

times than any previous Council. These mayoral overrides enabled much-needed legislation to become law, including measures to provide rape victims with emergency contraception, expand access to birth control, provide training for people moving from welfare to work, prevent homeowners from being unreasonably fined and protect our air and water. As a result of his efforts in budget fights, hundreds of millions of dollars have been restored to the City budget for health care, child care, college scholarships, libraries, senior citizens and HIV/AIDS prevention. In 2002, Miller's Education First campaign helped prevent hundreds of millions in proposed cuts to New York City's public schools.

Gifford Miller is an extraordinarily talented and hard-working public servant. Although term limits are bringing an end to his Speakership, I am hopeful that he will remain active in public life. New York city needs him.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Speaker Gifford Miller, a remarkable public servant and community leader.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF CURTIS MCCLAIN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Curtis McClain, a champion of the trade union movement and trailblazer for racial equality, who passed away November 6 after a long battle with cancer. Friends and colleagues will gather on December 3 to pay tribute to his lifetime of service to the working men and women of America.

Born of humble means in Akron, Ohio, World War II provided Curtis passage to a new life. After his discharge he relocated to San Francisco to find work. He found it in ILWU Warehouse Local 6 working at Schmidt Lithography. He said, "I went into the paper seasoning department where work was sweaty, hot and dusty. Although it was the last place I wanted to work, I needed the job so I stayed for 14 years."

Curtis became frustrated by post-war discrimination against African-Americans in the labor movement. Being passed over repeatedly for promotion due to race inspired Curtis to form a group of African-Americans in Local 6 called the Frontiersmen. Their encouragement and that of International and other local officers drew Curtis into leadership positions. In 1960, Curtis became in the first African-American to be elected Business Agent for Local 6.

By 1969, Curtis was an important labor leader in San Francisco and was elected Local President, followed 2 years later by a position on the International Executive Committee of the ILWU. In 1977, he broke another racial barrier when he was elected ILWU Secretary-Treasurer, the position he held until retirement in 1990.

Curtis served with ILWU International President Jimmy Herman. Together they fought for a democratic and diverse trade union and guided their membership through turbulent times.

Longtime Local 6 leader LeRoy King, who helped found the Trailblazers with Curtis, re-

members: "He was a natural leader. He helped lead the efforts to break the color line, not only in the ILWU, but in other unions and in the community. He was an outstanding negotiator and union officer. And he took care of business for the members."

Curtis was a tireless advocate of working people. He helped form the alliance between the Teamsters and the ILWU that created the Northern California Warehouse Council, whose influence stretched to the Oregon border. Curtis was also instrumental in the civil rights movement, opening up employment opportunities to people of color in San Francisco's auto and burgeoning hotel and tourism industries.

Curtis McClain also led in movements for social justice, peace, and disarmament. Mayor Jack Shelly appointed him to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and Mayor George Moscone appointed him to the San Francisco Fire Commission where he served for 12 years.

Curtis McClain reminded us what can be accomplished with determination and belief in the person working right beside you. His hard work for social justice and workers' rights broke barriers and deepened the ties of our wonderfully diverse community. Our thoughts are with his family and friends as they gather to remember him, and we thank them for sharing Curtis with us.

TRIBUTE TO LUTHER C. WALLACE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Luther C. Wallace of Marin County, California, a community leader who passed away from a brain tumor on November 10, 2005. Luther was a visionary whose approach to inclusivity and human rights taught us all a lesson.

Born in Bakersfield in 1941, Luther grew up in Oxnard where, at a young age, he learned the importance of empowerment from his family. As a preteen, he stuffed envelopes for the NAACP, church functions, and local politicians. In 1968, after serving in Viet Nam, he worked as a community organizer with the Ventura County Community Action Agency while using his GI bill allotment to complete a degree in Psychology from California State University, Northridge. He later earned a Masters in Public Administration just prior to his first brain surgery.

Luther went on to manage an energy conservation program for the State of California and service agencies in Ventura, Santa Cruz, Marin, and Santa Clara counties. Under his leadership, the Human Rights Resource Center, Inc. in San Rafael provided services—including training manuals, Cultural Awareness Training, and public policy recommendations—to every State as well as to 9 foreign countries.

