

Nursing for the Miami-Dade County Department of Public Health, the only Black to have served as Chairperson of the Florida State Board of Nursing, and founder of the Miami-Dade Black Nurses Association. She also served as the past President of the Florida Association of Community Health Centers and the National Association of Community Health Centers.

For the past eighteen years, she held the distinction of President and CEO of the Economic Opportunity Family Health Center, Inc., the largest minority employer in the Liberty City community. Through a staff of 300 employees, more than 9-million dollars are added annually to the local economy. Her record of sustained service has been recognized at the local, state and national levels. This was evidenced by her appointment in 1991 to the National Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality by then Secretary of Health Louis Sullivan and the Florida Work Group on Health Care by the late Governor Lawton Chiles. Along with Elizabeth Taylor, she was featured in the Miami Herald as the distinguished "Miamian," after testifying before the U.S. Senate for increased funding for those afflicted with the HIV-AIDS virus.

This remarkable lady was my friend and confidante. I am deeply saddened by her passing away. She will indeed be an indelible reminder of the noble commitment and awesome power of public service on behalf of the less fortunate. Her faith was deep and genuine, and her love for our community defined her dynamic friendship and understanding. No one who knew Jessie—and being struck by her sunny disposition and optimism—went away not acknowledging the presence of a caring and compassionate community leader.

Jessie Collins Trice's life was akin to that of a burning candle. A candle's lifelong service is to shed its light to illuminate the darkness of pessimism and hopelessness—until it is consumed. She conscientiously consecrated her life by serving God through her fellow human beings—especially the women and children from the innercity. I do remember cogently her challenging words: "Our children are our future, and if we don't expend every effort to help our children, we won't have a future."

This Friday, October 15, 1999 at a funeral mass at the Archdiocese of Miami's St. Mary's Cathedral, I join the Miami-Dade County community to celebrate her life and her friendship. Undoubtedly, Jessie Collins Trice would urge us that her death does not represent an irrevocable termination or a grim finality. She would rather have us firmly believe that she will live on in the good deeds she amply left behind. She will carry on through the wonderful thoughts and memories we all have of her.

Like the God whom she served faithfully during her earthly sojourn, she came and lived among us that we may have life—and have hope more abundantly. This is the wonderful legacy Jessie Collins Trice left behind. And this is the gift with which she blesses us. May Almighty God grant her eternal rest!

LABOR CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a

very special celebration taking place in my district this week. The Greater Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Council will gather to recognize the contributions of organized labor over the last century. I am pleased and proud to have been asked to participate.

A number of my good friends at the Labor Council will preside at this event: President Sam Bianco, Vice-President Joseph Capece, Secretary Lois Hartel, Treasurer Joseph Gorham and Trustees Ed Harry, Ed Hahn, Ed Walsh, David Williams, and Jerry Kishbaugh. The banquet will feature a comprehensive slide show that depicts the struggles of labor over the last century, highlighting such victories as anti-child labor laws, free public education, voting rights, equal pay for equal work, Social Security, job-safety, workers compensation, civil rights, the eight-hour work day, the minimum wage, and other triumphs. The program will also highlight the historic contributions of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Council, which received the 1998 National AFL-CIO Model Cities in Community Services Award.

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Council was founded in September 1894 by a group of six men: John J. Casey and Daniel Shovlin of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, Pat O'Neill and John Gibbon of the Stone Cutters Union, Amos Ayers of the Carpenters Union, and David Brovea of the Painters Union. In the beginning, fear of being blacklisted and jailed forced the Council members to hold secret, hidden meetings. The first such meeting was held in an old stone yard until rain forced the gathering to move under a bridge. There, in the rain-soaked autumn air, the Labor Council was founded.

John J. Casey went on to head what was then called the Central Labor Union, or CLU and the Building Trades Council. By 1902, 118 local unions were affiliated with the CLU. In 1903, United Mine Workers President John Mitchell told the American Federation of Labor convention in Boston that Wilkes-Barre was the "best organized city in the United States." Within the next few years, it was common to see as many as 300 members at the bi-monthly meetings.

The father of Labor Council was John J. Casey, who sought to unite all the trade unions in the event of a major problem with local contractors. Casey, a central figure in the history of the local labor movement, came from an inspiring background. Born in a company-owned mining shack in the anthracite region, Casey lost his father in a mining accident at age eight. With no compensation laws in place at that time, Casey was forced to leave school and become a breaker boy, working ten-hour days for pennies. It was here that the seed of labor activism was born in John J. Casey.

