

Miguel tirelessly spent his life working to empower others, no matter their station in life.

While Miguel Contreras may be remembered most for his tenacity as a labor leader and role model for the Latino community, his efforts to secure a better future for American workers everywhere will live on.

My deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Maria Elena Durazo and their two sons, Michael and Mario.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of Miguel Contreras, secretary-treasurer for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. I would like to take a few moments to recognize the many important accomplishments of Miguel Contreras and the tremendous impact he made on the labor movement.

Miguel led the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor for nearly a decade. During his tenure, he continuously fought for the rights of laborers, and did so with great success. Through his guidance and leadership, The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor entered a period of unprecedented advancement and success.

Miguel Contreras was a man with humble beginnings. The son of farm workers, he began working in the fields of California's Central Valley at a very young age. With his early exposure to the difficult life of a farm worker, he quickly joined the ranks of political activists in labor as a volunteer with the United Farm Workers of America. He stood with Cesar Chavez and the UFW during their national grape boycott, and continued the fight for workers for the remaining years of his life.

In 1996, Miguel Contreras became the first Latino to win the post of secretary-treasurer for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO—comprising 350 local unions and more than 800,000 members. Under his leadership, The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor had seen phenomenal growth. He coordinated many successful labor rights victories including the labor dispute of 2000 when 8,500 janitors from Service Employees International Union, SEIU, Local 1877 fought for and won a higher standard of living and better working conditions.

Fighting for the rights of laborers was at the core of Miguel Contreras' beliefs, an attribute which made him a great leader for laborers throughout the State of California. He cared about regular people and timelessly worked for their welfare.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me and the many mourning members of the labor community in recognizing and honoring Miguel Contreras for his guidance and life-long effort in fighting to improve the lives of laborers. He is survived by his wife Maria Elena Durazo and two sons, Michael and Mario.

RECOGNIZING LISA GUILLERMIN GABLE

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize and thank Ambassador Lisa Guillermin Gable of Virginia for her valued leadership as the United States Commissioner General to the 2005 World Exposition in Aichi, Japan.

The World Expo 2005 features national pavilions from 125 participating countries. Under the leadership of Ambassador Gable, the not-for-profit and privately funded organization, Aichi USA 2005, has successfully designed and built the U.S. Pavilion, which will be open to the public in Nagoya, Japan, through September 25, 2005. The showcase at the United States' pavilion honors America's first diplomat and innovator, Benjamin Franklin. The pavilion showcase promotes America's core values of hope, optimism, enterprise and freedom.

Under Ambassador Gable's stewardship, the U.S. Pavilion and related cultural activities were successfully and fully funded with 100 percent non-Federal financing. The hard work of this distinguished resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia will help promote U.S. economic development by fostering business relationships between Japan and the many participating countries and state sponsors.

I express my appreciation and thanks to Ambassador Lisa Guillermin Gable, U.S. Commissioner General to the World Expo, as named by President George W. Bush, for leading the way in making possible the United States' participation in the first world's fair of the 21st Century.

26 YEARS OF DEDICATED FEDERAL SERVICE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, as Members of Congress, we have the unique opportunity to participate in special exchange programs in which talented individuals from other branches of government can work temporarily in our offices as legislative fellows or detailers. These initiatives promote efficiency in the business of government by developing mutually beneficial relationships between the executive and legislative branches of government.

As Members, we have the opportunity to meet these experts and benefit from their insight, knowledge and experience. One such expert in my office just celebrated 26 years of service to the USDA Forest Service. Kenneth Karkula is currently serving a 1-year fellowship in my office through the Brookings Institute. Building on his extensive experience, he has made invaluable contributions to several issues important to Idaho in the area of natural resources, the environment and energy. In the short time since his arrival, he has become an invaluable asset to my staff, filling in during recent permanent staff vacancies and being willing to do whatever is asked of him.

