

only the sixth past President of the United Steelworkers.

Born within a few yards of the Granite City Steel Mill in Illinois where he went to work at age 15, he lived and loved the life of a steelworker from his first day in an open hearth labor gang to the last day he served as International President.

His service to his country included a stint in the U.S. Marines toward the end of World War II and again during the Korean War, when he was drafted into the U.S. Army, owing to a critical shortage of light weapons infantry leaders.

USW President Becker is enjoying his 55th wedding anniversary this year with his wife Jane that began when he met her in the Ozarks of Missouri. They have three married sons and 14 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending George Becker for his outstanding contributions to his union and his country. His commitment to improving the quality of life for working people everywhere is unparalleled, and he should be recognized and commended.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALLEN R. HUGHES

##### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2006*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American, Allen R. Hughes, who will celebrate his 97th birthday on September 24, 2006.

Allen Hughes was born in Martinsburg, Missouri. His mother Ethel had a wonderful sense of humor and he loved her very deeply. His father William was a street car operator who purchased a 144 acre farm in Fulton, Missouri, which his boys affectionately named "Hughes' Rock Farm" because it appeared to be the main crop. Allen had three sisters and four brothers and the family was of modest means.

Allen Hughes married Florence Mertz in 1930. They were married for 59 years until Florence's death and they had one child Richard, born in 1937.

Allen Hughes is a 32nd degree Mason and has been a Scottish Rite member since 1936, over 69 years. He still goes to Lodge and actively participates in the Masonic Order. Mr. Hughes is a registered Democrat who has been known to occasionally stray from his party. The first time he voted was in the Presidential election of 1932. He cast his vote for FDR all four times and has never missed voting in a Presidential or off-year election since. Mr. Hughes has the highest regard for President Harry S. Truman and a profound respect for the Office of President regardless of who occupies it. His son Richard knows this first hand and has the scars to prove that if you can't say something respectful about the President, you shouldn't say anything at all. A true patriot, he takes the privilege of voting very seriously.

Allen Hughes began his career with the Endicott Johnson Shoe Company and worked as a night supervisor for Bi-State Transit in St. Louis, Missouri for 28 years. He retired in 1971 and now lives with his second wife, Sue Harness, on her farm close to Troy, Missouri.

Allen Hughes' son Richard speaks eloquently about his father; "What I love about my father is his humor, his work ethic (I think he missed less than three weeks of work due to sickness in 46 years), his honesty (his word is his bond), his generosity and his willingness to help others less fortunate than himself, his patriotism . . . he votes, informs himself and loves this country." Richard tells me, "If I could go to the 'Father Store' and pick any father, I would pick Allen R. Hughes."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a national treasure and an exemplary American. As Allen Hughes celebrates his 97th birthday, we extend to him our best wishes as well as our gratitude for all he's done for our country. He is a true patriot, a loving husband and the best father in the world to his great son Richard. Because of solid citizens like Allen Hughes, our democracy is strong and our country is decent.

#### INCLUDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR LIBERIA

##### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2006*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has opened a new chapter in Africa's history as its first female head-of-state. Her election marks a turning point for Liberia, a long-time ally of the United States, which has recently been debilitated by war, corruption, and civil strife. I met with President Sirleaf in Liberia three weeks ago and I know she has the skills and vision it will take to rebuild Liberia and bring hope to its people.

In her inaugural speech, President Sirleaf promised to give Liberian women "prominence in all affairs of our country." The 21st Century could well be the century of the woman, not only in Liberia, but around the world. In the past year, first female heads of state were elected in Liberia, Chile, and Germany, and Finland re-elected its first female president. A recent U.S. poll showed that 92 percent of Americans are ready to elect a female president. But for now, Liberia is a step ahead of the United States.

The U.S. and Liberia have long shared close ties, dating back to 1819, when Congress appropriated \$100,000 that helped lead to the founding of the country. The end of Liberia's civil war and President Sirleaf's election present a unique opportunity to maximize the close ties between our countries.

