers Union Local 1440 renamed its union hall for him, their founder and distinguished leader.

First and always, Bill Milano is a union man who grew up in the coal mines of Kansas and moved west to work in the steel mills of Pittsburg, CA. He is the very heart and soul of the United Steelworkers Local 1440, having served in every possible capacity for over 50 years. Even in retirement, he is a constant source of pride, enthusiasm, and inspiration for his fellow union members.

Not only is Bill Milano a leader in union halls, he has also served his community with distinction and honor as a former member of the Pittsburg City Council, founder and member of the Pittsburg Boys club, and service to the Pittsburg Red Cross, Pittsburg Community Hospital, Contra Costa Park and Recreational Council, Pittsburg Schools PTA organizations, Pittsburg Lions Club, Boy Scout troops, American Cancer Society and many, many more community service organizations. His long-time support of Ducks Unlimited and his keen interest in hunting is legendary among his family and friends.

I grew up hearing about Bill Milano from my father and how he organized local party politics in Pittsburg at a time when only shoe leather and hard work got your people elected to office. Bill Milano supported my father in his campaigns for the California State Senate, as well as my elections to the U.S. House of Representatives. He has been a friend of our family for three generations, and I am proud to call Bill Milano my friend.

I would like to share with my colleagues the attached article from the Ledger Dispatch, Wednesday, October 4, 1995, "Bid for Better Life Lead to Long Union Career."

[From the Ledger Dispatch, Oct. 4, 1995]

BID FOR BETTER LIFE LED TO LONG UNION CAREER

(By Sam Richards)

PITTSBURG, CA.—Bill Milano came to Pittsburg on a freight train in 1939, looking for a better life for his family.

Now, almost two decades after retiring from his job as financial secretary of United Steelworkers Local 1440, Milano will have his name attached to the Steelworkers' building in Cumberland Street.

For a guy who has spent the past 53 years either working or volunteering at the union hall, a guy who helped oversee tremendous growth of the local during World War II, and then saw the union shrink again as local steel employment declined . . . is this honor a surprise?

Yes, in a way, the 82-year-old Milano said. "I've been retired 17 years and they've never done a damn thing to honor me," said Milano, with a smile on his face. "But I never really pursued that anyway."

Milano's time has finally come. Local 1440 will formally rename their building after Milano at a ceremony Oct. 14 at the building, 677 Cumberland Ave. Everyone is invited to

attend that, and a reception following at the Marina Clubhouse, 31 Marina Blvd.

"This isn't just any man . . . this is the man," said Rose Cavallaro, office secretary for Local 1440 since 1959. "He's the 'god-father' of the local union; he's the one who got the union going."

Milano grew up in Kansas, and was working in the coal mines there in strip mine shafts and driving a steam locomotive shuffling coal hopper cars. But he wanted something better for his family.

"The coal mines just weren't working too good," he said. "We'd heard a lot about California, so we went to California."

Without enough money to take a passenger train, Milano and a friend hopped a Frisco Railway freight train near Cherokee, Kan., Aug. 14, 1939. A week later, they arrived in Pittsburg on a Santa Fe freight train. Within days, both were working at the Columbia Steel Co. mill, Milano as a "reeler" putting steel wire onto reels to be galvanized.

Also, Milano found the local union office quickly.

"I'd had 'union' drilled into me by my dad and everyone around me for years," Milano said. "The first thing I did was go down to the union."

In 1942, he was elected 1440's financial secretary, a post he held until 1979. During that time, he saw the union change from the Steelworkers Organizing Committee to the United Steelworkers Union of America. Milano also oversaw wartime expansion at Columbia Steel swell union membership from about 265 to more than 4,000.

Milano also plunged into community involvement in Pittsburg. He served on the City Council from 1944 until 1952, helped found the Pittsburg Boys Club (the predecessor of the East County Boys and Girls Club), was a secretary for the Contra Costa Grand Jury and numerous other civic, fraternal and local school activities.

His wife, Virginia died in 1990. And the USS-POSCO Industries plant in Pittsburg employees number fewer than 1,000 people now. But he is still involved with Local 1440 activities.

"Anytime there's something wrong here down at the union, Bill gets involved," said Carl Meilicke, 43, a former U.S. Steel employee in Pittsburg. "He started the union, and he knows more about it than anyone."

The union hall opened in the 1940s. It almost didn't outlast Milano, because the city had wanted to knock it down as part of redevelopment in 1992.

As it was. The Village at New York Landing housing tract was literally built around the union hall, which also includes the Union Club tavern.