Ken is on detail from his position as National Concessions Program Manager for the Forest Service. His public service career started when he fought wildland fires in the late 1970s to the mid-1980s. He then served as a District Resource Staff Officer in Arizona and New Mexico and, in 1992, moved to the position of Forest Recreation Staff Officer in Lake Tahoe, CA. In 1996, he took his current position at the USDA Forest Service Headquarters, a tremendous culmination of many hard-working years. Ken's knowledge of U.S. environmental and Federal land management policies, coupled with his experience in on-the-ground implementation of these policies over the years, gives him a unique and critical perspective of Federal land management issues that benefit me as I help explore updating and enhancing decades-old environmental policies and practices.

I congratulate Ken on his many years of successful work and dedication to the American public.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW ISLAMIC CENTER OF AMERICA

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to The Islamic Center of America, one of the first Islamic institutions in North America. On May 12, the Center will celebrate the completion of its new mosque complex in Dearborn, which will have the distinction of being the largest mosque in the United States. The festivities will continue with a grand banquet to be held on May 14. These events will bring together Muslims, as well as many others, from Michigan and around the country.

The Islamic Center of America traces its origin to the 1940s when Muslim immigrants from Lebanon and Syria began settling in Detroit and thus sought to bring a religious leader from the Middle East to the Detroit area to serve their community. A young author and scholar, Imam Mohammed Jawas Chirri, was the choice, arriving from Lebanon in February 1949. When the newly-formed Islamic Center Foundation Society was established in 1954, Imam Chirri became its new leader and soon after they decided to build a new religious center.

In his efforts to raise funds for the new center, Imam Chirri visited Egypt in 1959 and successfully secured support for the project. The Society purchased land owned by the Ford Motor Company located on Joy Road and Greenfield in Detroit. On September 20, 1963, the Islamic Center of America first opened its doors. The building consisted of a large domed prayer room, lecture hall, kitchen, offices, and two classrooms. Following the opening of the mosque, families of the Islamic Center began to move into the area. By 1967, the Center had already outgrown

this space. Additional classrooms, an enlarged social hall, and a minaret were added to serve the growing membership.

In 1997, Imam Hassan Al-Qazwini, his wife and their three children moved from California to Detroit to join The Islamic Center of America. Under his leadership and guidance, the Center has continued to flourish. Outgrowing the location on Joy Road, the Center began construction of a new religious center on Ford Road in Dearborn in 1999, near the Center's existing grade school, the Muslim American Youth Academy. The new mosque, which is located along a stretch of Ford Road that is home to several churches, including St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church, St. Clement Ohridski Orthodox Church, Warrendale Community Church, St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church, and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, which is also home to People of the Book Arab Christian Church, will be the largest in the United States. At an estimated cost of between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000, the new mosque complex will accommodate 1,000 individuals at prayer time, and will house a large auditorium, social hall, and 14 additional rooms for the school.

I know my colleagues join me in congratulating The Islamic Center of America on this significant achievement and in recognizing its many years of service to the Muslim American community in Michigan.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. GERALD “CARTY” MONETTE

• Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary scholar, leader, and friend, Dr. Gerald “Carty” Monette.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Monette, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, has been a leader in the tribal college movement nationwide, and more specifically, at Turtle Mountain Community College in Belcourt, ND. When the college opened its doors on the reservation in 1972, Dr. Monette served as its director, and in 1978 he assumed the presidency of the institution.

During his tenure, Dr. Monette spearheaded an incredible transformation of the college with an added result of his determination being a remarkable increase in the ability of all American Indians to gain access to higher education opportunities. In 1973, under his leadership, Turtle Mountain Community College joined with five other tribal colleges to create the American Indian Higher Education Consortium—AIHEC—to provide a support network for member institutions. Today, AIHEC is composed of tribal colleges and universities located in 13 States, serving American Indian students from over 250 federally recognized tribes.

