

Lowery for his instrumental role in assuring equal rights for all Americans. Dr. Lowery, who has been called the “dean of the Civil Rights Movement,” was the cofounder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Dr. Lowery was born in Huntsville, AL, on October 6, 1921. During the 1950s, he led the Alabama Civic Affairs Association, an organization dedicated to the desegregation of buses and public places. In 1957, Dr. Lowery joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders from throughout the Southeast to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization renowned for its nonviolent approach to ending segregation. He would eventually lead the SCLC from 1977 until 1997.

Dr. Lowery also organized and led the 1965 Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights March. This march was a key moment in the civil rights movement and a strong influence on the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Dr. Lowery's work and influence spreads outside of our country as well. He led a group that began protesting the South African Apartheid in the 1970s and continued until the successful election of Nelson Mandela in 1994.

Although officially retired, Dr. Lowery remains active and is an influential voice encouraging African Americans to vote.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 16, through Sunday, December 18, Dr. Lowery will be honored by his hometown community, with the placement of a historical marker near the site of his childhood home. I rise today to join in that celebration and to thank Dr. Lowery for all he has done on behalf of all Americans.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF
DOLORES HUERTA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, I am proud to pay tribute to a woman who has greatly influenced the course of workers rights over the past 50 years, Ms. Dolores Huerta. On the occasion of her 75th birthday it is only fitting that we pause to honor Ms. Huerta's lifetime of courage and achievement.

Ms. Huerta was born on April 10, 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico and was raised in Stockton, California amid the farm workers of the central San Joaquin Valley. Ms. Huerta's mother, Alicia Chavez, and her father, Juan Fernandez, instilled in her, through their own works, a drive to help and care for others. In her own life, Ms. Huerta has been an incalculable asset to the movement for the advancement of worker's rights and in particular, the rights of farm workers and their families.

Ms. Huerta began advocacy for workers and their families in 1955 when she created the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization, CSO, after encountering farm workers' hungry children while teaching in a public school. Early in her endeavors, Ms. Huerta successfully lobbied, in Sacramento, for the removal of citizenship requirements from pension and public assistance programs. She also helped pass legislation that allowed people to take their drivers license examina-

tions in their native language and established the right to vote in Spanish.

Through her work with the CSO, Ms. Huerta met Caesar Chavez and together, in 1962, they founded the United Farm Workers of America, UFW. Ms. Huerta became the organization's First Vice President Emeritus. The UFW is perhaps best known for its role in the Delano Grape Strike beginning in 1965. The strike ended after 5 years of hard work and careful negotiations, which were led by Ms. Huerta, with the establishment of a 3-year collective bargaining agreement with the grape industry.

Among Ms. Huerta's many achievements are several outstanding awards. She was bestowed with the California State Senate's Outstanding Labor Leader Award in 1984 and her impact on the national workers rights movement was highlighted in 1993 when Ms. Huerta was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and received the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom Award, as well as several other awards. Although Ms. Huerta's efforts concentrated intensely on California, her impact on workers rights nationwide has been remarkable and merits our honor and admiration.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues—Reps. BECERRA, BERMAN, CAPPAS, COSTA, FARR, HONDA, LANTOS, MATSUI, NAPOLITANO, PELOSI, ROYBAL-ALLARD, LINDA SANCHEZ, LORETTA SANCHEZ, SCHIFF, SHERMAN, SOLIS, THOMPSON, WAXMAN and WOOLSEY—join me in thanking Ms. Huerta for her tireless adherence to the improvement of workers rights across the United States. We are humbled to honor such a wonderful person who, for years, has been a great friend and inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO MITCH KEHETIAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the distinguished career of Mitch Kehetian.

Known as the “dean of Detroit-area journalism,” Mitch Kehetian's career in journalism dates back to 1953 with roots stemming from Allen Park, Michigan. Beginning as a “copy boy” for the Detroit Times, Mr. Kehetian served diligently as reporter and editor working his way through the journalism establishment. After his tenure at the Times, he joined the Citizen-Journal of Columbus, Ohio then returned to Detroit at the Eastside News. In 1969, Mr. Kehetian accepted a job as the Warren reporter and bureau chief of the Macomb Daily.

Serving as a reporter, managing editor, and editorial page editor at the Macomb Daily for over 30 years, Mr. Kehetian brought an intense, lifelong interest in politics, public service and government to his coverage, especially their impact on citizens and communities. His wide-ranging attention to international, national, and local affairs and his personable yet direct manner drew attention and admiration from the halls of all types of houses—from Macomb to the White House.

