

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE UNION LEADER AND WMUR-TV

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce significant milestones for two New Hampshire institutions: 141 years for the Manchester Union Leader and 50 years for WMUR-TV.

As Presidential candidates competing in our First-in-the-Nation Primary can tell you every 4 years—and I can tell you every day—these media outlets provide vital information to thousands of Granite Staters every day. The Union Leader has done it since March 31, 1863—WMUR for the past 50 years this month.

The breadth and depth of the coverage these different sources provide ought to be a model for local press everywhere. One is locally owned and the other by one of the world's largest diversified communications companies.

At a time when citizens have access to more sources of news, weather, and entertainment than ever before, each is a significant part of the New Hampshire community and a respected center of journalism.

I offer my congratulations for the Union Leader's and WMUR's many decades of community service and best wishes for continued coverage in the decades to come.

HONORING MILDRED WALLHAUSEN

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mildred Wallhausen, a great Missourian, a great American, and a great friend of mine. Millie is more than a hero to the many men and women whose lives she has touched—she is a mentor. I and many others owe Millie a tremendous debt of gratitude for her selfless service.

Millie will turn 90 on April 3, 2004. For the great majority of her 90 years, she has participated in the public life of my congressional district. For 68 of her 90 years, Millie has been a member of the newspaper staff of the Charleston Enterprise-Courier. She and her family have published the paper since her husband's death in 1969.

Over the years, Millie has served as reporter, photographer, editorialist, bookkeeper, file clerk, advertising salesperson, and editor in addition to her long service as publisher. She is a member of the Missouri Press Association Hall of Fame.

Millie cannot be defined in terms of the titles she has held at the newspaper, however. She has been a pillar of her community. Serving on nearly every committee in the community and encouraging participation in public affairs are just the start. After the death of her husband, Millie adopted three young women, wards of the juvenile court, and provided a stable home environment for them. Millie knew firsthand the value of an adult role model to these girls, she herself was orphaned at the age of 4.

Among her other civic activities, Millie has served as president of the PTA and two women's federated clubs, as a member of the State Mental Health Task Force, and as a Sunday School teacher at various churches in the communities in which she has lived. Even at the age of 90, Millie is still an active member of the Boards of the Mississippi County Community Sheltered Workshop and the East Prairie Housing Authority.

Not only has Mildred Wallhausen changed our communities, she has forever changed the lives of the people who call them home. She has always looked upon her responsibilities at her newspaper as a form of public service. As a personal hero of mine, she has shown uncommon strength in her desire to both do good through her own actions and communicate good through her work. She is an invaluable servant of our Nation, and she is an example for women everywhere.

Congratulations Millie, on your 90th birthday, and thank you for your guidance and kindness to me, your community, State, and Nation.

COMMENDING THE TAIWAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the voters in Taiwan, an astounding 80 percent of whom participated in the recent Presidential election, for once again demonstrating their commitment to exercising their democratic rights.

Taiwan's political system has undergone dramatic changes. Fifty years ago the country was ruled by an authoritarian dictatorship under martial law. Today it is a vibrant, multi-party democracy, having completed its third direct Presidential election. Taiwan has robust political parties with free and fair elections at all levels of government.

The margin of the Presidential victory in Taiwan was very small. However, recount issues and open demonstrations were part of the democratic process in which free expression is revered and protected. These impassioned times are the tests of true democracies.

Taiwan and the United States share a strong bond in their commitment to the ideals of a free society. Taiwanese-Americans, many living in the New York City area, are a vital part of that relationship. The Taiwanese-American community, which numbers in the hundreds of thousands, is actively engaged in our own political system, and its citizens are enthusiastically involved in the betterment of local communities across our country.

As we hope for dialogue and stability in cross-strait relations, we can also hope that one day the people of mainland China will be able to select their own leaders by democratic means.

Today, I commend the people of Taiwan for embracing democratic ideals and providing an important symbol of freedom in the Asia-Pacific region.