Prior to the opening of Turtle Mountain Community College, those living on the reservation had no access to higher education. Unemployment and

high school dropout rates were both very high. The college started from very humble beginnings, offering its first courses on the third floor of an abandoned Catholic convent, with less than 60 students and only three full-time faculty members. Today, it has grown to serve over 650 students, with more than 150 courses and 65 full- and part-time faculty members, which is due in large part to Dr. Monette's dedication and leadership.

One of the many highlights of Dr. Monette's professional life was realization of his vision for a new campus for the college. He led the effort to secure the needed funds to construct the facility, which is located on a 123-acre site. The 105,000 square-foot facility includes state-of-the-art technology, general classroom space, science and engineering labs, a library, learning resource center, and a gymnasium. This beautiful new campus stands as a shining testament to Dr. Monette's untiring dedication to the cause of increasing access to postsecondary opportunities in Indian Country.

Under Dr. Monette's leadership, Turtle Mountain Community College also expanded from an institution of higher learning to one of the community's pillars of economic development and opportunity through the creation of the Center for New Growth and Economic Development. Working with tribal leadership, the center has embarked on several projects to strengthen the community's ability to grow and become more economically independent. Some of the many projects taken on by the center include a very successful wind energy program, a review of the tribe's constitution, a school reform initiative designed to improve student performance, and a program to reintroduce traditional Native American foods into the diets of tribal members, which will yield tremendously positive health benefits.

Dr. Monette has been a true agent of positive change in the lives of thousands of students who have passed through Turtle Mountain Community College during his tenure. He has been a true champion for higher education and a powerful national advocate for the tribal colleges. His passion is infectious, and he has motivated everyone to reach to their goals no matter how small or large.

Dr. Monette has dedicated his life's work to the greater good. After 27 years as president of Turtle Mountain Community College, he has decided to commence his well-deserved retirement, but he leaves behind a lasting legacy that will stand for many generations. We owe Dr. Monette a debt of gratitude, and I wish him and his family all the very best.●

HONORING HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an extraordinary class of students from Hamilton Southeastern

High School in Fishers. These outstanding young Hoosiers competed against 50 other schools from across the Nation and won honorable mention as one of the top ten finalists in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution national finals in Washington, D.C.

The motivation displayed by these students will no doubt lead them along the path to becoming some of our country's future leaders.

It is my honor to enter the names of Ryan Arnold, Natasha Arora, Kelsey Buckingham, Ricardo Doriott, Eddie Gillham, Worthe Holt III, Carolyn Homer, Kyle Lymberopoulos, Ashley Martin, Michael Matern, Allison Nimtz, Alex Orlowski, Laura Peregrin, Jennifer Wardell, Brian White and Marissa Wills in the official RECORD of the Senate for their remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American government.

I also want to take a moment to salute Jill Baisinger, these students' teacher, for her clear commitment to encouraging the curiosity and development of our Hoosier youth and furthering their understanding of American Government.●

A TRIBUTE TO DR. GERALD “CARTY” MONETTE

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my colleagues have often heard me speak on this floor about tribal colleges that provide higher education to the residents of this country's Indian reservations. For over 30 years, these institutions have brought hope and opportunity to thousands of students who otherwise would not have had the chance to seek an education beyond high school.

There is a reason why the Nation's tribal colleges consistently manage to achieve more with less than any other educational institutions in the United States—talented and committed leadership. One of those leaders, Dr. Gerald “Carty” Monette, has been part of the tribal college movement since its inception. As the president of Turtle Mountain Community College since 1978, he has seen his institution grow from a handful of students gathering in an abandoned convent and a series of trailers in Belcourt, ND, to an enrollment of 650 meeting in a state-of-the-art building in a setting that reflects the sacred grounds of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

Dr. Monette's modest and self-effacing manner belies a strong and determined leader who has inspired hundreds of graduates of Turtle Mountain Community College. He had an early understanding of the ... relationship between education, economic development, and community partnerships. As a result, the college today boasts the Center for New Growth that is a regional center for economic development; he wanted the College to have energy independence and today there is a wind and geothermal energy center at the College.