"If you start pushing us, we'll get the whole rank and file coming after you" Cavallaro said. "We're never going to leave this building now."

Still a hunter and fisherman, Milano gave up abalone diving only two years ago. But he hasn't given up being involved in politics; in keeping with union tradition, he's supported, almost exclusively, Democrats over the years. This includes three generations of George Millers, including Assembly candidate George Miller IV . . . sort of.

"I know him and I'm friends with Tom Torlakson (Miller's election opponent)," Milano said. "I told them, 'Whoever wins the primary, I'll put my full weight behind you.'"

Tickets to the Bill Milano Building's dedication are \$10 each, and are available by call 432-7396.

A POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: JOSEPH FRANCOIS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph Francois, an individual who has tirelessly dedicated his life to making our society better. This individual is directly responsible for community enhancement efforts that impact education, social/human services and health care. His vision, sincerity and competence have resulted in the writing of winning grant proposals and valuable research studies that empower the community. Mr. Joseph Francois is a great "Point-of-Light" whose work must not go unappreciated or unnoticed.

Since 1978, Mr. Francois has been chief executive officer of the Brownsville Community Development Corporation. He is also the project director of the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center, responsible for the overall management of a comprehensive health facility. He is responsible for proposal writing, financial and budgetary conditions of the corporation, and is in the process of developing an alcoholism outpatient clinic and halfway house. Joseph Francois is also planning the creation of a birthing center.

Throughout the years, Joseph Francois has worked diligently in top positions that he found to be beneficial to his community. He was personnel director of the New York City Board of Education, Community School District No. 23. As such, he was responsible for the employment of all pedagogical and administrative staff necessary for the operation of elementary and junior high schools in district No. 23.

Mr. Francois served as a program analyst, responsible to the New York State Minority Leader for the analysis and evaluation of problems facing New York City and State. Recent publications on which he served as chief analyst included "Study of Men's Shelter," and a study of anti-poverty programs entitled "Serving the Poor," which was nominated for an award for outstanding legislative research and was jointly recommended by the then city council president, Carol Bellamy.

Mr. Francois also served as director of operations for Wildcat Service Corporation in New York City where he was responsible for the overall management of more than 350 employees. His primary area of expertise is evident by his effort in creating the first health group in the city where community and hospital leaders jointly planned to coordinate health needs for the community with a private hospital in Brooklyn. There he acted in the capacity of chairman of the board. In 1969, this group was known as the Brownsville Brookdale Health Coalition. Mr. Francois was affiliated with the Mayor's Organization Task Force for Comprehensive Health Planning. He also headed the Anti-Poverty Program for Brownsville which planned and devised programs which assisted the community in receiving grants from the National Institute for Mental Health [NIMH] to run demographic studies relevant to community needs. He is a past member of the New York City Council Against Poverty.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph Francois is truly a "Renaissance Man" whose interests and deeds extend to all critical areas of community

survival and development. Mr. Francois has never hesitated to speak out and fight against political abuse and corruption. In 1982, Joseph Francois personally drove nonstop from New York City to Albany to deliver legal briefs to the New York State Court of Appeals in the case where the Kings County political machine plotted to rob congressional candidate MAJOR OWENS of a Democratic Party primary election victory. His heroic ride to meet the filing deadline resulted in the declaration by the State's highest court that MAJOR OWENS was unquestionably the winner of that 1982 election.

Along with Mr. Francois' dedication to his community, in addition to his traditional educational achievements, he completed 4 years of theological training and was ordained a Deacon by the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens.

Married and a resident of Brooklyn, NY, Joseph Francois' distinguished life marks one of dedication to community, to God, and to family. Undoubtedly, his input in New York State legislative policy, outstanding research, and effective design of programs have improved the overall quality of life for many children, men, women, and families. Joseph Francois is a great "Point-of-Light," not only for the people of his New York community, but for all of the people of America.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE KILLING
OF LEON KLINGHOFFER

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been 10 years since a band of terrorists hijacked the *Achille Lauro* cruise ship, holding the crew and passengers hostage for several days.

It has also been 10 years since these murderous terrorists shot to death Leon Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound American citizen, and threw his body and his wheelchair overboard. This hijacking and murder stunned all of us, and showed us—in no uncertain terms—that terrorism threatens all Americans.

In the decade since the *Achille Lauro* incident, we have seen many more incidents of terrorism around the world and in this country. Each incident underscores that we need to pass tough antiterrorism legislation. We cannot tolerate the terrible and cowardly acts of violence that have rocked the United States and the world. It is time to close the door on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, Leon Klinghoffer's death was a horrible tragedy. And now, a decade later, it is clear that we have not done enough to stop terrorism. We must do more to ensure that no other families face the tragedy that Mr. Klinghoffer faced 10 years ago. We must pass tough antiterrorism legislation.

