

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS BRANCH 70 AND BRANCH 2525: SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 70 and Branch 2525, as they are honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, for their contributions to the labor movement and to the community as a whole.

The Labor Council's Community Service Award goes to the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 70 and Branch 2525, primarily for their successful food drives. For the sixth consecutive year, with the cooperation of the Postal Service, they have organized the most successful food drives in San Diego County, collecting between 60 tons and 170 tons of food per year for needy working families.

With 2,500 members, including both active and retired letter carriers representing the majority of San Diego County, Branch 70 and Branch 2525 also contribute each year to the muscular dystrophy telethon. Last year, almost \$10,000 was collected locally—joining thousands of other members nationwide to contribute \$1.5 million to this worthy cause.

Branch 70 and Branch 2525 of the National Association of Letter Carriers are truly deserving of the award which they are receiving. I join in adding my sincere thanks to their members, and I take pleasure in highlighting their service for my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF
LYMAN SPITZER

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lyman Spitzer who passed away on March 31.

Lyman was one of the greatest astrophysicists that our world has ever seen and was the visionary for the Hubble space telescope. His passing came just days before the April 3 closing of the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor [TFTR] at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory which he founded and headed for many years.

The Tokamak experiment was based on one of Dr. Spitzer's most exciting ideas—that it should be possible to recreate the energy producing process of the stars and harness it as an abundant source of energy on Earth. Despite the TFTR's major world record accomplishments of controlled fusion power during its history it was shut down 2 weeks ago.

The long-term interests and needs of our Nation, like the need to find environmentally safe and abundant sources of energy will not end with Lyman Spitzer, but the progress he made in this area will serve as a starting point for years to come.

As America faces a new century, looking for new answers to our Nation's problems, it is the vision and effort of people like Lyman Spitzer that will guide us to the solutions.

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE ROBINSON

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representative CARRIE MEEK and others in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the day Jackie Robinson broke Major League Baseball's color barrier.

As a ballplayer, Jackie Robinson set standards through both his superior athleticism and dignified grace. His unflinching commitment and determination to achieve set him apart from countless numbers of his peers.

However, a look beyond pure statistics—6 National Pennants and 6 seasons batting over .300, to name a couple—allows us to truly understand why Jackie Robinson is a hero to us all.

Jackie Robinson was an American pioneer. His perseverance when all the odds were against him is certainly an inspiration. This strength of will is reflective of the true spirit of America. His personal sacrifice reflects his commitment to our society. Robert Kennedy once said: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope." America was formed and is continually transformed by these "ripples of hope." Jackie Robinson was a "ripple of hope" for many Americans.

Yet, we must never forget the times in which Jackie Robinson lived. Discrimination and dehumanization were societal norms of the 1940's and 1950's. We must continually reflect on these ills, and admit past mistakes. This American conscience has always shaped our society for the better.

People have said that Jackie Robinson never took a step backwards. A lot has changed in the 50 years since he first put on that Brooklyn Dodger cap, yet too much has remained the same. We must continually move forward, ensuring all Americans their rights. The first step is to recognize those individuals who have strived to make an impact. Jackie Robinson's impact is still being felt today.

Therefore, I urge all the Members of this House, and all of my fellow Americans to remember Jackie Robinson as a great ballplayer, an inspirational American hero, and most important of all, an individual whose courage has touched the lives of millions.

GRAPHIC POSTCARD ACT OF 1997

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge support for legislation that I have introduced, the Graphic Postcard Act of 1997. My bill, formulated after postcards showing a dismembered fetus were sent unso-

olicited to a number of towns in Connecticut, requires that material depicting violent or sexually explicit acts sent through the U.S. Postal Service be enclosed in an envelope emblazoned with a large print warning.

It is not unusual for parents to allow small children to open the mailbox and examine the contents. Bills, letters, and most advertisements pose no threats to young children. Sexually explicit material is already required to be covered when sent through the mail.

