

IN HONOR OF AMELIA ASHLEY-WARD, PUBLISHER OF SUN-REPORTER PUBLISHING COMPANY BY THE SAN FRANCISCO NAACP

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the honor bestowed upon Amelia Ashley-Ward by the San Francisco NAACP for her outstanding career in the field of journalism.

Ms. Ashley-Ward is the publisher of the Sun-Reporter Publishing Company and was recently named "Publisher of the Year" by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

The Sun Reporter Publishing Company publishes nine weekly newspapers throughout Northern California, including the Sun-Reporter, the California Voice and the Oakland Metro Reporter. Through these various publications the African-American community is kept informed of issues affecting African-Americans politically, economically, and culturally.

Ms. Ashley-Ward assumed control of the Sun-Reporter following the death of Dr. Carlton Goodlett, its longtime leader. Since then, she has revitalized the company and continued Dr. Goodlett's crusade for social justice.

Ms. Ashley-Ward's achievements in journalism as a reporter, photo-journalist, Editor of the California Voice, Managing Editor and now Publisher of the Sun-Reporter are significant. These awards include the 1997 Woman of the Year designated by the San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce; the Leslie Urquhart Community Service Award; and the leaders in Action Award in journalism.

Ms. Ashley-Ward is an executive board member of the NAACP, serving as 2nd Vice President.

Ms. Ashley-Ward is also the Founding President of the Young Adult Christian Movement, which is an outreach organization that discusses faith and how to make one's life better spiritually.

I want to join with the NAACP and with community leaders throughout the Bay Area and the nation to pay tribute to the work and legacy of Ms. Amelia Ashley-Ward.

H.R. 473—PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS FOR CROP DISEASES AND VIRUSES

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced H.R. 473, to ensure that farmers who suffer crop losses due to plant viruses and plant diseases are eligible for crop insurance and noninsured crop assistance programs and that agricultural producers who suffer such losses are eligible for emergency loans.

Pandemics of plant viruses and diseases regularly destroy the crops of entire farms and often the crops of entire geographic areas. A single plant virus or disease outbreak can

send farms into bankruptcy and farmers are left without any means of recovering. Agriculture producers can qualify for emergency loans when adverse weather conditions and other natural phenomena have caused severe physical crop property damage or production losses, however, under current law, crop viruses and diseases are not considered "natural disasters" and thus are not eligible for these types of loans.

For example, in Hawaii, the State recently ordered the eradication of all banana plants on the entire island of Kauai and in a 10 square-mile area on the Big Island in an effort to eradicate the banana "bunchy top" virus. A court order required compliance of all who did not cooperate and farmers were ordered to destroy their entire farm and livelihood without any compensation. These farmers do not qualify for emergency loans or disaster assistance and many were left with no other option but to sell their farms.

The survival of our Nation's farmers is largely dependent upon the unpredictable temper of mother nature. We provide our farmers with assistance when adversely affected by severe weather but that is not enough. Emergency loans and disaster assistance must be made available to farmers for crops suffering from calamitous plant viruses and diseases.

H.R. 473 would enable farmers to qualify for crop insurance programs, noninsured assistance programs, and low-interest emergency loans, when devastated by crop losses due to plant viruses and diseases.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this worthy legislation and I urge immediate consideration of H.R. 473 in the House.

TRIBUTE TO LILLIAN WEST-ADAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute in memory of a dear friend who recently passed away, Mrs. Lillian West-Adams. Mrs. West-Adams was indeed a friend to me and many people in her community and will be missed by all.

Mrs. West-Adams was born December 17, 1940 in Bolton, MS. She was the third of four children. Her education began in the elementary and secondary schools of Hinds County Public School System. She went on to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics from Alcorn College in Lorman, MS.

She left Alcorn for Chicago after receiving her degree. It was there where Lillian accepted a teaching position with the Chicago Board of Education. It was also in Chicago where she met and later married Mr. Lonnie E. Adams. This union was blessed with one daughter, Larissa J. Adams. Education and enriching the lives of young people became her lifelong commitment.

