

A TRIBUTE TO FRED MARTELLA

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Fred Martella, who has been named the 1999 Agriculturist of the Year by the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce and Kings County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Martella was born in Lemoore in 1917, the second of Louis and Elvezia Martella's seven children. He attended Hanford High School before leaving to assist with the family dairy operation. Mr. Martella started milking cows for \$25 a month, and later held positions at numerous sales yards in the San Joaquin Valley.

In 1944, Mr. Martella entered into a dairy partnership, selling the dairy two years later. In 1952, he entered into another partnership with his brother, Art. Throughout his career, Mr. Martella has also been active as a professional auctioneer, and has donated his services to Valley charities on countless occasions.

During his 82 years in the Valley, Mr. Martella has been active in the farming community and the life of Kings County. He served on the Agricultural Kings Fair Board of Directors until 1986, was named Grand Marshall at this year's Kings County Homecoming Parade, and was named Citizen of the Year in 1993.

Mr. Martella is also well-known throughout the Valley as a supporter of Kings County youth. He has been a regular fixture at the Kings County Fair's Youth Auction, helping 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) participants auction off their projects at top prices, and assisting with their annual Lamb Barbecues.

Finally, Mr. Martella is a dedicated family man. He is married to Ann Martella, and has three daughters, two stepdaughters, twelve grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Fred Martella for his contributions to the agriculture field and to his community. We send our sincere congratulations for the well-deserved honor of being named Agriculturist of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO OPHELIA COLLINS
McFADDEN**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my distinguished colleagues, Representatives HOWARD BERMAN, MAXINE WATERS, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, XAVIER BECERRA, and JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, in paying tribute today to Ophelia Collins McFadden, legendary leader of Local 434 of the Service Employees International Union in Los Angeles, California.

One of labor's most extraordinary and influential leaders, Ophelia is retiring and will be feted at a celebration in her honor in Los Angeles on October 8, 1999. We are, therefore, especially pleased to honor her today and to publicly acknowledge her more than three

decades of outstanding service to the labor movement, to the Los Angeles community, and in particular, to the thousands of working men and women throughout Los Angeles who have achieved greater economic parity because of her steadfast leadership. Indeed, it is impossible to talk about the labor movement or the advances achieved in Los Angeles during the past thirty-plus years, without invoking Ophelia's name.

The story of Ophelia Collins McFadden begins, of course, with her birth in Kendleton, Texas. She attended schools in Conroe, Texas and received her undergraduate degree from Conroe Christian Teachers College. She moved to Los Angeles in 1959 and immediately joined the civil rights movement where she quickly gained a reputation as an indefatigable soldier in the fight to remove the insidious discriminatory barriers that were prevalent throughout this great nation.

In 1968 Ophelia joined local 434 of SEIU as a staff representative. She was promoted to senior staff representative in 1974 and one year later was elevated to Assistant General Manager. On January 1, 1978, she made history in the labor movement with her appointment as General Manager of SEIU Local 434—at the time the third largest County workers union in California. She is the first African American woman Vice President of SEIU, AFL-CIO and the first African American woman to serve on the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor board. Ophelia can lay claim to numerous accomplishments during her long tenure with SEIU, not the least of which is the critical role she played in helping to establish the Los Angeles County Affirmative Action guidelines.

As an activist, Ophelia is a formidable ally to have on your team. She has been involved in every major political race in Los Angeles County for the past thirty-one years. She has worked in voter registration drives throughout the county and was among the first SEIU members to work with former California State Legislators Richard Alatorre and Art Torres in registering voters in the Latino community. She worked on the presidential campaigns of Walter Mondale and TED KENNEDY, and played a vital role in helping Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke capture her first victory for a seat on the Board of Supervisors.

She is a founding member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, as well as the Coalition of Labor Union Women; Vice President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the Western States Conference, SEIU, AFL-CIO; member of the Advisory Board of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC); and Chancellor of the Elinor Glenn Joint Council of Unions, Scholarship Trust.

In addition to her enormous responsibilities as the influential head of one of the most important labor locals in Los Angeles County, Ophelia serves as a member of the Conroe College Alumni Association, and is Vice President and a life member of the Los Angeles Branch of the NAACP. She is a member of Praises of Zion Church.

