

in General Studies in 1936. She lived in New York City ever since.

Ms. Kheel's goal was to make the American society "inclusive rather than exclusive." It was her motto "never to entertain except interracially" and not to support organizations which were not integrated. She remained truthful to these ideas throughout her life. She served on the board of the New York Urban League for more than thirty years and initiated its Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner in 1966. For 25 years she was the chairwoman of this event, which honors leaders in the private and public sectors who try to eliminate race barriers and promote opportunities for the disadvantaged.

In the 1960s Ms. Kheel sponsored the purchase of books for students attending the Frederick Douglass Junior High School in Harlem who had completed research on individuals who had had a significant impact on African-American or Puerto-American history. In 1963 and 1964 she was a delegate to the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities and, from 1971 to 1986, she served as a trustee of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. The NAACP awarded her with the Unity Award in 1971.

Ms. Kheel was also deeply involved in campaigns for environmental justice. She served as chairwoman of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commission from 1977 to 1986 and as trustee of the Rainforest Alliance. The promotion of better public education in New York City was another issue close to her heart.

Ms. Kheel ensured that her great contributions to the social life of New York City would not end with her death. In her last will, she asked her husband of 66 years, labor lawyer Theodore Kheel, to provide funding for charities. The Kheel family decided to create the Ann S. Kheel Charitable Trust and endowed it with \$1 million. I am very honored that the Kheel family has asked me to chair this Trust which will provide funding for educational, civil rights and other organizations serving disadvantaged New York neighborhoods.

Ms. Kheel was an admirable woman and serves as a shining example in our society. Her death is a big loss for New York City, but she will always be remembered as a woman dedicated to achieving more social and racial equality in our society.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER  
DARDEN AND WILLIAM SCHAUB

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER**  
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christopher Darden and William Schaub for receiving the 2003 Isaac M. Cline Award from the National Weather Service.

The Isaac M. Cline Award is presented each year to individuals and teams that have made significant contributions in support of National Weather Service strategic and operational plans. Mr. Darden and Mr. Schaub were awarded the Cline award for their work demonstrating exceptional metrological skill and professionalism on May 6, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Darden and Mr. Schaub are lead forecasters at the NWS Weather

Forecast Office in Huntsville, Alabama. On May 6th, North Alabama was experiencing extensive flash flooding and numerous reports of tornadoes throughout the region. Mr. Darden and Mr. Schaub issued a series of Tornado Warnings that had an average warning lead time of twenty-three minutes. In addition, they issued several Flash Flood Warnings with a lead time of up to forty-five minutes. Due to the timeliness and accuracy of these severe weather warnings, Mr. Darden and Mr. Schaub likely saved numerous lives.

Mr. Darden and Mr. Schaub are being recognized for efforts performed within mere months of the opening of the new Huntsville Weather Forecast Office. This is a testament to their knowledge and expertise that is critical to address the unique weather patterns and needs of North Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, the Isaac M. Cline Award is the highest honor the National Weather Service can bestow upon its employees. I rise today, to congratulate Christopher Darden and William Schaub on this honor.

HONORING MERLE KILGORE

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a great Tennessean and a legend in country music. Merle Kilgore is a businessman who has bridged his early music experience with today's growing country music industry.

Merle began his career in Shreveport, Louisiana at the age of 14, carrying Hank Williams, Sr.'s guitar. Since then, Merle has risen as a leader in the country music industry. He co-wrote the "Ring of Fire" with June Carter-Cash, as recorded by Johnny Cash. That great hit sold more than sixteen million records. Merle didn't stop there; he continued to write hit after hit developing his catalog to over 300 songs. All together his song collection has sold close to fifty million records. Merle's first Top Ten record was self penned "Dear Mama," and he has accumulated several others since.

Merle moved to Nashville in 1962 and began his management career. Merle has been affiliated with Hank Williams, Jr. for more than thirty years. On April 7, 1986, Merle was named the Executive Vice President and head of management of Hank Williams, Jr. Enterprises.

In addition to managing Hank's career, Merle has served as Vice President of the Country Music Association and has served on the CMA Board of Directors since 1989. He has been President of both the Nashville Songwriter's Foundation, as well as the Nashville Songwriter's Association International. In 1987 he was named an honorary State Senator for Tennessee, and in 1998, Merle received the Legendary Songwriter's Award from the North American Country Music Association.

Merle is an accomplished singer, songwriter, and actor. He is a shining star in the nation's entertainment industry. However, Merle is definitely not just "resting on his laurels." For Singer-Songwriter-Manager Merle Kilgore, the best may be yet to come. Today I rise to rec-

ognize Merle and thank him for his dedication and his willingness to share his incredible talents with Tennesseans and country music fans worldwide.

HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ ON THE  
ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
HIS DEATH

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce a celebration to honor Cesar Chavez on April 24, 2004, in Kansas City, Missouri. This celebration commemorates his legacy and the eleventh anniversary of his death, April 23, 1993.

Cesar has become a champion of working people everywhere. Born into Depression-era poverty in Arizona in 1927, he served in the United States Navy in the Second World War, and rose to become one of our greatest advocates of nonviolent change.

The farm workers who labored in the fields and yearned for respect and self-sufficiency pinned their hopes on this remarkable man, who, with faith and discipline, with soft-spoken humility and amazing inner strength, led a very courageous life. And in so doing, he brought dignity to the lives of so many others and provided inspiration for the rest of our Nation's history.