THE AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this, the fifth anniversary of the American Legacy Foundation, to recognize the tremendous strides this organization has made in improving the health of millions of Americans. Through its various programs such as Circle of Friends, Great Start, and Priority Population, as well as its Truth Campaign, the Foundation has played a tremendous role in promoting both the cessation and the prevention of tobacco use in our country. As the largest youth smoking prevention campaign in the United States, the Truth Campaign in particular has been cited as a factor in the current 28-year low in youth smoking rates.

Smoking costs our society not only in the lives lost but also in the billions of dollars spent on related health care. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable deaths in our country, killing 440,000 people each year, and exposes thousands of children to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. I strongly hope that the American Legacy Foundation will continue to receive the Federal funding it needs in order to carry out its campaign for a tobacco-free nation. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to recognize the American Legacy Foundation for its ongoing contributions to the health of our great nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CESAR E. CHAVEZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize and celebrate the birthday of Cesar E. Chavez. Cesar Chavez, an icon in the Latino community and beyond, would have been 77 today.

Cesar Chavez was born near Yuma, Arizona, and grew up in migrant labor camps, into the poverty of a migrant worker's life. He became a historical figure who embodied humility and extraordinary strength in his peaceful struggle towards social justice. He dedicated his life to tirelessly championing the rights of farm laborers and along with Dolores Huerta, founded the United Farm Workers union, fighting for better wages, conditions and respect for farmworkers.

I have introduced the Cesar E. Chavez Lands Legacy Act (H.R. 1034) to ensure that Americans can fully understand his life, vision, and impact on improving the lives of millions of Americans. I hope that his legacy and memory will someday become a fundamental piece of American history so that all Americans will understand the fight that Cesar Chavez began in the fields, a fight for social justice, civil rights, and human rights that continues today. Thanks to this fight, the Latino community, including myself, has been able to enjoy certain benefits and privileges that otherwise might not have been possible.

TRIBUTE TO CESAR CHAVEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual of great significance to the history of our country. He provided a voice for those that could not be heard and hope for those that no longer believed.

Above all, Cesar Chavez was a man who fought for those that could not fight for themselves. Through his nonviolent struggle for economic and social equality, Cesar touched the lives of millions of people and inspired a generosity of spirit and love for our fellow man.

Born of a Mexican immigrant, Cesar Chavez grew up working with migrant farm workers, toiling in the fields while receiving below average wages.

His firsthand knowledge of the plight of the farm worker helped shape Cesar's beliefs and led him to become an advocate for the migrant working community.

He committed himself to organizing these workers to campaign for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, decent housing, and outlawing child labor.

As the founder of the National Farm Workers Association, he provided hope that farm workers may one day realize the basic protections and rights deserved by all Americans.

His influence, however, extends far beyond agriculture.

He organized voter registration drives in urban areas, initiated complaints against mistreatment by police and welfare officials, and empowered workers to seek advancement in education and politics.

To gain national attention to the growing civil rights movement, Cesar frequently staged non-violent strikes, boycotts, and pickets.

He also used fasting as a way to peacefully protest without resorting to the violence that existed throughout our society.

However, many in his community refused to accept his notion of equality and resorted to killing and beating of many of his workers.

Yet through it all, Cesar never wavered in his commitment to La Causa.

He was a dedicated champion of equal rights; not just for farm workers, but for all Americans.

This was recognized in 1994 when he became only the second Mexican-American to be honored with the highest civilian award in the United States: the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

This is why I stand here today on his birthday. I have previously introduced a resolution urging Congress and the President to declare this day a national holiday to honor this great Latino visionary.

But today, I want to further honor this great leader by introducing a bill that awards him the Congressional Gold Medal.

With faith, discipline, and soft-spoken humility, Cesar Chavez led a very courageous life.

His tremendous passion and resolve to fight for civil rights was an exhibition in selflessness and love.

By awarding him the Congressional Gold Medal, we are saying that we understand these sacrifices that Cesar Chavez made for our country.

He has left an enormous legacy that has provided hope for the hopeless, inspiration for the uninspired, and the prospect of a better life for all.