John J. Casey realized legislation was needed to obtain equal labor rights and social justice for working men and women. He successfully ran for State Representative and, later, for the United States Congress. When he won his congressional seat in 1912, John J. Casey became the first labor leader ever elected to that body. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the passage of laws prohibiting child labor and supporting vocational education in public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the labor unions in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The unions not only brought fair labor prac-

tices to the area, they saved lives, protected our children, and are responsible for much of the wonderful quality of life we enjoy here. I join with this hardworking group of dedicated individuals in paying tribute to their origins, their heroes, and the rank-and-file laborers whose rights they so fiercely protect every day. I applaud the Greater Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Council for bringing the proud history of local labor unions to the attention of the Luzerne County community and send my sincere best wishes for continued success.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Taiwan's National Day, I wish to convey my best wishes to the people of Taiwan, congratulating them for their successes in the past and extending my sympathies to all the earthquake victims and their families. My prayers are with them.

Taiwan is a model of success in Asia. Through hard work and ingenuity, Taiwan has emerged as one of the strongest economies on the Pacific Rim and is a showcase democracy in the world. The accomplishments of Taiwan, whether economic or political, are truly impressive.

I am confident that Taiwan's future successes will remain impressive, despite the recent earthquake which has severely damaged Taiwan's economy and infrastructure. God-speed and good fortune to our friends in Taiwan as they rebuild their nation.

TRIBUTE TO TODD OFFORD

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Todd Offord as Reserve Firefighter of the Year for the City of Lake Forest. When Todd was 16 years old he began as a Fire Explorer and was certified in Fire Control and auto extrication. He also attended the Fire Explorer Academy at El Toro Marine Base. In 1989, Todd became a Paid Call Firefighter and has since attended the Driver/Operator academy, become certified as an Emergency Medical Technician, and attended the Orange County Fire Departments 562 hour Firefighter Academy.

In his time as a Reserve Firefighter, Todd has helped with yearly Christmas decorations, community fairs, serving food to the homeless and many other volunteer projects. Todd is currently employed by the El Toro Water District in customer service and continues to be a valuable asset to the Reserve Firefighters in Lake Forest.

Mr. Speaker, reserve firefighters provide key services in protecting communities and citizens, as well as our Nation's forests. Todd Offord has gone above and beyond the call of duty in his service to the Orange County Community. I am proud to recognize Todd Offord as Reserve Firefighter of the Year.

HONORING BILL BURKE FOR HIS
ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SAN
DIEGO CHAPTER OF THE AGC

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor and congratulate Bill Burke for the leadership and direction he has provided to the San Diego Chapter of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) over the last 23 years. As Chairman of AGC, his countless hours of persistent hard work have led to some great strides and advancements for general contractors in San Diego.

During Bill's tenure he provided fundamental leadership that expanded the tasks of the San Diego AGC by moving them into a multi-dimensional organization that not only strives to accomplish the goals and achievements of the construction industry, but also provides apprenticeships, safety, and benefit programs. He has demonstrated great flexibility and creativity over the last two decades to keep ahead of the changing role of general contractors and the construction industry in San Diego County.

At the end of this year Bill Burke will be retiring from his leadership position. He will remain a constant standard and hard act to follow for all future AGC Chairmen, his impact on the construction industry in San Diego county will be felt for many future generations. I thank him for all his efforts and congratulate him on his retirement and wish him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES OF
CONGRESS?

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, what are the priorities of this Congress? Today, the House voted on the Defense Appropriations Conference Report, the final vote to determine funding for the Department of Defense. The Defense Appropriations, Military Construction, and Energy and Water Appropriations bills together have provided \$289 billion in defense funds, which is \$8 billion more than was requested by the Administration. In addition, the Defense Appropriations Conference Report allocates \$1 billion for the procurement of "test" F-22 fighters and an additional \$275 million has been provided for the purchase of five unrequested F-15 jets. Extra funding, well beyond what is needed to maintain a strong defense, is being allocated to the Defense Department at the same time as programs that help the neediest Americans are being severely cut. Millions of children across the country are without health care, programs to help improve our children's education are being cut, and millions of people are living in poverty at a time when affordable housing is consistently decreasing. This Congress must better prioritize in order to provide for the needs of Americans.

