

Judge Benjamin N. Cardozo, Judge Samuel Seabury, John W. Davis, and City Bar President Charles C. Burlingham. Then-NYCLA President William Nelson Cromwell chose 14 Vesey Street for the Home of Law because, with St. Paul's Chapel across the street, no building would ever block the view.

NYCLA, in its 97-year history, has proven to be a visionary and inclusive organization, pioneering some of the most far-reaching and tangible reforms in American jurisprudence and playing an active role in legal developments and public policy. NYCLA also bears the mark of distinction of being the first major bar association in the United States that admitted members without regard to race, ethnicity, religion or gender. NYCLA and its Home of Law serve New York with distinction, and I am pleased to honor them today on the 75th anniversary of their historic building.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LAFAYETTE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

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**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building in honor of the contributions and sacrifices of past, present, and future Contra Costa County veterans for the freedoms we enjoy in our personal lives and for the security we value as a nation.

When we look around at our homes, neighborhoods, and institutions like our churches and schools, we see evidence of the valor and sacrifice of our veterans. We feel safe and protected in the ordinary and extraordinary activities of our daily lives because our veterans have made us safe. We are free to believe and speak what is in our hearts because veterans have fought for our freedoms to do that.

The Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building honors the contributions of veterans today, on Memorial Day, and every day to come. It is a living memorial, created in the heart of this vibrant community at the center of community life. It is intended to serve veterans and their families throughout Contra Costa County, and it is designed to accommodate the broadest possible range of needs of veterans as well as those of the community.

The Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building is also remarkable for being the collaborative achievement of Lafayette War Veterans, Inc., the City of Lafayette, the City of Walnut Creek, and Contra Costa County. Over a number of years, these project partners have come together to create this magnificent tribute to those who serve. They have blessed the community with an outstanding example of joint leadership and cooperative decision-making, as well as with the building itself.

Mr. Speaker, the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building stands as a fitting monument to our veterans whom we honor on Memorial Day and in our hearts all year long. It takes its part in our community as a reminder of the glories of past, present, and future veterans and of the work of smart, persevering, and dedicated community leaders who have brought their dreams to reality.

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES RECOGNIZES SENIOR CHIEF JENSEN

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**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswomen BROWN-WAITE, SOLIS, CAPP and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 8th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The Purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the United States Coast Guard Reserves, we will honor Senior Chief Jensen, who currently has an Extended Active duty contract with the Coast Guard and is assigned to Coast Guard Headquarters, Office of Command and Control Architecture.

Senior Chief Jensen enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserves on July 11, 1990 as a Third Class Yeoman. Her first unit was Coast Guard Reserve Unit Pensacola, Florida, where she served for five years. In November of 1995, then a Second Class Petty Officer, she reported to the Gulf Strike Team in Mobile, AL. During this period she was sent on special assignment for 6 months to the National Drug Intelligence Center, Johnstown, PA where she was one of only five enlisted members to ever serve. Her second special assignment came when she was requested for support of the joint agency drug operation, "Operation Gulf Shield" in South Texas for a period of seven months.

Senior Chief Jensen has repeatedly demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, and devotion to the U.S. Coast Guard, as is evidenced by the awards she has received, which include a Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, the Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon with Operational distinguishing device, both Active Duty and Reserve Good Conduct Medals, the 911 Ribbon, Reserve Forces Medal, Rifle and Pistol Shot Ribbons at the Marksman level.

Senior Chief Jensen continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the US Marine Corps, and it is an honor for each Member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Senior Chief Jensen and all women in the military.

JEF L. EATCHEL: WINNER OF LABOR'S "SOLIDARITY AWARD"

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**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I acknowledge a great friend of labor, Jef L. Eatchel—recognized with the "Solidarity Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Jef L. Eatchel has served as Secretary-Treasurer and Chief Executive Officer for UNITE HERE, Local 30 (formerly, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 30) of San Diego since he was first elected in 1985. Jef began his career at Local 30 as a cook at La Costa Resort & Spa, where he was appointed Shop Steward by International Vice-President, Herbert "Pinky" Schiffman. He was appointed as Business Representative at Local 30 in 1982. After representing the employees for three years, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer in 1985. He continues to serve as its Chief Executive Officer. Jef does a great deal of work beyond UNITE HERE Local 30. He serves as the Treasurer to the California Culinary Alliance; he was elected a voting director of the International Foundation of Employee Benefits for the West Coast and has served as a Trustee and member of the Educational Program Committee. He also serves on the Executive Committee for the Council of Institutional Investors and is National Vice President for District 9 for the UNITE HERE International.

As chairman of the San Diego Health & Pension Plan, he founded the Labor Union 401K in 1997 which now has forty different unions participating. He is also the co-founder of the San Diego Hospitality Training Trust. In these capacities, Jef works tirelessly to assure that the hard working union members who fall under these plans have a safe and secure financial future. Jef's innovation, enthusiasm and insight bring so much to the working families of San Diego.

People like Jef Eatchel perpetuate these qualities and that is why the San Diego Imperial Counties Labor Council recognize and honor him with the 2005 "Solidarity Award."

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TRIBUTE TO THE SCOTT COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION POST 24

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**HON. BEN CHANDLER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Scott County American Legion Post 24. This Sunday, May 29, they will begin their annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage.

Beginning at 8 a.m., these dedicated veterans, along with family and friends, will depart from the Scott County Courthouse and travel to nine cemeteries to honor and show respect to our many departed veterans. They will arrive at the Georgetown Cemetery between 4:30 and 5 p.m. At this time they will also dedicate the stunning new 22 ft. marker honoring all branches of service.

