

the Volunteer Dedication Award given by The San Diego-Imperial Counties, AFL-CIO.

NALC Branch 70 was chartered in 1970, and has had a tradition of volunteering for charities, food drives, and legislative actions.

Unfortunately, due to the Hatch Act of 1939, the working letter carrier was prevented from taking any significant volunteer role in partisan political campaigns until 1993 when the Hatch Act was reformed.

NALC Branch 70, the United States Postal Service (USPS), along with the help of many other unions work together every year (on the 2nd Saturday of May) to collect food from our customers for those in our communities who are in need. This year will mark the 15th anniversary of the NALC Food Drive.

In 1982 the NALC Branch 70 and the USPS established a national program called Carrier Alert, of which Branch 70 is a member. This program, in simple terms, allows elderly and disabled customers to sign up for special attention from their letter carriers. When letter carriers suspect there is trouble they report it. One phone call could save a life; and in fact, lives have been saved through this program. The neighborhood letter carrier is always eager to help monitor the well-being of their customers. It is what letter carriers across the Nation do every day, with or without a formal program.

NALC Branch 70 and the USPS once a year also work with the Lions Club International by collecting eye glasses which are used to distribute to the poor throughout the world and was awarded the International Order of The Lion in 2005 by the Lions Club.

NALC Branch 70 understands it is not just about working together to help their own union, but working together with others so that everyone can have a better life. This is why the NALC Branch 70 is such a proud and distinguished member of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF PARAMUS' D.A.R.E. PROGRAM AT WEST BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Paramus Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of West Brook Middle School. More than 150 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program at West Brook Middle School, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Breanne Babin, Nicole Becker, Tamar Beylerian, Isabella Blanco-Rivas, Nicholas Bushman, Julia Castronovo, Deborah Daoud, Arnold De Masi, Anthony Gallo, Tiffany Hsiung, Alisha Jadhav, Stephen McGuire, Lauren Mihalik, Christina Muller, Hayley Niland, Aisling O'Connor, Justin Ordonez, Jacqueline Paizis, Kevin Perusse, Kimberly Portes, Nicholas Ruso, Zacky Sungkar, Daniel Toppo, Maxwell Wagner, Matthew Warren, Nadia Admani, Christopher Akdemir, Emily Aranda, Varun Bhatt, Miranda Campbell, Gabriel Cepeda, Divya Dasani, Nadine Haddad, Connor Hagen, Noel Hodgins, Brittany Hovan, Kwon-Sung Jung, Kathleen McGee, Leah Paterno-Olivari, Michael Piquero, Brian Polsky, Diego Ramirez, Michael Rullis, Akari Saito, Amitoj Sawhney, Nicole Sicari, Victoria Stable, Nicole Tomic, Mimi Tsang, Alok Vaidya, Shefalee Vohra, Brandon Birdsall, Diana Blanco, Nicholas Bucci, Ryan Bucci, Steven Carrescia, Justin Cochran, Mark Cristaldi, Rebekah Daniel, Joseph Dobrowolski, Aleah Dotson, David Elhananov, Zinath Froogh, Michelle Kim, Emil Lopez, Carla Nilo, Yusuke Oshimizu, Daniel Paolazzi, Rachel Rigolosi, Eric Rosenzweig, Erika Soto, Athanasios Stepas, Michael Thompson, Gregory Vaks, Zachary Yabroudy, Priyanka Abraham, Jafar Ali, Alexandra Arrighi, Matthew Asklings, Nicole Cagar, Alex Castro, Jesse Christie, Tyler Deas, Nicholas Delgiorno, Ariana Delloso, Nina Fiorilla, Dean Fujita, Oscar Gonzales, James Hallihan, Nikolaos Haralambakis, Max Hopkins, Zalaikha Javed, Sofia Koutsoumbis, Matthew Lahanas, Lindsey Lucas, Kayla Mees, Janki Patel, Zachary Reuveni, Ryan Rivera, Liridona Shala, Pratyusha Valiveti, Matthew Alpher, Jason Back, Parita Bhandari, Thomas Bores, Brooke Bukowski, Randy Casallas, Harold Choo, Matthew DeMatteo, Julia Deutmoser, Jana Devaney, Margaret Doyle, Joseph Faris, Laura Heckelmann, Daniel Heidt, Yurina Iijima, Farah Kiki, Michelle Kim, Elyse Krupinski, Maya Peterson, Victoria Petruzzella, Victoria Poplaski, Justine Rizzitello, Adam Ron, Daniel Schauer, Emad Tirmizi, Kevin Tirpanciyan, Lakhini Vyas, George Ayob, Jr., Shannon Barile, Tiffany Buchen, Francis Ciabrone, Alexandra Cooney, Julia Cuomo, Alyssa De Clemente, Julia Delloso, Erika Dipasquale, Jessica Goldman, Jessica Hazuda, Nicole Huaman, Sundesh Kodali, Kimberly La Vecchia, Matthew Lemash, Brian Monticello, Timothy Moran, Deanna Napoli, Shivam Raikundalia, Raquel Riggitano, Jacob Roth, Nicholas Salemme, Karan Shah, Zainab Shahsamand, Donovan Spivey, Carly Turton, Shawn Abraham, Joseph Akdemir, Asha Babu, Rachel Buchbinder, Allison Chang, Daniel Chen, John Chinchar, Inderpreet Dhaliwal, Lindsay Diamond, John Diaz, Sky Digirolamo, Stephanie Edelstein, Julia Gerogiannis, Michael Kim, Gina Kisley, Joseph Lee, Daisy Lee, Grace Lim, Annika Nungra, Alyssa Nungra, John Piccinich, Abraar Quraishi, Alexa Salinardi, Alexander Shater, Courtney Smallze, Rebecca Song, Ashlin Twardzik, Parth Vaidya.