Mitch Kehetian loved and believed in the work of journalism. He was a reporter's reporter committed to the news, and the trusted role of the “newsman” in our country. Michi-

gan was better off with his reporter's eye and his editor's pen at work in our community. His dedication to his work allowed him to enjoy mentoring young and aspiring journalists often at the beginning of their careers. Mr. Kehetian served as both the President and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Press Club, and as President of the Metro Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. In 2002, the Society bestowed its highest honor upon him, “Lifetime Achievement Award.” He has also been awarded countless journalism awards from the Associated Press, United Press International, Michigan Press Association, to name just a few.

Mr. Kehetian is also a proud family man and a proud Armenian-American. Mr. Speaker, it has been my personal privilege to know and be in regular touch with Mitch these last decades. He combined enough distance from people in public life to be objective and enough closeness to create friendships. So I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mitch Kehetian, a distinguished journalist and a friend, for his years of dedicated service to journalism and the communities and citizens he served and in wishing him good health and happiness in the next phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO CLEVELAND MAYOR
JANE L. CAMPBELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mayor Jane L. Campbell, for her unwavering dedication, diligence, vision and integrity that defined her leadership as Mayor of the City of Cleveland.

Mayor Campbell's vital focus on lifting the lives of the poor and disenfranchised, starting at the neighborhood level, framed her every professional and political endeavor. She began her service to our community as the founding Executive Director of WomenSpace, and later as the Executive Director of the Friends of Shaker Square. During her 12-year tenure as State Representative, Mayor Campbell introduced and enacted legislation protecting the rights of children, families and seniors. As a Cuyahoga County Commissioner, she advocated for women and children, chairing the Violence Against Women Act Committee, and the Children Who Witness Violence Committee.

Throughout her journey from County Commissioner to the Mayor of Cleveland, Mayor Campbell continued her unrelenting focus on behalf of all Cleveland residents, especially children, families and seniors. During her term in office, she implemented numerous health and human services programs that provide guidance and support for our most vulnerable citizens who struggle daily to elevate their lives above the raging cycle of poverty and homelessness. Mayor Campbell's vision to raise the City into the promise of restoration and renewal is also reflected in the commercial and residential structures of Cleveland's neighborhoods, from Detroit-Shoreway, Cudell and Old Brooklyn, east to Slavic Village, Union-Miles and Buckeye-Woodland, where commercial redevelopment, storefront renovation and housing restoration has become a reality.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of my friend, Mayor Jane L. Campbell, whose unwavering commitment, steadfast integrity and vital accomplishments have raised the City of Cleveland above the shadows of financial crisis 4 years ago, onto a solid foundation today, where urban renewal and the hope of a better tomorrow for all citizens continues to rise. Mayor Campbell's legacy of service and concern for her constituents will be remembered and recognized for generations to come. I wish Mayor Jane Campbell and her family many blessings of peace, health and happiness as they journey onward from this day.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STEVE KIRKHAM

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Steve Kirkham of Kingston, Tennessee for his leadership and involvement in his community.

Steve is a known fixture in his home county of Roane County, Tennessee and is fast becoming an integral member of many other communities due to his work in promoting economic development in East Tennessee.

Kirkham, owner and chief executive officer of Rocky Top Markets, is a man who exhibits traits that have helped make America what is: hard working, compassionate, and exemplifies perseverance and generosity. If you ask him how he got to be where he is he will tell you, "by grinding it out, having good employees, and just plain luck."

Working for the Harriman Oil Company in the mid-70's Kirkham suggested to the owners of the company that they should join the convenience store craze. They did, and Rocky Top Market was born in June 1980 with the first opening.

Since 1980, Rocky Top Markets has grown to a chain of 38 and has plans for continued growth in Tennessee and Northern Georgia. Having purchased Rocky Top Markets in 1998, it is now one of the largest retail convenience stores in East Tennessee employing almost 400 people.

A long standing member of the business community Steve has been a member of the Tennessee Oil Marketers Board, Tennessee Grocers and Convenience Store Association Board, and the Shell Jobber Council. He has served as Chair of the Roane State Foundation and the Community Development Council. As chairman of the CDC he helped form and fund the Roane Alliance. The Alliance is an effort to bring together the chamber, tourism and industrial development groups in Roane County for a unified effort in promoting responsible growth. He is currently serving as chairman of the Roane County Industrial Development Board.