For those of us that have ever lost faith, Cesar Chavez teaches us never to give up.

With hard work and the belief that all men and women are indeed created equal, we can aspire to greater things.

I urge all my colleagues to honor Cesar Chavez and his legacy, not only on this day, but every day.

His inspirational words will always ring true: Si, se puede! Yes, we can!

HONORING THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY OF CESAR CHAVEZ'S BIRTHDAY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we honor Cesar Chavez on the anniversary of his 77th birthday, and ask the Members of the House to join us in paying respects to a man who brought awareness of labor injustices to national light. His efforts made a path for all those who came after him, so that they would be able to continue his fight for justice.

Cesar Chavez grew up in the fruit and vegetable fields, working the land with his own hands from dawn to dusk. He knew the injustices that faced labor workers on a daily basis, and understood the need for change.

From those fields, Chavez rose to be the head of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) instilling in the UFW the principles of non-violence practiced by Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

When the UFW began striking in the 1960's, to protest the treatment of farm workers, the strikers took a pledge of non-violence, determined not to detract from the message of improved labor conditions.

For those of us who lived through this tumultuous time period, we heard of the great odds Chavez faced as he led a successful five-year strike-boycott. Through this boycott, Chavez was able to forge a national support coalition of unions, church groups, students, minorities, and consumers.

By the end of the boycott everyone knew the famous inspirational chant "Si se puede!" — "Yes we can". The chant unified diverse groups by encouraging them to become active participants, by taking pride in with what is just and fair while all along preserving the dignity of their efforts.

Chavez also spoke out in other areas and helped communities to mobilize by assisting them with voter registration drives and insisting that minority communities had just as much a right to have equitable access to educational opportunities.

To this day Chavez's legacy lives on. His influence can be seen in the legislation that comes to this very floor. Legislation that aims to provide for our children's education, improve healthcare in our community, and ensure our civil rights and liberties are respected.

We must also continue the fight to ensure that in today's world, the rights of workers are still protected. Whether it's working in the

fields, in the kitchens, or in our factories, the blue-collar worker is an invaluable resource to America and to the American economy.

It is important that these workers be treated with the respect and dignity that they deserve and that all the rights afforded to those working in air conditioned offices is also extended to those working in the sun heated fields and the like.

America has seen few leaders like Chavez. He is in a rare group of people who made their life mission count. His life and his deeds have left a lasting imprint on American history.

We can only hope to continue to fulfill his vision as we walk through the halls of Congress to create a better tomorrow for the Hispanic community and all Americans.

HONORING NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Women's History Month. The National Women's History Project was founded in 1980 and is a non-profit educational organization committed to recognizing and celebrating the diverse and significant historical accomplishments of women. The legacy of others who shaped society inspires one's own longings to contribute. For young women, role models can inspire their sense of what is possible. Knowledge of women's strengths and contributions builds respect and nourishes self esteem.

During Women's History Month, our nation celebrates the many accomplishments of women. Women are leaders in business, government, law, science, medicine, the arts, education, and many other fields. As bosses, mothers, sisters, daughters, wives and friends, they bring compassion and integrity to our work spaces and community settings and teach our children the values that make our country great.

Thousands of outstanding Kansas City women have left their mark on our community by blazing new trails; by being the first woman to make a significant contribution in the greater metropolitan area. A beloved woman in Kansas City, known as the matriarch, is the late Lucille Bluford. Always a voice of conscience and reason, a woman of influence and great moral character, she began her career in 1930 as a reporter for The Kansas City Call. After owner Chester A. Franklin died in 1955, Ms. Bluford became managing editor, publisher and the first woman owner of a newspaper in the community. Her leadership, guidance and direction raised the consciousness of the African American community to the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement in the 60s and 70s and rallied the readers to call for political action. In 1990, the University of Kansas awarded her it's Distinguished Service Citation, the highest honor to be bestowed upon a KU graduate for service to humanity. She was the second African American student to major in journalism at KU. Among her many countless awards, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Missouri, which years earlier denied her admission. In 1939, she bravely sued MU, but lost the case.