After achieving only an eighth-grade education, Cesar left school to work in the fields full-time to support his family. It was there that he noticed the labor contractors and the land owners exploited the workers. He tried reasoning with the farm owners about higher pay and better working conditions. But most of his fellow workers would not support him for fear of losing their jobs. Cesar's dream was to create an organization to protect and serve farm workers, whose struggles he shared. At the age of 35, he left his own well paid job to devote all his time to organizing the farm workers into a union. Cesar traveled from camp to camp recruiting workers, and the National Farm Workers Union was born.

With a strong leader to represent them, the workers began to demand their rights for fair pay and better working conditions. Without these rights, no one would work in the fields. In 1965, the grape growers didn't listen to the union's demands, and the farmhands wanted a strike. The workers left the fields, and the unharvested grapes began to rot on the vines. Union members, Cesar included, were jailed repeatedly. But public officials, religious leaders, and ordinary citizens from all across the United States flocked to California to march in support of the farm workers. In 1970, some grape growers signed agreements with the union. The union lifted the grape boycott, and its members began to pick grapes again. That same year, Cesar thought that even people who could not travel to California could show their support for his cause. Thus he appealed for a nationwide boycott of lettuce. People from all parts of the United States who sympathized with the cause of the farm workers refused to buy lettuce. Some even picketed in front of supermarkets.

By 1973, when Cesar inspired the people of Kansas City with his message of equality, justice and social change in an address at Penn

Valley Community College, the union had changed its name to the United Farm Workers of America. Relations with the grape growers had once again deteriorated, so a grape boycott was added to the boycott of lettuce. On several occasions, Cesar fasted to protest the violence that arose. Finally, by 1978, some of the workers' conditions were met, and the United Farm Workers lifted the boycotts on lettuce and grapes. This is just one example of how dedicated Cesar was to the union and the people who counted on him.

Up until the day he died, he was concerned as ever about dignity, justice, and fairness. He said, "Fighting for social justice, it seems to me, is one of the profoundest ways in which man can say yes to man's dignity, and that really means sacrifice. There is no way on this earth in which you can say yes to man's dignity and know that you're going to be spared some sacrifice."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring a small man with a big dream, Cesar Chavez. Cesar Chavez is a dedicated and true American hero: A civil rights, Latino and labor leader, a community servant and a crusader for nonviolent social change.

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THE CIGARETTE FIRE SAFETY  
ACT OF 2004

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 2, 2004*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today my friend, Congressman PETER KING and I rise to introduce on a bipartisan basis the Cigarette Fire Safety Act of 2004. This legislation will set a

reasonable ignition standard for cigarettes and help to prevent an estimated 800 deaths, 2,200 injuries and nearly \$560 million dollars in damages caused by cigarette ignited fires every year. We are joined today by 38 of our colleagues to begin what we hope is the last leg of a very long journey.

It is common knowledge that smoking is considered one of the nation's leading causes of preventable death, but it's less widely known that cigarettes are also the leading cause of fatal fires. Every year thousands of innocent people are killed, maimed or permanently disfigured by carelessly discarded cigarettes. The real tragedy is that many of these fires could be prevented by making a few small adjustments to the design of the cigarette at a cost of only pennies.

Over twenty years ago, our former colleague and friend, Joe Moakley, became involved with this issue when a family of seven perished in a fire ignited by a cigarette in his Congressional District. Five children—all under the age of ten—were burned to death along with their parents on Memorial Day Weekend in 1979.

Through Joe's relentless work on this issue, Congress passed two technical bills into law that laid the foundation for this legislation. The first bill, the Federal Cigarette Safety Act of 1984, formed a Technical Study Group, which established that it was, contrary to the tobacco industry's assertions, technically and economically feasible to manufacture a cigarette that is less likely to ignite a fire without increasing the risk of health consequences. The second bill, the Federal Safe Cigarette Act of 1990, established the methodology for testing the ignition propensity of cigarettes.

Recently we have made great steps forward in reducing risk of cigarette ignited fires. Phillip

Morris has launched Merit cigarettes—their brand of less fire prone cigarettes. Merit cigarettes have proved that less fire prone cigarettes are both technically and commercially feasible.

Last year in a historic move, the state of New York passed the very first cigarette fire safety standard. By the end of this June, New York will require that all tobacco companies that sell cigarettes certify that no more than 25 percent of the cigarettes sold fail the ignition propensity test established by the American Society of Testing and Materials ("ASTM"). That means that cigarettes are far less likely to start a fire if they are left unattended. This law will make great strides towards preventing the all too frequent devastating cigarette ignited fires in New York.

Taking the lead from New York State and using their standard, two days ago Canada became the first nation to pass a cigarette fire safety standard.

However, New Yorkers and Canadians should not be the only ones who are protected from these little torches. Everyone in the United States deserves the same level of protection from fires caused by cigarettes. That is why today I am proposing a bill that requires that the CPSC adopt the New York cigarette fire safety standard as the national standard.

We can no longer tolerate losing one more innocent child or putting one more firefighter at risk in a fire that could have been prevented at the cost of pennies by making a couple simple changes to the construction of a cigarette. Together we can save thousands of lives and prevent the tremendous pain of thousands more burn victims. I urge you to support this bill.