

UFW WINS HISTORIC CONTRACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call my colleagues' attention to a recent collective bargaining agreement between Pictsweet Mushroom Farms in Ventura, California and the United Farm Workers. This agreement deserves note on several counts.

First, it marks the first time since 1987 that the employees at Southern California's largest mushroom farm have been able to work under a collective bargaining agreement. As a result, 300 workers will enjoy higher wages, increased job security, and a company-paid health plan.

Second, it removes Pictsweet products from the boycott list. Pictsweet was first organized in 1975 and operated under a collective bargaining agreement until 1987, when the plant was bought by United Foods Inc. United Foods was intransigent in its refusal to enter a collective bargaining agreement with the UFW. In 2000, the UFW called for a national boycott of Pictsweet products and that boycott forced the plant to cut production by as much as half. By finally agreeing to deal fairly with its workers, Pictsweet will become a more profitable and productive facility.

Most importantly, however, this contract is the first to result from the enactment of California's law allowing farm workers or growers to seek mandatory mediation for farm labor negotiations that have reached impasse. Pictsweet was adamant in its refusal to negotiate a bargaining agreement. The UFW submitted the dispute to mediation in July and the mediator issued a proposed labor agreement on January 30. The company has decided to proceed with implementation of the mediator's report. As a consequence, the right of workers to benefit from collective bargaining has been preserved and the company has the opportunity to move from intransigent, ideological views of labor relations to pragmatic considerations of how best to work with their workers. Pictsweet workers were among the strongest proponents of the mandatory mediation when it was under consideration. It is fitting that they and their employer are the first to benefit from it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the workers at Pictsweet and President Arturo Rodriguez and the leadership of the UFW for this historic achievement. I also want to commend my colleagues in the California Legislature for developing a model for the rest of the nation on how we can provide workers with a meaningful voice in the determination of their wages and working conditions. Legislation that I have introduced to restore meaningful collective bargaining rights to American workers, the Employee Free Choice Act, includes a similar provision providing for mediation and arbitration of first contracts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, due to illness I missed roll call votes 12 through 18 that were called February 2, 3 and 4, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I not been ill and been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18.

I was also unavoidably absent from this chamber on March 2 and 9, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 32, 33, 42, 43 and 44.

**HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF CARY MASIN****HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service and tremendous contributions that Cary Masin has given Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. Cary has been a dedicated member of my Washington, DC, staff for the past five years.

But she is moving on to greener pastures. Cary's last day is Monday, and although my staff and I are sad to see Cary leave, we are glad she has taken a job that will further her career and is worthy of her incredible abilities.

Cary has proven to be an outstanding legislative assistant on Capitol Hill. Her uncanny insight, hard work and rock-solid research skills have helped me do my job better. Those same abilities have also gained the respect of her colleagues.

Cary is a talented professional who always completes the task at hand, no matter how complicated or tedious. She has truly excelled in the fast-paced environment of Congress. Through it all, though, Cary always took the time to bestow a compliment or kind word to most everyone she met. She will now share her tremendous abilities and experience with her new employer, who should be ecstatic over having found such a fine person.

Thanks for all your help, Cary. You will always have a special place in my heart. Good luck in your new job, and may God bless you in your future endeavors.

OFFICER MARY ANN COLLURA**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to introduce a bill, at the suggestion of a high school student in my district, and with the support of the entire New Jersey House delegation, authorizing the renaming of the main post office in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, as the Mary Ann Collura Post Office.

After dutifully serving eighteen years as an outstanding officer and a role model in her

community, Officer Collura was fatally shot on April 17, 2003, in the line of duty. Throughout her life, Mary Ann Collura embodied what is best in our communities—she was courageous, kind, and concerned about the world and people around her. Renaming the main post office in Fair Lawn after Mary Ann will help ensure that her legacy lives on.

The fact that a Fair Lawn High School student came up with the idea of renaming the post office speaks volumes about how much Officer Collura meant to the people of Fair Lawn. Officer Collura fought hard for what was right and worked tirelessly each day, risking her life, to make sure the residents of Fair Lawn and their families were safe. The post office redesignation is just one way in which we can honor her life in the Borough she loved.

