

Throughout his four decade career with the labor movement, John has displayed unmatched leadership and integrity. His legacy is one of numerous, outstanding, and long-lasting contributions on behalf of the working people of America.

John established himself as a man of true courage in 1982 when he bucked the vested interests in the United Auto Workers as well as the machine of an incumbent Member of Congress to support the long-shot candidacy of an underdog challenger. John recognized that I would help give Philadelphia's working people a voice in Washington and he was willing to put his career on the line to be one of the first to give me the help I needed.

Despite strong pressure from the establishment, John stood his ground because he had the people's interests at heart. It was his strength, determination, and tenacity that brought me an endorsement from the United Auto Workers—a key factor in a tight election which I won by less than one percent of the vote.

A born-and-raised citizen of Philadelphia, John W. Taylor, worked hard to strengthen the aircraft unions in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Originally a volunteer organizer for Piasecki Aircraft—now known as Boeing Helicopter Company—John was the first elected chief organizer by his fellow workers in May 1956. John was then elected to the union's first executive board and through the years served as the local union's editor and recording secretary before becoming president in 1967.

In 1967, John had become the president of the largest local union—the UAW's region 9—which consisted of 7,200 acting members. As president, he successfully administered such a large organization with five locations and supervised the construction of the union's \$250,000 Walter P. Reuther Memorial Building in Eddystone, PA.

Soon after becoming president of UAW's region 9, John was assigned to the region 9 servicing staff, where his major duties included collective bargaining, arbitration, mediation and all forms of dispute settlements until 1980. Also in 1972, John was appointed to the staff of the international union, UAW, by then president, Leonard Woodcock, and regional director, Martin Gerber. He was selected to coordinate the activities in the UAW's Community Action Program [CAP].

In recognition of his loyalty and hard work, John was appointed to a transition team by then Governor-Elect Robert Casey in 1986. This important position led to a labor friendly Labor and Industry Department for the 8 years of the Casey administration. Finally, in 1987, Governor Casey selected John to represent labor and the UAW on the Pennsylvania State Job Coordinating Council [SJTCC] which was established under the Federal Job Training and Partnership Act [JTPA]. This position has been directly responsible for the securing of hundreds of thousands of dollars in job training funds into UAW programs and to UAW members. He continues to hold this position under Governor Tom Ridge.

Personally, this tribute is only a small token of my gratitude for John and his accomplishments over the years. His work with the UAW and the citizens of the Philadelphia region is greatly appreciated and will be missed by all. John's valued judgment has been an asset not only to me but to all people associated with

him as well. I am proud to say that John W. Taylor has become a close personal friend of mine and I wish him well on a richly deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I join John's wife Jean and his family and friends in congratulating him for a lifetime of service, dedication, and hard work on behalf of the United Auto Workers and the working people of America.

MAJ. GEN. (SEL) RONALD C.
MARCOTTE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, an outstanding Air Force officer, and an exceptional individual: Maj. Gen. (sel) Ronald C. Marcotte. On March 26, 1996, Ron Marcotte handed over command of the 509th Bomber Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base after serving as its commander from the beginning of its operational status—April 1, 1993. Major General Marcotte will be the new director, strategic target plans (J-52) and deputy director, plans and policy (J-5), at U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, NE.

During his command of the 509th, Major General Marcotte was responsible for the oversight and successful completion of the facility construction as well as the beddown of the B-2 fleet. His accomplishments, as expected, went far above and beyond his described duties. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Major General Marcotte a fond farewell from the 509th Bomber Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base. Missouri will truly miss him.

SALUTING PUBLIC BROADCASTING
EXCELLENCE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was a privilege for me to recently address the Association of America's Public Television Stations' [APTS] annual meeting of member stations to discuss my proposal to privatize funding for public broadcasting. I am among those working to reduce Federal spending, without sacrificing the high quality of television programming available to all Americans from the Public Broadcasting System.

Public broadcasters have for many years provided Americans—particularly young Americans—with programming of exceptional educational value. My own 6-year-old daughter enjoys watching "Barney and Friends," "Sesame Street," and other children's shows produced by public broadcasters. And as a student of the Civil War, I believe that "The Civil War" may have been the finest television series ever aired on public, or commercial, television.

During the APTS annual meeting, two public broadcasters in Texas were recognized for excellence in their fields. Rodney Zent of KAMU-TV in College Station was named one

of seven "Visionary Public Broadcasters" and was presented with the 21st Century Award for his outstanding contributions to the public television system. And Leon Collins of KUHT-TV in Houston was one of eight recipients nationwide to receive the Grassroots Advocacy Award, presented to those individuals and public broadcasting stations who work to garner support for public television in their communities.

