

JACK HARTUPEE, DON ELLIOTT
AND KATHI PILARSKI: ON THE
JOB FIGHTING FOR LABOR

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three individuals whose contributions to labor in the Saginaw Bay region of Michigan cannot be overstated. As Jack Hartuppee, Don Elliott and Kathi Pilarski prepare to retire after many years of service to the Laborers' International Union of North America, their hard work and dedication to advancing the cause of labor throughout the area deserve recognition.

Beginning in 1966, Jack Hartuppee spent thirteen years as a laborer for Local 1098 before becoming the Local's business manager in 1979. For the past 23 years, Jack has handled the business concerns of the Local, while also finding time to lend his time and expertise in other areas, including the board that oversees the Health Care Fund and the Laborers' Political Action Fund. In addition, Jack was a delegate to the District Council. Jack's many contributions and his commitment to his union brothers and sisters have been second to none.

In 1973, Don Elliott also began his career as a laborer for Local 1247, which later merged with Local 1098 in 1985. Don became business agent for the laborers' union in 1996. Like Jack, Don also served as a delegate to the District Council. Don certainly has played a vital role over the years in ensuring the financial interests of his union and of his fellow laborers have been well-tended. His dedication to duty and his admirable work ethic stand as a model of diligence.

Kathi Pilarski has been on the job as secretary for Local 1098 since 1985 when she began work on a part-time basis. For the past 10 years, Kathi has worked fulltime, but those who know the many hours she has put in both on the clock and off understand that she has gone well above and beyond the parameters of her job description. Along with her many and varied duties in the office, Kathi also has been the driving force in making the annual dinner party run so smoothly each year.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending the gratitude of the United States Congress to Jack Hartuppee, Don Elliott and Kathi Pilarski for their years of work on behalf of laborers. Our laborers are the backbone of the construction industry and these three individuals have fought the good fight by dedicating their lives to improving the working conditions of their union brothers and sisters. I wish Jack, Don and Kathi all the best in their retirements and I am confident they will continue to be strong advocates for labor well into the future.

RE: ONLINE PUBLICATION OF
LABOR-MANAGEMENT RECORDS

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Secretary of Labor

Elaine Chao and the Department of Labor for their commitment to openness with their plan to use Internet technology to increase the accountability of labor groups.

Beginning on June 13, the Labor Department began posting internal financial documents from hundreds of labor unions on its Web site. Included in these postings is information on union salaries and net assets. Disclosure of these labor-management records has been required of labor groups since 1959, when Congress passed the Landrum-Griffin Act in an effort to improve financial accountability among unions. Yet prior to this measure, those seeking to know more about union finances had to visit a Labor Department field office in person in order to review the paperwork. Now, Americans have all of this information at their disposal with a simple click of the mouse.

This action will empower individual union members to find out, from the comfort of their homes, exactly where their union dues are going. For too long, union members had obstacles to this information. Through this initiative, the Department of Labor has removed these barriers and brought disclosure into the 21st century.

Because these records were already public, this plan reflects the Labor Department's sincere commitment to making more information available to the public. I thank Secretary Chao and her department for remaining vigilant to ensure that money is not being misused for political causes, and I hope that the agency's latest initiative improves transparency of unions.

**CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS
OF RURAL POINT ELEMENTARY**

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor seven outstanding fourth-graders from Rural Point Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind team on the occasion of winning the World Finals Competition in Boulder, Colorado on May 25, 2002.

These students from Hanover County, Virginia participated in the Odyssey of the Mind program, which promotes problem-solving and team-building skills for students from elementary through high school. The Rural Point team won county and state honors before competing in the World Finals in Boulder, Colorado against 48 other teams. In the World Finals, they performed a skit entitled "The Ostrich Factor." The students creatively designed a farm skit starring Leafy Romaine, Headlock Holmes (Cauliflower), Big Cheese, carrot, potato, broccoli, and corn to answer the unsettling question of why apples are disappearing from the farm trees.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the seven students on the team, Ben Davis, Tyler Burnette, James Thompson, Ted Westrick, Jonathan Bennett, Jimmy Thorne and Douglas Tibbett and their head coach, Annie Tibbett. Their creativity and team spirit have earned them this impressive honor and will undoubtedly serve them well in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4980, THE
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN CAM-
PAIGNS (CIVIC) ACT.

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced, along with our colleague PAUL KANJORSKI of Pennsylvania, H.R. 4980, the Citizen Involvement in Campaigns Act (or the CIVIC Act). This bill is designed to encourage Americans who ordinarily do not get involved in politics beyond casting a vote every two or four years (that is, if they bother to vote at all) to become more active participants in our political process.

Most would agree that the ideal way to finance political campaigns is through a broad base of donors. But, as we are all painfully aware, the economic realities of modern-day campaigning virtually oblige many candidates to focus most of their efforts toward collecting funds from a few large donors. This reality alienates many Americans from our political system and opens us up to the now-familiar charge that we are "bought and paid for" by special interests.

While recent campaign finance reform efforts have focused on limiting the impact of large contributions, past reforms have been designed to enfranchise small donors. For example, from 1972 to 1986, the federal government offered a tax credit for small political contributions. This offered an incentive for average Americans to contribute to campaigns in small amounts while simultaneously encouraging politicians to solicit donations from a larger pool of contributors. Additionally, six geographically and politically diverse states currently offer their own tax credits for political contributions. These state-level credits differ in many respects, but all share the same goal of encouraging average Americans to provide a counterweight against the influence, real or perceived, of big-money special interests.

The CIVIC Act will reestablish and update this old tax credit program. Taxpayers can choose between a 100 percent tax credit for political contributions to federal candidates or parties (limited to \$200 per taxable year) or a 100 percent tax deduction (limited to \$600 per taxable year). Both limits, of course, are doubled for joint returns. As long as political parties and candidates promote the existence of these credits, the program would have a real impact and aid in making elections at all levels more grassroots affairs than they are now.

This is a limited tax credit for political contributions that can be a cost-efficient method for helping balance the influence of large donors in the American electoral process. Instead of driving away most Americans from participation in political life, we can invite them in. I encourage you to cosponsor my bill and join in this worthwhile effort.