Currently, 11 million children in the United States go without health insurance and

150,000 of them are in my home state of Colorado. Eight million children without health insurance could be insured using the excess \$8 billion in defense funding.

Several "test" F-22 fighters will be purchased by the United States at a cost of \$300 million per plane. Every uninsured child in Colorado who suffers because he or she cannot receive health care could be covered at half the price of a single F-22 fighter. Instead, the fighter jets will be produced while children in every state across America suffer due to a lack of needed health coverage.

Education is another area where deep funding cuts will harm our nation's children. Approximately \$3 billion has been targeted for cuts from the education budget for fiscal year 2000. These cuts damage education programs intended to assist over two million children. This proposal would cut programs that provide needed after school care, reading and math help for low-income children, and technology support for schools. Under current proposals, states would not receive grants to assist in School-to-Work programs and funding would be denied for drug and violence coordinators in middle schools across the country. The cost of a single F-22 fighter would provide approximately 750,000 low-income and needy children with lunches at school for a year through the National School Lunch program. In addition, about 675,000 needy students could be provided with school lunches at the cost of the five unrequested F-15 fighters provided for in the Defense Appropriations Conference Report. Instead, 2.9 billion dollars' worth of education programs are in danger of being underfunded.

Finally, even in today's booming economy, millions of Americans suffer from homelessness and poverty. According to a Congressional Research Service report by Morton J. Schussein, "Housing the Poor: Federal Housing Program for Low-Income Families," on any given night, 600,000 people sleep on the streets because they have no home. In addition, 12.5 million people are classified by the government as having severe housing problems such as substandard and crowded living conditions. In recent years, there has been a 15.8 percent increase in the number of very-low-income households in the United States and the number of affordable housing units has decreased by 42 percent between 1974 and 1995. Severe physical deficiencies such as bad wiring, broken heating and dilapidated structures affect 3.1 million families that rent homes.

So, what are the priorities of this Congress? The answer lies in its actions. When defense is provided with billions of dollars more than what was requested, when too many kids remain uninsured, and when education initiatives and affordable housing programs are in danger of being cut by millions, it becomes crystal clear that the priorities of this Congress are grossly out of sync with those of the American people.

FOCUSING ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE NEW BRAUNFELS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the education efforts of the New Braunfels Independent School District in collaboration with the Center for Leadership in Science, Mathematics and Technology at the Alamo Community College District. These two educational districts have joined to host a meeting entitled "The Community Focuses on Academic Excellence," scheduled for October 19, 1999, in New Braunfels, TX. The meeting will address the need for more students to engage in hands-on science exploration in grades K-12.

The New Braunfels Independent School District has demonstrated an exceptional dedication to expand the educational horizons of its students, particularly in science. Together, the New Braunfels Independent School District and Alamo Community College District have invited a keynote speaker, Dr. Lawrence Lowery from the Lawrence Hall of Science at U.C. Berkeley, to discuss the topic "How Students Learn." The United States Marine Corps will be on hand to present \$10,000 for an Annenberg Satellite Dish for use in all schools in New Braunfels. The commitment of the school districts, the support of the parents, and the generosity of the community will help expand the horizons of our children.

Science is key to understanding the world we live in. It is important for our students to have the type of hands-on education in science that is both challenging and rewarding. Without exposure to the sciences early on, our students will be left behind on the road of educational advancement. We have seen time and again that a commitment to higher standards of education is a commitment to excellence and a commitment to our future.

I would like to commend the New Braunfels Independent School District for its focus on its students. The efforts of teachers, parents, and a community of supporters will help us reach our common goal, academic excellence and a love of learning.

WILT CHAMBERLAIN'S
PENNSYLVANIA LEGACY

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the greatest basketball players, and one of the most magnificent Pennsylvanians that ever lived. As the Representative from Hershey, Pennsylvania, I have a unique remembrance of Wilton Norman Chamberlain.

On the tragic occasion of his death we remember his awesome physical stature and stunning agility, his God given athletic prowess. Inevitably, we recall what is one of the greatest feats in all of sport: Wilt Chamberlain's 100 point game. Chamberlain's 100 point game, a record that will surely stand through the next millennium, took place on March 2, 1962, in Hershey, Pennsylvania.