I support Congressman JESSE JACKSON and Chairman JIM CLYBURN's call to include appropriations for Liberia in the President's supplemental request. President Bush has committed to spreading democracy around the world. This is a unique opportunity to build a democracy in a nation that is starting anew. Rewarding Liberia for its democratic progress would send the right signal to other African nations.

President Sirleaf still faces many challenges and will need our support to succeed. Despite its small gross national income, Liberia has \$2.56 billion in outstanding international debt. HIV/AIDS is spreading at an increasing rate and 708,000 Liberians, just under a third of the population, receive food assistance each month. U.S. assistance to Liberia has decreased in recent years; it will have to in-

crease for President Sirleaf to meet these humanitarian needs.

President Sirleaf will also need help building democracy. Consolidating the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2003 and pursuing transitional justice against war criminals remain immediate priorities. The U.S. should offer its diplomatic backing to encourage other states in the region to help Liberia find resolution.

In her inaugural address, President Sirleaf committed to a new era of democracy, economic renewal, and good governance for Liberia. Upon her second state visit to the United States, we welcome President Sirleaf and offer our support for her mission to lead Liberia to better times.

#### CONGRATULATING GENEVIEVE AGUILAR

##### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor and congratulate an outstanding young woman in my district who has recently been recognized as one of the top youth volunteers in Colorado for 2006. Genevieve Aguilar of Boulder was recently honored as a Distinguished Finalist for the 11th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award, an honor bestowed on the most active and dedicated young volunteers in the state.

Genevieve was honored this year for her work as a tutor and mentor for young Hispanic students. At the age of seventeen, this young woman finds the time to teach other students organizational and study skills so that they can achieve success in high school and beyond. This selflessness is made all the more remarkable by the fact that Genevieve is making her way through Boulder High School herself and undoubtedly faces all of the same pressures that every other student faces. Despite these pressures, and through her steady devotion to her community and her fellow students, Genevieve is able to teach us all a lesson in humanity, service, and volunteerism.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were designed to "emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage young Americans of all backgrounds to contribute to their communities." I can think of no better way to honor the work that Genevieve has done to help her fellow students learn and grow, and I am sure that her example serves to inspire those students to give back to their communities in kind. I look forward to seeing what Genevieve Aguilar accomplishes in the future, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring her accomplishments.

#### A TRIBUTE TO HELEN JORDAN

##### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Helen Jordan, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding

leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Helen Jordan has been a MSW caseworker that counseled substance-abusing mothers, an administrative supervisor and a Program Director at the New York Urban League's child welfare programs. For almost twenty years, she has worked with and for the families in East Flatbush, East New York and Brownsville communities of Brooklyn. The New York Urban League's mission "... to promote opportunities and to help African Americans, individuals, families and communities achieve their full potential ..." is the mission that Helen has adopted for herself.

Born in New York City, 75 years ago, to Addie and Pearl Thomas of South Carolina, Helen is the oldest of three children. Her father and mother, janitors for various Harlem tenements, taught Helen that education was the key to liberation and she never let go of the vision of a college education. Helen earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Welfare and a Master's degree in Social Work at Adelphi University's School of Social Work after she had married Eugene Jordan and their four children Stephanie, Eugene III, Vance and Kevin, were adults. She has 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, she thinks that no one should ever stop learning. Helen still attends conferences and workshops related to her work. God has worked many wonders in her life including the privilege of being the Program Director at Service to Families and the Chairperson of the Brownsville-East New York Child Welfare Neighborhood Network and she gives Him all the praise and honor. She is a member of the Greater Allen Cathedral in Jamaica, NY.

Helen has had memberships in several organizations that advocate for children and families to be the very best that they can be such as The Black Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, which educated communities and organizations about the results of child abuse and neglect; National Association of Social Workers; National Association of Black Social Workers; National Black Child Development Institute, an organization that educates educators about the importance of a child's education; Coalition of Brooklyn Program Directors; New York Foster Care Reform Initiative, an organization that seeks to transform the educational training of foster care parents; African American Task Force Against Violence Towards Women; Neighborhood Family Services Coalition; and the Institute for Community Living, Inc.'s Neighborhood Advisory Board. She is also a member of the 369th Kermit Drowery Ladies Auxiliary.