If not working or golfing Steve is with his family. There is an understanding of the high regard he has for family for those who know him in and outside of work. He is married to Teresa Kirkham and has three daughters: Angie, Stephanie, and Christie. He is also the proud grandparent of Tyler, Tanner, and Ryley.

TRIBUTE TO ALFRED LOUIS ROMEO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of a wonderful man, who sadly passed over a year ago, Mr. Alfred Louis Romeo.

It is fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for his lifelong dedication to the City of Paterson.

Born and raised in my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, Fred graduated from Central High School. After his graduation from high school in 1958 Fred joined the Paterson Fire Department as a member of the Division Line Gang.

The Division Line Gang was a group of firefighters who were assigned to maintain the communications infrastructure for emergency call boxes throughout Paterson. Fred was a member of the Division Line Gang until 1983, when the "Gang" was disbanded, in order to use the more effective emergency voice response system. It was at this time that Fred was transferred as a firefighter to Engine Company Number 7.

Fred found time during his busy schedule to volunteer at the Paterson YMCA where he had been a member for over 70 years. In addition, to sitting on the Board of Directors, he served as the Co-Coordinator for the YMCA. Perhaps most importantly, Fred had donated his time on Thanksgiving, for the past 34 years, to help feed the underprivileged at the annual Thanksgiving Feast.

Beyond his many philanthropic contributions, Fred was also a Champion and Hall of Fame handball player. He had amassed two New Jersey State Singles Championship titles, 24 NJ State Doubles Championship titles, a Jr. National doubles Championship title, and a National doubles Championship title. Fred was not only a Member of the Board of Directors for the Old Timers Sports Hall of Fame, Association of Paterson; he was an inductee as well.

In addition to Fred's many academic and professional achievements, his personal achievements are many also. He was the devoted husband to the late Rose Romeo and father of Rosalind, Francine, and Dominic.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Fred's family and friends, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements of a man who will be truly missed, Mr. Alfred Louis Romeo.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER HENRY "HANK" NAVA, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the collective grief of the people of North Texas on the death of Fort Worth Officer Henry "Hank" Nava, Jr. who died of a gunshot wound to his head while in the course of duty.

Officer Nava, recognizable by his military hairstyle, Oakley sunglasses and electric smile, was a dedicated servant of the community. The grief from his loss is shared not only by his fellow police brethren, but by the greater Fort Worth community.

Hank Nava was the first Fort Worth officer killed in the line of duty in 11 years. He served as an officer in Austin, Plano and Fort Worth, where he was most recently assigned to the 10-member North Side Crime Response Team. This team is directed to handle particularly difficult cases. He was always first to volunteer and enthusiastic to accomplish the tasks ahead of him. A natural leader, he was a source of encouragement for his fellow police officers.

Officer Nava's personality and bravery made him a trusted friend, devoted husband and father, and a hero to other police officers. Gianni Ghilespi, a Fort Worth police captain, said that Officer Nava gave him a home during his darkest moment and helped him work through his problems stating, "God sent a hero to me," he said. "It was Hank Nava."

His generous personality extended beyond his call to service as a police officer. Officer Nava could often be found working out in the community especially with children. The impact of his death left a wounded community. Currently, the Fort Worth police are having difficulties reassigning his patrol unit. It seems that citizens just started showing up and signing condolences on the vehicle. But truly, he will be missed most by his family.

Hank Nava is survived by his wife, Teresa and his two children Kayleigh, age nine, and Justin, age four.

We were blessed to have had him protecting us all from the evils of this world. His courage and dedication brought hope of a safer community. He will be remembered as a husband, a hero, and a friend.

REJECT THE MEDICAID PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS IN THE HOUSE RECONCILIATION BILL, H.R. 4241

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to Section 3145 of the House reconciliation bill that will deny health care to our poorest Americans who desperately need and deserve it. This provision would require people who apply for Medicaid to prove that they are citizens, by producing a birth certificate or a passport. This may not sound like a difficult task to some, but the reality is much, much different.

Many older Americans do not have birth certificates because their parents did not have access to hospitals, and so, they were born at home. This was true in rural America, and is still true in some places today. Also, in the last century, all over the south, because of segregation and racial discrimination, many hospitals would not take minorities. Many minorities, including African Americans, were born at home and don't have a birth certificate.

These people were kept out of the health care system when they came into the world. To keep these same people off of Medicaid