The right to free speech is one we all cherish. This legislation will not interfere with free speech; it does not prohibit graphic materials to be mailed, but instead places a simple requirement on their mailing in order to protect children. Like it or not, those responsible for these postcards have every legal right to use the U.S. mail to express their viewpoints. However, I believe that parents have an equal right to protect their children from graphic presentations of frightening or violent actions. Requiring an envelope and warning does not infringe on the sender's freedom of speech; it simply guarantees protection for our Nation's children.

This is rational action to stop potentially dangerous behavior. Hundreds of my constituents have called or written to let me know they were outraged by these postcards. The level of violence in our society has reached an unprecedented level and is eroding the values that have made us a strong society. We have a special obligation to protect young hands and eyes from unsuitable material, and this is step one.

I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Graphic Postcard Act of 1997.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Graphic Postcard Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. NONMAILABILITY OF CERTAIN MAIL MATTER.

Section 1463 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first paragraph by inserting "(a)(1)" before "All matter";

(2) in the second paragraph by inserting "(2)" before "Whoever" and by striking "section" and inserting "subsection"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(b)(1) All matter otherwise mailable by law, upon the envelope or outside cover or wrapper of which, and all postal cards upon which, any delineations, epithets, terms, photographs, drawings, visual depictions, or language of a violent or clinically graphic character, or unsuitable for persons under 18 years of age, are written or printed or otherwise impressed or apparent, are non-mailable matter, and shall not be conveyed in the mails nor delivered from any post office nor by any letter carrier, and shall be withdrawn from the mails under such regulations as the Postal Service shall prescribe, except as provided in paragraph (2).

"(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to any mail matter which is enclosed in an envelope or other outside cover or wrapper which—

"(A) bears on its face, in conspicuous and legible type in contrast by typography, layout, or color, in accordance with regulations which the Postal Service shall prescribe, such notice as the Postal Service shall by regulation require as to the nature of the contents of the mailing; and

"(B) satisfies such other requirements as the Postal Service may by regulation prescribe in order to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

"(3) Whoever knowingly deposits for mailing or delivery, anything declared by this subsection to be nonmailable matter, or knowingly takes the same from the mails for the purpose of circulating or disposing of or aiding in the circulation or disposition of the same, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both, for the first such offense, and shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both, for each such offense thereafter."

REV. WALTER "PAPA" HUFF: 100 YEARS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of all of my constituents to wish the Reverend Walter R. Huff, known affectionately by family and friends as "Papa," a most glorious 100th birthday.

In his 100 years, Papa Huff has witnessed the growth of our Nation, from its horse and buggy days, to the Model-T, to today's space age. He saw, first hand, the rise of organizations like the NAACP and the Urban League and the elimination of legalized segregation in our society.

Born in 1897, Papa Huff lived in Little Rock, AR, for most of his life. It was here, at the Arkansas Baptist College, that Papa Huff received his education.

In 1916, Papa Huff began his career with the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He started his 45-year tenure with the railroad by laying track. During his time with the Missouri Pacific, he progressed in the company from laying track to working the boilers, locomotive operation, and finally, as an inspector.

In 1925, Papa Huff married Lucy Sterling of Little Rock, AR. They were united happily for 45 years.

Papa Huff began his preaching career in 1925 as assistant pastor of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Little Rock, AR. It was also during this time that Reverend Huff joined the NAACP, led at that time by Mrs. Daisy Bates.

In 1961, Papa Huff retired from the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He began his third career as an entrepreneur. He was the proud owner and operator of a painting business.

Papa Huff came to my district in 1992, where he joined the Mount Erie Baptist Church, led by the Reverend Walter G. Wells. He remains an active member of this congregation.

I, along with the residents of my congressional district, salute the Reverend Walter "Papa" Huff as a living celebration of history, steadfastness, and love. We wish him well on the joyous occasion of his 100th birthday.

SALUTE TO THE NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL OF CHURCHES WORLDWIDE, INC.