Ophelia Collins McFadden has taken her place on the front lines of every major labor initiative in the Los Angeles community. In 1986 she led the kick-off Homecare campaign and in 1989 was appointed General Manager of the Homecare Workers Union of local 434B.

Each of us paying tribute to her today can, I am sure, offer a personal anecdote of a time when she has prevailed upon us to help her in her tireless fight for the rights of county workers.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud to honor Ophelia Collins McFadden as one of the greatest labor unionists of this century. We are privileged to know her and to thank her for the many contributions she has made to the Los Angeles community, and in particular to the thousands of health care and homecare workers in our respective congressional districts. We salute and commend her and ask that you join us in extending our heartfelt best wishes to her for a long and joyous retirement.

TAX RULES WAIVER EXTENSION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing for myself and Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COYNE, Mrs. JOHNSON (CT), and Mr. MATSUI, legislation to extend for one additional year the temporary waiver of the minimum tax rules that deny many families the full benefit of nonrefundable personal credits, pending enactment of permanent legislation to address this inequity.

This problem is well known. The tax credits for education and children are limited by the alternative minimum tax. Consequently, more and more average Americans who use the dependent care credit, the new child credit, the HOPE credit or the lifelong learning credit, will be forced to fill out the time consuming, complex alternative minimum tax form. Even worse, a growing number of Americans will have all or part of these credits denied because they are part of the AMT base. For families with three or more children, the refundable portion of the child credit is also subject to the AMT cutback, which this bill also fixes for 1999.

The Department of the Treasury estimated that in 1998, without the "one year" waiver that was enacted last year, eight hundred thousand taxpayers who were entitled to the child credit or the education credits would have been denied the full benefit of these credits by the AMT. And although the AMT was enacted into law to ensure that wealthy individuals pay some tax, a large percentage of these new AMT taxpayers will be married couples who earn between \$45,000 and approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Speaker, we know that there is widespread agreement to fix this problem either on a permanent basis, or if that is not possible, for one additional year. The Clinton Administration, the House and Senate, and both parties agree. Yet, it has not been accomplished. We are introducing this bill, which extends last year's waiver for one additional year, to highlight the problem once again and to urge quick action to solve it for tax year 1999. Given the lead time the Internal Revenue Service needs to draft and print tax forms for next year, it is necessary for us to take action early next month. Hopefully, legislation that is acceptable to all of us will be enacted on a bipartisan basis shortly.

IN HONOR OF DR. LORETTA LONG,
RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED
WAY'S CONGRESSWOMAN MARY
T. NORTON MEMORIAL AWARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Loretta Long for winning the United Way's Congresswoman Mary T. Norton Memorial Award.

Initiated by the United Way of Hudson County in 1990, this award recognizes individuals who exhibit a deep commitment to community service as exemplified by Congresswoman Mary T. Norton during her 13 terms in the House of Representatives (1925–1950). A leader who championed thinking outside of the box, Congresswoman Norton advocated government action in areas, such as day care, fair employment practices, health care for veterans, and the inclusion of woman in high levels of government service.

Dr. Loretta Long, one of this year's award recipients, has been with the groundbreaking children's show Sesame Street since its first season. As television has been evolving to portray a more real and true vision of American life, particularly in roles for women and minorities, Dr. Long has enjoyed watching her role as Susan grow from housewife to nurse to working mother.

In addition to her work on Sesame Street, the former schoolteacher is a sought-after educator and consultant who holds a doctorate degree in education from the University of Massachusetts. She has joined several institutions as a distinguished visiting scholar and has taught at Sage College, Rowen University, the University of Scranton, the University of Massachusetts, and Western Michigan University.

Dr. Long extended her years of knowledge and experience in the field of education on topics such as the media and cultural diversity in the following school districts: Albany City Schools; Troy City Schools; Schenectady City Schools; Atlantic City School District; Pittman Consolidated School; Cape May County Schools; Pocono Valley School District; Scranton City Schools; North Pocono Valley Schools; Valley View School District; Scranton Prep; and the Laboratory School at the University of Scranton.

A much deserving award recipient who embodies the life work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton, Dr. Long has dedicated her life to the education of America's children. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Long for all of her outstanding service to the community and for carrying on the work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of an issue of critical importance: the young people of our nation. In a

recent essay competition I held in the 3rd district of New Mexico, students shared the following comments:

"It is extremely sad wondering if we are safe when we go to school everyday. Teenage violence is soon going to be a bigger concern than college preparation for teens if something is not done about the issue soon."—Liz Gonzales, senior, Santa Fe High School.