"Giving back" is very important to Helen. She has been a field instructor and a faculty advisor to many social work students at various graduate schools. She has also been an adjunct professor at Adelphi University's School of Social Work's Manhattan Center.

At 75 years of age, Helen says that although there is a lot of work being done to improve the lives of our children and their families, there is still so much more work to be done, that she has no idea when she will retire.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Helen Jordan, as she offers her talents and community services for the good of our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, Helen Jordan's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

#### TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

#### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as Congress recognizes National Kidney Month, I join my colleagues in their efforts to increase awareness about the devastating effects of kidney disease. More than 400,000 Americans must receive life-saving dialysis three to four times each week because their kidneys have failed. In addition, more than 20 million citizens have chronic kidney disease, which is the precursor to kidney failure. Patients with kidney disease experience a gradual deterioration of kidney function that eventually progresses to kidney failure. Patients may live with the disease 10 or more years without outward symptoms before their kidneys fail. Once a patient develops kidney failure, his or her kidney function is so low that without dialysis or kidney transplantation death will occur from accumulation of fluids and waste products in the body.

Recognizing the need to educate my colleagues on kidney disease, I founded and co-chair the Congressional Kidney Caucus with my colleague Representative MARK STEVEN KIRK. Members of the Kidney Caucus are especially concerned about the growing prevalence of this disease.

Mr. Speaker, the leading causes of this disease is diabetes and high blood pressure, which as you are no doubt aware also disproportionately affect African Americans and Latino Americans. Given that early kidney disease has no symptoms, most people do not realize that their kidneys are about to fail. Therefore, it is critically important to increase awareness of the dangers of kidney disease, especially among the African American and Latino American communities. Individuals with high blood pressure and diabetes should ask their doctors to run simple blood and urine tests that can detect kidney disease.

If treated early, individuals with kidney disease will experience an improved quality of life and be able to maintain more daily life activities, including keeping their jobs. In addition, preventing kidney failure and improving care will result in substantial savings for the taxpayer.

I applaud the efforts of my colleagues to raise awareness about this important issue and to show support for Americans living with kidney disease. We must act now to help Americans learn more about this deadly disease and how to prevent its development and progression to kidney failure.

#### A TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY ANN McRAE

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Shirley Ann McRae, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Shirley Ann McRae earned her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management from Nyack College. She also earned Advanced Certificates in Labor Relations from Cornell University's New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Prior to retirement, Ms. McRae worked for MTA's New York City Transit. She was the Senior Director of Employee Programs and Registrations within the Employee Development Unit of the Office of Human Resources.

Shirley Ann McRae is passionate about community service. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Since 1996, Ms. McRae has been an active member of Brooklyn Community Board #2; serving as Chairperson of the Board for the last 4 years. Preceding her appointment to Chairperson of the Board, Ms. McRae was involved in many community board committees including a leadership position as Chairperson of the Open Space Subcommittee.

Ms. McRae currently serves on the board of directors for the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition and was also on the executive board of directors of the Atlantic Center Homeowner's Association since its creation and acted as the board's president for the last 6 years. Ms. McRae is a member of the Fort Greene Association, the Central Fulton Street Business Improvement District Steering Committee, the Community Action Board representing Region #10—Brooklyn Neighborhood Development Areas 1, 2, and 4.

A patron of the arts, Ms. McRae also serves on the board of directors for the Brooklyn Academy of Music Local Development Corporation and the Creative Outlet Dance Theatre of Brooklyn.

Shirley Ann McRae continues to give wholeheartedly to the Brooklyn community. Her dedication and time given to our community are a phenomenal achievement. She has truly made a strong positive impact and for that I ask that we recognize and give thanks to Shirley Ann McRae for her wonderful contribution to our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join our community in honoring Shirley Ann McRae for her dedication and outstanding service to our community.