TRIBUTE TO FAYE COWART

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Faye Cowart. Mrs. Cowart has served the community for 38 years as a leader in the area of public education. As an outstanding educator in the Los Angeles Unified School District since 1969, Mrs. Cowart has been dedicated to the promotion of student success and educational achievement.

Mrs. Cowart has been a long time resident of Altadena, CA, and began her career in education as a teacher in the Los Angeles School District. After teaching for several years, she served as a Title I Coordinator, Assistant Principal, and Compliance Coordinator in the Specially Funded Programs Branch. In each of these endeavors, she distinguished herself as a tireless advocate for improving the quality of education for all of our students.

I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating Mrs. Faye Cowart for her dedicated service and commitment to the promotion of quality education. I am sure that each person positively affected by Mrs. Cowart's service will also join me in wishing her much joy in the years to come and great thanks for her time, her energy, and her efforts.

DANIEL VINCENT WILLIAMS FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Vincent Williams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ross has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. For his Eagle Scout project, Ross's leadership helped to replace the wire fencing around the backstop and painting the poles of the Winston R-VI School baseball field. This completes the fifth Eagle Scout project that improves the baseball field.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Vincent Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING COUNCILLOR LEONARD F. O'LEARY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Councillor Leonard F. O'Leary of Salem, MA. Councillor O'Leary recently announced that he would not be seeking reelection. It will be the first time since 1984 when

he was first elected as Councillor of Salem's Ward Four that the O'Leary name will not appear on the ballot.

Lennie honorably served twelve consecutive, two-year terms, and his twenty-four years on the Salem City Council rank him among the longest serving City Councillors in Salem's long and storied history. He earned the respect of his colleagues on the Council over the years as reflected by their electing him Council President on four occasions during his tenure.

Lennie's institutional knowledge made him a valuable resource on the Council as he served as Chair on all of the Council's committees, including the Finance Committee and Committee on Ordinances, Licenses and Legal Affairs. He also served as the longtime Council Liaison to the City's Board of Health. Councillor O'Leary served his country as a member of the National Guard from 1961–1967, and he took great pride in advocating in support of his fellow veterans while on the Council.