I salute Mr. Zent and Mr. Collins for their past efforts to enhance the future of public television.

Mr. Zent has spearheaded Texas A&M University's efforts to impose its distance learning program. On April 3, KAMU, in partnership with GTE, will unveil the Center for Distance Learning Research, which will offer training in distance learning and cutting-edge telecommunications technology. Last year, KAMU coordinated 3,400 videoconferences on its TRANS-TEX Videoconferencing Network, which provides real-time, two-way video, data and Internet services to 44 locations throughout Texas.

Mr. Collins at KUHT has enlisted his staff, the University of Houston, and supportive volunteers on behalf of public television. Due to his efforts, the University of Houston's newsletter now features a column containing legislative news from Capitol Hill, and the station's legislative needs are a high priority on the university's agenda. It is precisely this type of local, community support, that will be key to public broadcasting's future, and I salute him for his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee, I want to reiterate my support for public broadcasting—and reiterate my desire that future generations of Americans benefit from the fine, educational programming it makes available to all our citizens.

Individual efforts by persons like Rodney Zent and Leon Collins—together with enhanced local support for outstanding public broadcasters like KAMU and KUHT—will ensure that this valuable public resource will remain with us for many years to come.

YOUTH ART MONTH

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this month we have celebrated Youth Art Month, a valuable advocacy program that cultivates and emphasizes the importance of art and of quality art education in the lives of today's children.

In today's world, filled with harsh realities and ambiguity, children often lose touch with themselves and their surrounding environment creating a damaging gap. Since art is not only a representation of life in its physically, emotionally, and spiritually, it provokes self inspection and, in turn, helps to bridge this gap. Youth Art Month reminds us that this importance should never be taken for granted, for art is one of the most integral components in the development of a child's imagination and cognitive mind. Art adds a new dimension to a child's personality—a dimension of imaginative thought, subjective interpretation, and perhaps most important—individuality.

My uncle, the Late Robert F. Kennedy extolled the importance of creativity in our children's lives. "Too often, the arts have been thought of as nice, but rather non-essential part of education. When we give our children the chance to explore and develop their own creativity, we encourage the sensitivity and ability for self-expression that is so crucial a part of the well-informed, well-educated person."

I commend the Council for Art Education for creating Youth Art Month and for its efforts to instill in America an appreciation for art and art education. I sincerely hope that our children and future generations will cherish and celebrate art and the enormous contribution its forms have made to this great Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAN WHITTLE ON THE SUCCESS OF WHITTLEMANIA

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contribution Dan Whittle has made to the success of Habitat for Humanity in Rutherford County.

In 1993, Dan and the community joined together to host a bean dinner to raise money for cancer patient Ben Webber's family. Ben Webber left a wife and child when he succumbed to cancer. His lifelong dream of owning a house was realized for his family through the money Dan and Habitat raised. The Webber dinner was the forerunner of what has come to be known as "Whittlemania."

This year, the Second Annual Whittlemania for Habitat was a tremendous success. Demos' and Toot's restaurants served over 1,000 meals and owners Jim and Doris Demos donated the \$6 ticket price to Habitat. Whittlemania made more than \$7,000, quadrupling last year's results.

The community pulled together, and the following businesses and individuals made Whittlemania happen: Demos' and Toot's restaurants, the Daily News Journal, Whittlemania chairman Darwin Colston, Garden Plaza Hotel, the Printing Department, city employees of Smyrna and Murfreesboro, Tennessee General Services Commissioner Larry Haynes, Fant Smith and Outdoor Communication, and Dan's wife, Pat.

Dan is a reporter and columnist for the Daily News Journal, a Murfreesboro newspaper. In his February 8th column on Whittlemania, he says, "It is mind-boggling and heartwarming personally to have a community-wide, charitable, fund-raising event named for you and for that, I am thankful. I love this community that cares so much for people."

Well, Dan, Rutherford County is thankful to you. Its people know how much you care. You have shared your personal story of homelessness with us, but more than that, you have reached out, time and time again, to help friends and strangers. It has been said that the success of a man can be gauged by how many lives he's touched. Congratulations on your success and the success of Whittlemania.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has proven time and time again that he is big Government's little buddy. He is a tax and spend liberal though his rhetoric would have the American people believe otherwise.