Luther's influence, often centered in the African American community, was also widespread through his commitment and involvement in the California Rainbow Coalition (co-founder), The California Democratic Party Executive Board, the Marin Black/Jewish Dialogue (co-founder), the Marin City Project, the

Marin Council of Agencies, the Marin County Adult Criminal Justice Commission, the Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement, the African American Coalition of Marin, and many other groups.

His special interests were people, music, reading, learning new things, all sports, and working with his family in his herb and vegetable garden. With a voice as smooth as silk, his love of music (his "unforgiving mistress") called to him no matter where he was. On international junkets with the UN and the Jewish Community Federation, the band somehow knew to invite him on stage to sing. Shortly before his death, Luther achieved his greatest dream with the publication of his book of short stories titled, "Our Color Our Kind: A Male Bedside Reader." At the time of his death, he was at work on an original screenplay and new short stories.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Mary Christine [Tina] (Mattice) Wallace; son James Matthew Wallace, Santa Cruz, CA; daughter Cassandra Jane Wallace-James, Thousand Oaks, CA; grandchildren Tanesha Cherie, Tony LaBarron, Jr., and Luther Demetrius, IV Wallace-James; his special "sister" Donella Dennis, Los Angeles, CA; and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Luther Wallace inspired so many with his passion for human rights and justice. His dedication and leadership enriched and informed the African American community and all of us in Marin County who will benefit from his legacy.

TRIBUTE TO TONY BENNETT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an Icon of American Culture and one of our country's finest citizens, Tony Bennett. Much has already been said and written about the life and work of Tony Bennett, but I am honored to have the opportunity to say a few words about my friend here.

Tony has been a part of the experience of being an American for the last six decades. His arrival as a force in our culture was announced nearly seventy years ago at the opening of the Triborough Bridge in New York City. At 10 years old, the son of an Italian immigrant and grocery store operator, Anthony Dominick Benedetto was invited to sing at a ceremony to open the bridge by another famous son of Italy, New York's iconic Mayor Fiorello La Guardia. At the time, our country was in the midst of a staggering Great Depression, President Roosevelt had begun the "New Deal," and that bridge was a concrete symbol that New York City, that America, and that Americans, would persevere. The Bridge stood as the accomplishment of our American ingenuity, our hard work, and our craftsmanship. Looking back, with those values in mind, it is altogether fitting that Tony Bennett was there.

The ingenuity of his voice and his style have transcended generations of American music fans. Tony once quipped that he was spoiled because he, "never had to sing songs [he] didn't like." But it is generations of Americans

who have been spoiled by a sound that, no matter where or when it is heard, is always fresh, always new, and uniquely American.

As Tony approaches his 80th birthday, he has sold more than 50 million records, he has won the praise of musicians across the spectrum, and been acknowledged by his industry for his lifetime of achievement. Yet, he continues to work, bringing enjoyment to thousands of fans each year, and winning new ones each day.

His accomplishments are not limited to just music. He is also an accomplished painter in his own right. He is a tireless advocate for Juvenile Diabetes research, and the American Cancer Society—each year he donates one of his paintings for the ACS holiday card. He has been a friend of Presidents and Heads of State, singing at the Inaugural festivities for President John F. Kennedy in 1961 and President Bill Clinton in 1993.

Tony has never been afraid to point out injustice and advocate for equality. He marched with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama, and was an activist throughout the Civil Rights Movement. Coretta Scott King, bestowing the Martin Luther King Center Award for Excellence upon Mr. Bennett in 2001, said, "Tony is not only one of America's premier performing artists, but he was a deeply-committed friend and supporter of my husband and the Civil Rights Movement, and he has continued to support the efforts of the King Center to fulfill Martin's dream."

The list of accomplishments for Tony is innumerable, he has embodied the American spirit and he has lived the American dream. I could not be more pleased that the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has chosen to honor Tony Bennett with its highest honors on December 4th, 2005. Tony is truly a credit to his Italian heritage, and to the contributions of millions of immigrant families who have made this country great.

His story is that of what is possible in America, what is great about America, and his life is the embodiment of what it means to be an American. In short, Tony Bennett is a national treasure, and it is with great pride that I speak today as his friend to say thank you for his contribution to our Democracy.