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the National Fellowship Council of Churches Worldwide, Inc. They are preparing this week for the consecration and appointment of three new bishops, Rev. Ervin Dease, Sr., Rev. Roy Roberson, and Rev. John Lee Paulson.

The National Fellowship Council of Churches Worldwide, Inc., consists of a vast number of ministries all of which are geared to helping the underprivileged and downtrodden. They find shelter for the homeless and feed the hungry, spiritually as well as physically.

Bishop Anthony R. Monk, Sr., the founder of the fellowship has been instrumental in stamping out crack houses and getting drug dealers off the street corners. He has trained the ministers to assist law enforcement officers in eliminating substance abuse and making neighborhoods safe places to live for our elderly and youth.

The women ministers help, with counseling sessions and workshops, mothers who are raising their children alone to cope with the problems of being a single parent. They also help battered women realize that they do not have to stay in that situation and help them relocate if necessary. The women ministers also try to show other women in the community the need for a spiritual awakening.

I salute them today as they celebrate this most sacred ceremony of consecration and ask my colleagues to join me. A special recognition for Bishops Monk and Billings for starting and maintaining this program. Let us be reminded by the actions and mission of this group that we can come together as people, whatever our personal doctrines, and work in the service of a higher power.

EARTH DAY

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 27th annual Earth Day, which occurs next Tuesday, April 22.

Mr. Speaker, it is easy for us to be complacent today about the state of our environment. After a century of severe pollution, we have rallied over nearly three decades to accomplish major successes in environmental protection and restoration. Among them are the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Air Act. These laws have left our air and water cleaner than it has been in generations, and they have restored healthy populations of many plant and animal species that were on the brink of extinction.

Perhaps more important than laws, however, is the unprecedented shift in public attitudes and practices that has occurred over the past 25 years. It is becoming commonplace, for instance, to see recycling bins alongside every trash bin; schoolchildren are taught

about preservation of resources; and volunteer groups can regularly be seen cleaning up our riverbanks, parks, and open spaces.

After so many years of successfully struggling to improve our environment, it can be easy to lose perspective on why this struggle is important, and why we must remain ever vigilant. Earth Day exists so that we can pause and remember why we began working to protect the environment in the first place.

In debates over whether to preserve a particular species or ban a certain pollutant, we tend to forget why these things are important to us. Simply put, our planet is our home. By polluting it, abusing its natural resources, and reducing the diversity of its species, we make it a more difficult and less healthy place in which to live. Very often we hear people invoke "our children and grandchildren" when talking about the environment. This is not idle sentimentality. A child born today is breathing cleaner air, and can swim in cleaner lakes and rivers than a child born 10 years ago. Environmental protection is about quality of life and survival. It is precisely for this reason that we cannot rest on our laurels.

Americans are clearly living in a healthier environment than we were a generation ago. But there are still many old problems that have not been resolved, and many new challenges that we must face. This is not the time to be satisfied with our accomplishments and begin to roll back our environmental protections. Rather, it is time to examine what we have done and look for ways to do better.

The debate over clean air presents a good example. There are many opinions about the best way to reduce pollution in our atmosphere. While this debate continues, we must not overlook an important way that individuals and government can ease air pollution—mass transit and environmentally friendly transportation. As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and now as its ranking member, I have been proud to advocate more investment in mass transit for our cities, and for further development of alternative modes of transportation like bicycling. By making it easier for people to ride their bikes, the bus, or the train to work every day, we can take an important step toward reducing both pollution and our heavy use of gasoline and other limited fossil fuels.

This is just one example of the many ways that environmental protection is important in our daily lives. It shows us that protecting our environment is not an abstract goal that we pursue simply for its own sake. The laws that we enact and the habits we form affect the way we live our lives, and help determine whether future generations will be able to live happy, healthy, and productive lives. This is what I urge all of my colleagues, and all Americans, to think about this Earth Day.

PRESERVING THE DUAL BANKING SYSTEM

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the importance of preserving our dual banking system. As we march into the brave new world of