By renaming the post office in Fair Lawn after Officer Mary Ann Collura, we are ensuring that she will always have a presence in our community. Officer Collura was a beloved and trusted member of the Fair Lawn community, which is why renaming the main post office is fitting.

HONORING MARILYN BICKEL**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Marilyn Bickel of Chicago on her recent retirement after seventeen years of excellence and dedication as Chief of Staff to Alderman Patrick J. Levar of the 45th Ward.

Marilyn Bickel has served the Chicago City Council and the Jefferson Park neighborhood ever since Alderman Levar was first sworn in on April 16, 1987. She met the Alderman when he was a junior attending St. Patrick High School and began working for him during his first election.

During this time, Marilyn was asked to work with the Polish-speaking community in the St. Constance Parish area and was later given a permanent place on his staff.

Marilyn worked hard to develop close relationships with the many Chicago departmental representatives and always knew the right person to contact for a constituent in need. Marilyn always went out of her way to provide assistance to those who were unable to access alternate means of assistance.

In addition, Marilyn has served as a liaison to local chambers of commerce for Alderman Levar. She calmly dealt with many difficult circumstances, most notably the period following the terrorist attacks of September 11th. In a time of apprehension and doubt, Marilyn worked to console the fears of her fellow Chicagoans, and the residents of the 45th Ward.

Marilyn's family has also been a priority in her life. Her two children, Robert and William, are the proud parents of her grandchildren Bob, Ashley, Debbie and Bailey. In retirement, she will join her husband, Bill Bickel, who retired after a 32 year career with the Chicago Police Department. Marilyn and Bill will now have the opportunity to travel more, something Marilyn has long been waiting to do.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all of the residents of Jefferson Park and the 45th Ward of Chicago in congratulating Marilyn Bickel on her

retirement, and wish her, and her wonderful husband Bill, all the happiness in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HELEN
WASHBURN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Dr. Helen Washburn will retire as President of Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri. Cottey College is a two-year, independent women's college that for the past 18 years has benefitted from the fine leadership of Dr. Washburn.

In her time at Cottey College, Dr. Washburn has been the most valuable of leaders. Seeing needs, she worked to address them and make the experience at Cottey of the highest quality. As an example, Dr. Washburn was instrumental in combating a trend that she observed of young women losing interest in math and sciences at a young age. In response, she created a summer science camp held on the Cottey campus. This camp was exclusively for young women. In addition, Dr. Washburn's long-range planning efforts resulted in an Associate of Science degree to compliment the Associate of Arts already offered.

Dr. Washburn's efforts to aid in the education of young women can be seen in other aspects of Cottey College. She led the campaign to construct the Rubie Burton Academic Center, a state-of-the-art academic facility that helps students keep up with the latest technology. The Center for Women's Leadership aids young women in becoming tomorrow's leaders. Most recently, under Dr. Washburn's leadership, Cottey College received ten-year continued accreditation with The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

In recognition of the many accomplishments realized during her time as President of Cottey College, Dr. Washburn has been the recipient of many awards. For her efforts in creating an international community on campus, the French government named her an Officer in the National Order of Merit. In 2003, she was named Chief Executive Officer of the Year for District VI of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. In addition, the University of Idaho, from which she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees, presented her with the prestigious Silver and Gold award, an honor based on career achievement, and the University of Idaho Alumni Association inducted Dr. Washburn into its Hall of Fame.

There can be no greater testament to an educator than the accomplishments of her students. The many women who have passed through the halls of Cottey College under the leadership and direction of Dr. Washburn have proven to be a worthy and lasting legacy. And though Dr. Washburn will soon be leaving the Cottey campus, many more women in the years to come will benefit from her outstanding work during her 18 years as its President.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Members of the House will join me in honoring Dr. Helen Washburn for her years of service and in wishing her all the best in the days ahead.

HONORING SPC JACOB S.
FLETCHER

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of SPC Jacob S. Fletcher, a fallen soldier from my district. SPC Fletcher gave his life on November 13, 2003 in Samarra, Iraq.