IMPORTANCE OF IMPACT AID

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Impact Aid Coalition, I rise today in strong support of the Impact Aid program.

Impact Aid provides important resources to replace lost tax dollars to school districts that include a military base, Indian land, or any type of Federal presence or activity to assist with the basic educational needs of its students. These funds improve the quality of life for our military personnel by ensuring their children receive a quality education wherever they are stationed.

Due to budget constraints, the Impact Aid program faces unique challenges. While most education programs contend with an increase in the cost per pupil each year, Impact Aid faces the additional challenge of an increasing

number of military dependents within the program—projected to dramatically increase over the next 10 years—causing the cost of fully funding Impact Aid to escalate sharply.

For example, as a result of the BRAC recommendations, over the next 4 to 5 years, the Department of Defense estimates that an additional 32,000 dependent children of military families will enter stateside public schools due to overseas base closures and realignments. Without additional funding, this tremendous increase will cause a significant change to the level of assistance to the current and future school districts serving our military children and to the services and resources the districts will be able to offer our children.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to pay attention to the critical situation our military children are facing and the further deterioration of their educational resources and services if we do not act soon. In a time of war, it is absolutely essential that we provide the necessary resources to ensure our military dependents' educational funding will be maintained.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM E. LIGHTFOOT

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I come to the house floor today to pay tribute to William E. Lightfoot, PFC, of Lexington, IL, as well as the 13 other Navy and Marine Corps airmen of Flight 19. On December 5, 1945, a five-plane squadron took off from Ft. Lauderdale Naval Air Station in Florida. This would be the last time anyone would see these brave men, as all five planes mysteriously vanished while flying over the Bermuda triangle. A Mariner rescue plane, comprised of 14 crew members, was sent to look for survivors but they also vanished without a trace. In all, 27 men died in this unexplainable tragedy.

To this day, no wreckage from any of the six planes has been found and no explanations have been realized. However, today, the House of Representatives approved H. Res. 500 to honor these men and recognize the 60th anniversary of the disappearance. Unfortunately, when this vote was called today, I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been able, I would have voted "yes." I was a proud co-sponsor of this resolution and strongly support honoring these brave men. My heartfelt sympathy and admiration go out to Private William E. Lightfoot and his surviving family members.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I missed a vote on November 17, 2005. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 500 (rollcall vote No. 597) recognizing

the 60th anniversary of the disappearance of the five naval Avenger torpedo bombers of Flight 19 and the naval Mariner rescue sent to search for Flight 19.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, due to technical problems, my vote in favor of H.J. Res. 72 on Thursday, November 17 (rollcall No. 599) was not recorded. I was, in fact, present for this vote and did vote in favor of the resolution.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the budget reconciliation process is wrong, and it must be stopped.

We must reject any cuts to critical federal safety net programs when so many Americans are experiencing hard times. They have been forced to turn to the government, as well as charities, for assistance with basic necessities.

Nine hundred thousand American families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are relying on the Food Stamps Program to avoid hunger. Voting for this budget resolution is voting to cut food stamps for these families—and for millions of others who would otherwise go hungry.

This budget resolution boosts mandatory cuts in crucial programs, including health care and student aid, by 44 percent.

Over ten million Latinos on Medicaid will be affected by these cuts. Medicaid provides health insurance to about 50 million people in America, including 41 percent of people in poverty. We need choices that can help the 34 percent of Latinos that are uninsured.

The budget reconciliation shows how misguided Republican priorities are. Instead of helping make health care affordable, they will force families to choose between staying healthy or keeping the lights on.

The budget will slash such programs as student loans and therefore hurt hundreds of thousands of American families. And yet the GOP budget also requires \$70 billion in new tax cuts, helping mainly the wealthiest Americans.

Under the proposed cut in student loans, the typical student borrower could be forced to pay an additional \$5,800 for his or her student loans compared to under current law.

These budget cuts do nothing to ease the national budget deficit.

While Republicans claim that they are serious about deficit reduction, their reconciliation plan actually increases the deficit by \$20 billion.

Let me repeat: the two GOP reconciliation bills together will result in a \$20 billion increase in the deficit! One cuts mandatory spending by \$50 billion and the other cuts taxes by \$70 billion.