JACK LASKOWSKI, A TRUE
LEADER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of us know how important the labor movement has been

for the improvement of working conditions and fair compensation for millions of Americans. None of this would have happened if it had not been for tireless, visionary individuals who were willing to work on behalf of their coworkers. Jack Laskowski, the current director of UAW region 1D, has been such an individual who is being honored for his dedication to a retirement party this Friday.

Jack has been a member of UAW Local 362 since 1958 when he started to work at General Motors' CPC Powertrain plant in Bay City. He followed on the traditions established by his father, Walter "Bullet" Laskowski, who took part in the UAW's first strike at the Chevrolet plant in Bay City in 1936, which led to the formation of Local 362.

Since 1958, Jack has served as a member of the bargaining committee, chaired by his father. He also was a benefit plans representative and editor of the local paper until he joined the staff of the international union. Jack served on the staff of 1D since 1971, and then became the assistant director in June 1986, and finally director on June 17, 1992. He has been a vital component of labor's presence in Saginaw, Bay City, and the northern portion of Michigan's lower peninsula.

Jack's involvement in matters affecting people extend beyond his activities in the UAW. He has served as a member of organizations like the NAACP and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. He served a 3-year term as a city commissioner of Bay City. He has throughout his adult life been active in the Democratic Party, including his current membership of the Kent County Democratic Party executive committee.

He and his wife Sally also raised three wonderful sons, Greg, Tim, and Mike, who have become a bilingual special education teacher, a director of labor at Occupational Health Care, and another generation of GM worker and member of UAW Local 2031, respectively.

I have had the good fortune to know Jack personally for many years. I consider him to be a friend, a capable advisor, and someone I am proud to know. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of a career of devotion and a lifetime of leadership, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Jack Laskowski a happy, and well-deserved retirement from his years with the United Auto Workers.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER MARTHA
OVERALL

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mother Martha Overall, who was honored for her tireless contributions in the service of the community on October 6 at the 1995 St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center's dinner dance, in the South Bronx.

Mother Overall is one of eight individuals who were recognized for their remarkable success in helping rehabilitate individuals who had been struggling with substance abuse. The rehabilitation program is being implemented at St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center.

A native New Yorker, Mother Overall finished law school at New York University. Soon

she was helping tenants and providing volunteer legal services for the improvement of residential buildings.

While taking care of an ailing brother who died from AIDS, she was called to the priesthood. She received a master's in divinity from Union Theological Seminary. Mother Overall was ordained at the Cathedral of St. John The Divine and began working at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, next door to St. Benedict the Moor.

In her public and private life, she has never given up the commitment to help those who need her. Mother Overall became the mother of her godson Joey Daniel Spearman II, after his biological mother died from breast cancer. Her dedication to the community has gained her the admiration and respect of all of us in the South Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mother Overall for her immense love and devotion in helping those who are the least fortunate among us.

LEGISLATION TO ENCOURAGE
FRANCE TO HALT NUCLEAR
TESTING

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Congressman FALCOMAVAEGA and Congressman STARK have joined me in introducing legislation today to encourage the French Government to stop exploding nuclear test devices. Despite an international nuclear testing moratorium in effect since 1992 and the important progress made by the permanent extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, France has detonated two nuclear test devices at its facilities in the South Pacific. Additional tests are planned.

This legislation is very straightforward: Until France's nuclear tests stop, the bill makes importing France's celebrated Beaujolais wine more expensive in the United States and therefore less palatable to American consumers.

As this year's ripe French grapes are pressed into another vintage of France's prized Beaujolais wine, French nuclear testing in the South Pacific is reaping a bitter harvest: A harvest of worldwide criticism, protest, and censure. We are sending France a clear and simply message: To paraphrase Ernest and Julio Gallo "You will sell no wine during testing time."

The bill increases the current import fee on Beaujolais by 800 percent. All France needs to do to stop this year's Beaujolais from going down the tubes is to stop testing nuclear weapons.

The French Government has pledged to sign a comprehensive test ban next year that will outlaw all future nuclear test explosions. President Chirac recently has said that France will shorten its planned series of test explosions in the South Pacific. In addition, last Friday, France promised to sign the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty by the first half of 1996. These steps are encouraging. However, France should take them now instead of making promises while continuing to blow up nuclear test devices on fragile coral reefs in the middle of the ocean.