Mrs. West-Adams will always be remembered as a warm and giving person. Whether it was her family, friends or community, she was willing to go the extra mile. In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that Mrs. Lillian West-Adams made a tremendous contribution to the future of America by imparting knowledge to countless numbers of young people. My prayers go out to her family.

SENSE OF CONGRESS URGING CRITICISM OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHINA AND TIBET AT ANNUAL MEETING OF UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 28. Congress must strongly signal the administration in urging the United Nations to criticize China's human rights record.

Let me start by thanking the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for bringing this resolution to the floor, and so many of my other colleagues including the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for their efforts to focus the attention of this body on the human rights situation in China.

China recognizes the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights as does this great Nation of ours. Unfortunately, China's recognition of this monumental document lives only on paper. China has proven through its repeated mistreatment of its citizens, its continuing genocide in Tibet, and the lack of fundamental freedom of religion and expression that it does not stand for the most basic of human rights. The United States must no longer accept China's defiance of the precepts of the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights, which the rest of the international community accepts and lives by.

China is witnessing the worst crackdown on dissent since the days immediately following the Tiananmen Square massacre. Since this crackdown began in November, the United States along with the international community has done little to condemn China. When three prominent dissidents were given absurd prison sentences for their efforts to register the China Democracy Party, there was barely a sound from our administration. When a leading labor activist was arrested for giving an interview on Radio Free Asia, there was hardly a word. When a computer entrepreneur was arrested for selling e-mail addresses to a magazine which promotes democracy, the silence was deafening. While brave warriors for democracy sit in jail or labor in work camps, the administration has declined to stand up for these people and for the principle they embody. China's actions are indefensible; it is time our Nation stands up and shows China that its actions are unacceptable and the international community is watching.

Promotion and preservation of basic human rights is an issue for the entire international community—it is not China's internal matter. I urge the administration to begin a genuine dialog with the Congress in order to demonstrate the sincerity of its desire to work with the Congress to address the very serious human rights problems in China.

I ask all of you to join me in urging this administration to send a unequivocal message to China by having the United Nations criticize its human rights record. The United States must take the lead in preserving the most basic of rights for the people around the world and it

must take a stand against the horrendous policies which China continue to live by.

**HONORING PASTOR EDDIE
McDONALD, SR.**

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today with a heavy heart, as I stand here to recognize the achievements of a great man who gave much to his family, his community, and to the Lord. On March 8, Pastor Eddie McDonald, Sr. of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan, joined the Lord after a lifetime of service.

For many years, Pastor Eddie McDonald was known as one of the most respected and influential leaders in the City of Pontiac. It is nearly impossible to imagine what the Pontiac area would be like had Pastor McDonald chosen not to move here from his home in Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1953. In 1958 he joined the congregation of Messiah Missionary Baptist Church. He was ordained as a deacon in January 1959 and became a minister on March 18, 1962.

In 1966, Pastor McDonald began a street ministry, and the following year organized Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, serving as Pastor through its first year. On March 28, 1968, Pastor McDonald became the pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, and held the position up until his untimely death.

Pastor McDonald's influence extended not only in the Church, but the community as well. He was affiliated with a number of professional and charitable organizations including the Pontiac Ecumenical Ministry, Pontiac Citizen's Coalition, Lighthouse and the Pontiac Youth Assistance Program. Pastor McDonald also served as president of the Oakland County Ministerial Fellowship. Not limiting his good deeds to the State of Michigan, he and his family have been instrumental in food and clothing drives benefiting needy individuals throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, when Pontiac became a part of my district, I was told by many that the first person I should meet was Pastor Eddie McDonald. This advice proved to be beneficial because from it, I gained a resource, an ally, a confidant, and most importantly, a friend. My sincerest condolences go out to his wonderful wife, Mary, their extended family, and the congregation of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. He will be sorely missed.