Jacob was the most recent in a long line of heroes to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country. In the two and a quarter centuries of our nation's history, our country has faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles. But in generation after generation, Americans have risen to the occasion and met every challenge.

In the 18th century, our forefathers were able to beat back the greatest military superpower in the world to secure our independence. In the 19th century, Americans defeated the greatest injustice in the world—slavery. And in the 20th century, millions of patriots, in what has come to be known as America's greatest generation, defeated the greatest evil the world has ever known—the Nazis. Jacob was part of a generation that faces a newer, but no less dangerous tyranny.

He was born and raised on Long Island. In many ways, he was very much like the hundreds of thousands of other children in our country—with one remarkable exception. Jacob was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to secure the blessings of liberty—for his countrymen, for our children, and for America's future. By sacrificing himself for our way of life, Jacob died an American hero.

By fighting for a better world, Jacob, as the poet John Gillespie Magee, Jr. wrote, "slipped the surly bonds of earth" to "touch the face of God." May his name be remembered throughout history, and may he serve as a source of strength and pride to future American generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARME-
NIAN RELIEF SOCIETY WESTERN
REGION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Armenian Relief Society Western Region as it celebrates its 20th anniversary of serving communities in the United States.

Founded in 1910, the Armenian Relief Society brought together the existing women's groups into a cohesive nationwide organization with the main goal of serving the needs of the victims of the Armenian genocide. As an independent non-government and non-sectarian organization, the Armenian Relief Society serves the social and educational needs of Armenian communities throughout the world, seeking to preserve the cultural identity of the Armenian nation as well as bringing humanitarian aid to all communities in distress—Armenian and non-Armenian alike.

In response to the growing needs of the communities, the ARSWR was established as a region in 1984. The 26 chapters of the

Western Region have an extensive program of service to the community such as assisting newly arrived immigrants with clarification of legal matters, translation, preparation of documents, employment, distribution of food and other necessities and financial aid, serving over 50,000 clients annually. In an effort to enhance the education of the society's members and encourage their involvement in public service, the ARS sponsors many educational programs such as summer camps, Saturday schools, numerous scholarships, and cultural activities including lectures, concerts and art exhibitions. One of the most successful programs has been the "Sponsor a Child" program through which the Western Region currently sponsors over 1000 children.

The ARSWR has been able to meet and fulfill its challenges for 20 years because of a base of dedicated grassroots supporters, volunteers and donors. It is this partnership that has made such growth and impact possible and will continue to do so in the 21st century.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the Armenian Relief Society Western Region's innumerable accomplishments over the years. I ask all members to join me in congratulating ARS Western Region's 20 years of myriad of cultural and social contributions to all aspects of the community.

IN HONOR OF 2ND LT. CHRIS
AYOUB, U.S.A.F. CADET OF THE
YEAR

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of my Academy appointees that has truly distinguished himself at the U.S. Air Force Academy. 2nd Lt. Chris Ayoub of Richardson, Texas. Chris was recently honored last week as the U.S. Air Force Cadet of the Year.

The Air Force Cadet of the Year Award was established by the Air Squadron of the United Kingdom to recognize the best cadet in a United States Air Force Commissioning Program. The British Air Squadron is a private organization comprised of British citizens who wish to pay tribute to the U.S. military for the support it has provided to the United Kingdom over the years. 2nd Lt. Ayoub is the fourth recipient of the Air Force Cadet of the Year Award.

The Honorable James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force; General John P. Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff and native Texan; General Michael "Buzz" Moseley, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff and native Texan; Royal Air Force Air Commodore Jerry J. Witte, British Air Attaché and Assistant Defence Attaché; and the Honorable Christopher Sharples, Air Squadron of the United Kingdom, were on hand for the presentation of the award at the Pentagon on Thursday, March 4, 2004.

I was honored to see Chris receive his award at the Pentagon last Thursday, and to be with him for his visit to the White House. President Bush congratulated 2nd Lt. Ayoub on this prestigious and well-deserved award.

I salute Chris for his commitment to serve the country and the U.S. Air Force, as I know that this will be the first of many accomplishments during his tenure of service.