My Republican colleagues and I have a proven track record when it comes to our commitment to downsize Government and the Federal deficit. To date, the Appropriations Committee has cut \$22 billion and terminated 175 wasteful programs and we continue to make real cuts that are necessary to put us on the Glidepath to a balanced budget.

The President keeps telling the American people that he wants a balanced budget too. He says the era of big Government is over. Well, we have seen no evidence of it. In fact, he is now asking Congress for an additional \$8 billion in social spending without trying to find savings elsewhere to help offset their cost. Any family that has ever tried to balance their own budget knows it will not balance if you keep spending in every direction and not cutting somewhere.

Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity to make a down payment on a balanced budget and the future of our children. We have the opportunity to make Government smaller and more cost effective we will do what is right for America's hard-working taxpayers. The President must do the same.

THE CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, One of the legislative accomplishments of which I am most proud is my association with the passage of the Caribbean Basin Initiative [CBI] in 1982. The CBI was truly bipartisan legislation, introduced by President Ronald Reagan and embraced by the Democratic Congressional leadership led by former Chairman Dan Rostenkowski of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

The CBI has been truly a success story, a great example of what President Reagan called friends helping friends in the letter that he sent me after signing the legislation to provide our Caribbean neighbors with greater access to our market in the United States. I don't believe that we fully appreciated at that time how much mutual benefit there would be over the years in CBI. Now the Caribbean has become a significant purchaser of goods and services from the United States, helping to create jobs here at home.

The CBI has been responsible for a decade of unparalleled growth in trade between the United States and the Caribbean, acting as a catalyst for exports, investment and employment creation in the economies of the United States and the Caribbean. As the growth process in CBI economies has been strengthened by increased United States investment in increased purchases of United States goods

and services. Each dollar spent by the Caribbean generates 60 cents per dollar of United States exports. Jamaica, for example, purchases more than 65 percent of its imports from the United States. Trinidad and Tobago purchases more than half of its imports from the United States.

In 1991, the last year prior to the embargo, Haiti purchased 61 percent of its imports from the United States. Restoring the economy of the new Haiti, therefore, is not a matter of charity or foreign assistance, it is a policy that is rooted in the realization that there is mutual self-interest for Haiti and the United States in making the Haitian economy viable. The Caribbean is a significant market for United States exports and these exports produce jobs in the United States.

Ambassador Bernal, in his editorial, addresses this reality and challenges us to keep the United States-Caribbean trade relationship vital by providing parity to access to the United States markets to that provided by our trading partners in NAFTA. As one of the original cosponsors of the Caribbean parity legislation which was reported out of the Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Trade last year, I am looking forward to working with Chairman CRANE and the administration to achieve its passage in the present Congress. [From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 22, 1996]

A JAMAICAN'S CASE FOR TRADE PARITY WITH NAFTA

(By Richard L. Bernal)

U.S.-Caribbean commercial links have generated American jobs at a rate of nearly 17,000 a year since the mid-1980s. U.S. overall exports to the Caribbean have expanded by more than 100%, and Caribbean exports to the U.S. have climbed by roughly 50%. By the end of 1994, combined U.S.-Caribbean trade stood at \$24 billion.

The 24 nations of the Caribbean Basin—among them Jamaica, Trinidad, the Dominican Republic and all Central American countries—have enjoyed these strong economic and trade relations during the past dozen years largely through the mechanism of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). But recent changes in U.S. trade law have put the long-term viability of this relationship in jeopardy. Under the North American Free Trade Agreement, for example, Mexican exports now enjoy access to the U.S. market exceeding that accorded to Caribbean exports. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade implementing act has exacerbated these effects by phasing out a program that regulated the importation of textile and apparel products from all countries.

As a result, Caribbean countries are now forced to compete in their largest market at a substantial competitive disadvantage. In the two years that Nafta has been in effect, there has been a steady diversion of trade and investment away from the Caribbean Basin nations. In the textile and apparel sector alone, Mexico has displaced other Caribbean countries. It is now the single largest source of U.S. garment imports from this hemisphere. Such diversion has begun to erode U.S.-Caribbean trade relations, weakening the employment base of hundreds of thousands of Americans who depend upon strong U.S.-Caribbean trade links.

During a visit with Central American leaders last month, Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced that President Clinton will include in his fiscal year 1997 budget request a key proposal to strengthen U.S.-Caribbean Basin economic relations. Coming on the heels of Cuba shooting down two unarmed civilian planes. Mr. Christopher's announcement underscores the compelling U.S.