**TRIBUTE TO MAYOR THOMAS A.
EGAN**

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to honor a devoted public servant, Thomas A. Egan of Eagan, MN. After 20 distinguished years as council member and mayor of Eagan, Tom recently decided to retire from public service. Although his leadership will be greatly missed, Tom's legacy is the shared sense of community and responsibility that Eagan residents will carry into the new millennium.

Tom also served a successful tenure as president of the National Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment (NOISE) where he was a tireless advocate of airport noise mitigation. Tom's dedication to airport noise reduction helped communities and citizens nationwide address the adverse effects of increased noise pollution.

On behalf of these communities and citizens, especially his constituents in Eagan, MN, we greatly appreciate all of Tom's contributions and efforts and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

**CONGRATULATING THE MEMBERS
OF THE UNIVERSITY HIGH
SCHOOL MARIACHI CULTURAL**

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes to the members of the University High School's Mariachi Cultural. This group represents Texas' multicultural heritage and helps instill pride in our Hispanic culture.

The group was started in March 1997, under the capable leadership of Jose Nino. Since then, the volunteer student group has performed at numerous events and was featured on Univision, the international cable station.

Earlier this year, the group was able to purchase new uniforms after a successful fund-raising effort. The Waco community came out full force for this talented musical group and made the new uniforms a reality.

I ask members to join me in congratulating this special group on their musical successes.

**THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-
EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT
OF 1999**

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 1999, a bill I proudly re-introduce with the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. KILDEE.

This legislation, which was originally introduced in the 105th Congress and had 203 co-sponsors, establishes modest, minimum federal standards relating to collective bargaining for those groups who provide safety and security to the public, namely our fire fighters and police officers.

Unfortunately, many of those whose job it is to protect the public from danger are left to fend for themselves. They do not have the right to negotiate such basic issues as hours, wages and conditions of employment because some states still do not provide collective bargaining rights for their public employees. This is especially troublesome since fire fighters and police officers take their oaths to serve and protect the public very seriously, putting themselves at risk for the public's well-being.

Our bill recognizes the public safety officers' unique situation by creating a special collective bargaining right outside the scope of other federal labor law. More importantly, it does so

without dictating to the states what their specific laws should be since the legislation is general enough to preserve a state's right to implement a collective bargaining statute on their own terms. Furthermore, states that already have collective bargaining laws in place would be exempt from the federal statute.

I would like to make it clear that this legislation does not permit strikes by public safety officers nor does it provide for mandatory binding arbitration. This is in keeping with the bill's intent to provide a basic and fundamental right of negotiating for those who protect us without endangering the lives of the people they are hired to protect.

It is well-known that labor-management relationships are based on trust, mutual respect, open communications, compromise and shared accountability. I believe this to be especially true as it relates to our public safety officers. We depend on them to maintain our safety and they depend on our respect and understanding if they are going to continue to provide us with the level of comfort in our communities to which we are accustomed. They deserve no less.

This bill has the support of the International Association of Fire Fighters; the International Brotherhood of Police Officers; the International Union of Police Associations; the National Association of Police Organizations and the Fraternal Order of Police. It also has the bi-partisan support of over 125 of our colleagues upon its introduction.

I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 1999.

**THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-
EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT
OF 1999**

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join my friend from Ohio, Mr. NEY, myself, and over 100 of their colleagues, to support the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 1999.

Congress has long recognized the importance of assuring and protecting the right of workers to collectively bargain. Over the years, federal laws have been extended to guarantee collective bargaining to different sectors and now the only sizable group of workers without the rights to collectively bargain are employees of state and local government.

This is particularly troubling as it applies to the public safety arena. Fire fighters and police officers take seriously their oath to protect the public and as a result they do not engage in worker slowdowns or stoppages. The absence of the right to collectively bargain denies them the opportunity to influence decisions that affect their lives.

The Public Safety Employer-Employee Act provides public safety officers with a collective bargaining right that is outside the scope of other federal labor laws. This legislation establishes basic minimum standards that state