The history of this important organization dates back to the end of World War I, when

15 surviving veterans returned to their homes in Scott County. This first pilgrimage was made in three horse drawn buggies to three different cemeteries.

Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day weekend, it is important we honor and pay tribute to all who have served or are currently serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. At a time when we have thousands of men and women still in harms way in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is essential we all take a moment to remember their great service and sacrifice.

The annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage of the Scott County American Legion Post 24 is a truly wonderful way to honor the men and women of the Armed Forces. I am sincerely grateful for their efforts.

**NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006**

SPEECH OF

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. HUNTER, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, for including my amendment in the en bloc package.

It is the intent of Congress and in the interest of national security that we maintain a strong and healthy industrial base if we are to remain the strongest nation on Earth. Even the founder of modern-day capitalism and free trade, Adam Smith, recognized the need for a nation to be able to depend upon its own industrial and agricultural base and not rely on foreign sources for its defense needs. We cannot maintain our role as global leader on a pure services-based economy.

This amendment strengthens the Buy American Act, BAA, by restoring the original intent that more than 50 percent of the components in end products purchased by the Department of Defense shall be mined, produced, or manufactured inside the United States.

The Buy American Act originally passed Congress during the Great Depression. The intent of Congress was that to qualify under the Buy American Act, a company had to have substantially all of a product made, grown, or mined in the United States. However, regulations implementing the Buy American Act have subsequently redefined "substantially all" to mean simply greater than 50 percent.

Yet even that regulation has been weakened even further over the years. The Pentagon has used the "public interest" exception to waive the Buy American Act to treat the purchase of some foreign goods as if they were made in America. The original intent of the Buy American Act has been undermined by procurement memoranda of understanding, MOU, and other agreements with various foreign countries that permit the substitution of foreign components for components mined, produced, or manufactured inside the United

States. These are not treaties or trade agreements approved by Congress—these were Executive Branch agreements not subject to review by Congress.

Thus, the Buy American laws are basically worthless. There are so many holes in the law that it means nothing when a company says they comply with the Buy American Act. The exception—and it's a big one—is that the domestic content requirement doesn't have to be met if the items are procured from certain designated countries.

The Pentagon has MOUs with 21 developed countries that waive the Buy American Act because the Defense Department has determined that, for these countries, complying with the BAA is "inconsistent with the public interest." Basically, a company getting an award from the Pentagon can claim compliance with the Buy American Act without having to actually make anything here, as long as the components come from one of the 21 countries.

Too often, agencies claim they need the best for the least, implying that Americans can't make the best or compete on price and quality. But "best value" is the standard, which means price shouldn't be the reigning factor. The best value for Americans is to have a strong industrial base and we can't do that if DOD forces U.S. companies to compete on price with foreign companies that are owned, subsidized, or controlled by their governments.

It is important to remember that this amendment does not increase the share of the Buy American content, but simply codifies the content percentage of what is in existing regulation.

**HEROES EARNED RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support for H.R. 1499, the Heroes Retirement Opportunities Act. This important legislation allows military personnel serving combat zones to deduct contributions to their individual retirement plans.

The brave men and women of the United States armed forces risk their lives to defend our freedom and to continue the war on terror. These outstanding individuals are called upon to be stronger, braver, and tougher than they ever thought possible.

It is our duty to reward the men and women who risk their lives for our country, and the Heroes Retirement Opportunities Act accomplishes that goal. This bill will protect as much of their pay for the future as possible.

I know first hand the sacrifices our service men and women make. My husband retired 1st Lieutenant Dexter Lehtinen, was wounded in the Vietnam War by a grenade that almost took his life. Soon my stepson, Aviator 1st Lieutenant Douglas Lehtinen, is preparing to deploy to Iraq. I am certain that he will meet individuals who, like his father, have paid a tremendous price to uphold our ideals of freedom and democracy. By passing the Heroes Retirement Opportunities Act, we can do our part to assure a more certain future for those who risk their lives to protect ours.

To all the brave men and women who have served and now serve in our armed forces . . .

Thank you, on behalf of a grateful Nation.

**TOM WOOD: LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR!**

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I acknowledge a great friend of labor, Tom Wood—named the "Labor Leader of the Year" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Tom began his career as a Distribution Clerk with the United States Postal Service as a member of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU—Local 197) in January 1972. Within six months, he became a Shop Steward and started representing employees' rights. He noticed that other employees needed representation because they were too shy to represent themselves; he then became involved in assuring that employees would be treated fairly and justly.

In 1974, Tom was elected as Clerk Craft Director and subsequently has represented the APWU in several capacities since: Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Vice President and as the President of his Local Union since 1990. He has been the APWU chief negotiator for all local contracts for San Diego represented employees, and has made it a point to see that all postal managers treat employees with dignity and respect. Tom has established a reputation of vigorously representing his members, while still being responsive to the needs of the employer and their constant struggle with the "budget."

Tom has served as a member of the Board of Directors on the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council for the last fifteen years and as President since 2004. Several years ago, under his leadership, the APWU began looking with other labor unions in town to buy their own property, and became partners with the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFSCME, HERE, CWA and IATSE in Mission Valley's United Labor Center.

Congratulations Tom Wood, on your recognition as "Labor Leader of the Year"!

**HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT JACOB SIMPSON**

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, let us recognize the life and praise the sacrifice of an American Hero.

Just a few days ago, Sergeant Jacob Simpson was killed in action during a reconnaissance patrol in Iraq.

Jacob died as he lived—helping the people of Tikrit in their efforts to secure a peace, and realize their aspirations for a democratic society. Oregon mourns his passing. As a society we have too few of his character; we will all feel his loss for years to come.