"Most kids need the adults in power to continue to tell us that we can do it and we can be more, because through knowledge there is power to make your dreams come true."—Erin D. Muffoletto, 9th grade, Mesa Vista High.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to tell the young people of my district and of the nation that we hear them. They are asking for help and we are listening.

On October 19th and 20th Sierra Anne Blue from Kirtland and Erin Muffoletto from South Ojo Caliente will come to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national Voices Against Violence Conference. These dedicated young people will meet with their peers, federal law enforcement and education officials, and many others to help develop solutions to problems related to youth violence.

In addition, I have selected Matthew Garcia from Springer, Amanda Lynn Chavez from Bernalillo, Dominic Biava from Gallup, Liz Gonzales from Santa Fe, Christopher Morris from Navajo, Randy Maestas from Mora, Twana Seschille from Crownpoint, and Deema Rashad from Gallup, to represent their schools on my Student Education Forum in New Mexico. These students will work throughout the school year to explore solutions to problems that plague our schools.

Youth violence is an issue we are all responsible for solving. The Voices Against Violence Conference and the Student Education Forum are two ways to start this process.

To all of the students of New Mexico and the nation, know that I am listening, know that we are listening, know that your voices are being heard.

PULASKI DAY TRIBUTE TO POLISH-AMERICANS

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Polish American Club of Lake Worth, Florida is preparing to celebrate Pulaski Day on October 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, I rise today to pay tribute not only to Casimir Pulaski but to all men and women of Polish descent who have helped to make this Nation the greatest in the world.

Casimir Pulaski was an energetic and fiery soldier who, in July 1777, came to America to offer his services in the Revolutionary War. As a cavalry general he fought courageously and won distinction in several campaigns.

Pulaski was to the American Revolution what Patton was to World War II. Though he was mortally wounded in the Battle of Savannah, he left behind a cavalry unit that earned him the title "Father of the American Cavalry."

Casimir Pulaski knew that freedom isn't free and that America is a great nation because it provides an opportunity for every person regardless of ethnicity.

So Mr. Speaker, once again, I wish to pay tribute to all Polish-Americans as we prepare to celebrate Pulaski Day.

TRIBUTE TO THE GREEN BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR RECEIVING THE HERMAN GOLDSTEIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROBLEM-ORIENTED POLICING

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to share with my colleagues some wonderful news from my district—the Green Bay Police department was recently awarded the prestigious Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing.

The national award formally recognizes the truly outstanding job the Green Bay P.D. continues to do to serve and protect our community. I would particularly like to recognize Green Bay Mayor Paul Jadin, Police Chief Jim Lewis, as well as Steve Scully and Bill Bongle. Officers Scully and Bongle are the community policing officers who submitted the presentation for this award, and continue to do the innovative police work that earned it.

The community policing program is so successful because it tackles crime in a creative new way—giving police the flexibility to work within communities to find the best solutions to the problems certain at-risk neighborhoods face. Rather than simply reacting to crime and pushing it out, community policing seeks to attack crime at its source—focusing on prevention, and effectively choking off the root problems that cause crime in the first place.

The department's community policing program in Green Bay's North Broadway area achieved much more than just this award. Police calls dropped 25 percent from 1997 to 1998, and they're down a whopping 58 percent since 1993. This impressive reduction means so much more than any award could ever express. This success story means local residents and businesses have experienced a genuine and dramatic improvement in their quality of life and and work. The officers involved, the Green Bay P.D. and the entire community can be proud of this extraordinary accomplishment.

A TRIBUTE TO ROGER DURBIN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, our World War II veterans remind us of a time when our country stood united in the pursuit of independence and liberty, whether it be for others on foreign soil, or here at home. Twelve years ago, Roger Durbin, my constituent and a World War II combat veteran, asked me why there was no national monument to honor those who served in this war. Legislation I sponsored and Congress passed will rectify that grievous oversight. However, until the memorial is completed, a new postage stamp will serve to recognize those contributing to the war effort. I am inserting in today's RECORD the following speech by Roger Durbin, documenting the bravery of those who served and celebrating the release of the new stamp in their honor.