In his over two decade long Council career, Lennie was legendary in his devotion to his Ward Four constituents, and he provided them with reliable and responsive service. He kept them informed with regular neighborhood meetings and tended to their every need whether by filing measures to prohibit overnight parking of heavy vehicles in residential neighborhoods or meeting with engineers and DPW crews to make sure road work proceeded in a timely and reasonable manner. Lennie advocated tirelessly for his Ward Four neighbors appearing at hundreds of Board of Appeals, Planning Board, and Conservation Committee hearings to make sure their concerns had a voice and were heard. He was rewarded by support across his Ward that was broad and deep.

Lennie would be the first to admit that he did not do it all alone. He would tell you that he had good friends and that he had good fortune in working with four mayors and countless dedicated colleagues on the Council. However, most important to Lennie was the full and untiring support he received from his wife Mary, who often accompanied him to those late night Council and Board meetings. Mary provided counsel that he could trust.

This week in Salem, Lennie's colleagues, friends, neighbors, and family will gather to celebrate and thank Councillor Leonard F. O'Leary for 24 years of unselfish public service. It is a most appropriate and deserving recognition for someone who has given so much of himself to the City of Salem.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this final legislation to provide emergency supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007. While this final compromise is not perfect, I will vote for it to provide necessary funds for our troops in the field as well as meet other important priorities.

This bill contains more funding than the President requested for military health care and veterans health care. It expresses the support of the U.S. Congress for a new direction in Iraq by tying economic aid to 18 specific benchmarks on political, security and economic progress, although it provides the President the waiver authority he negotiated before agreeing to sign the bill. This bill also includes the first raise in the minimum wage in a decade as well as critical funding for domestic needs like hurricane recovery efforts.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress from both political parties as well as the President and the Administration to provide a new direction in Iraq and to meet the critical needs of the people of North Carolina's Second Congressional District.

H.R. 198 "RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 198, which recognizes the significance of Black History Month.

Madam Speaker, it is easy to forget the past, especially a past that is so painful for so many. But I think we all recognize that the story of blacks in America is one that is truly uplifting and gives us the spirit to believe that any accomplishment is possible if we strive for it.

I want to take this opportunity today to talk about the black history that is too often ignored. Let me start by saying that we all revere the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. We love the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. I am deeply grateful that this Nation has a day to honor Dr. King and that we have a Black History Month so that our children may understand the struggle that black Americans had to endure just to get to this point.

Madam Speaker, the history of blacks in America did not begin and end with the Civil Rights Movement. We need to remind everyone that the America we know today was built in substantial part by the skill, labor, intelligence, and determination of African Americans. These black pioneers succeeded despite the oppression they openly faced.

That's the history I want to talk about today. I want to talk about black Americans whose accomplishments have sometimes been overlooked. Their greatness in the face of adversity is what makes me so proud to be an African American.

So many oppressed people have had to surrender their souls, their hopes and their dreams because of the hardship they have been forced to face. However, black history is full of men and women who faced their hardships head on and refused to accept what they were told was their destiny. Instead, they instead looked at what they were given and dared to believe that not only could they improve upon it, but that they could strive for achievements almost unimaginable to any American. These great figures of black history are our past; they are our future. They are our compass as we move forward into this new generation.

I am proud to be a member of Congress representing the great State of Texas. In the 211 years of congressional history there have been 105 African American Members of Congress. We tend to think that before the Civil Rights Movement black Americans had no ability to represent themselves in government. Despite the tremendous obstacles of intimidation and harassment that were faced by black Americans who sought and won election to political office.

Hiram Rhodes Revels was the first African American member of Congress. During the Civil War, he helped organize Maryland's first two black regiments for the U.S. Army. In February 1870, he was elected from Mississippi to the United States Senate seat formerly held by Jefferson Davis. Hiram Rhodes Revels was in an extraordinary position, not only was he the first African American in Congress only a few years after the Civil War had ended, but he was representing a State where black men had only been in positions of servitude.

His seat in the Senate did not come without great controversy; a great debate arose in the Senate as to whether a man of color was entitled to a seat in our Nation's legislative body. However, it was the great Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts who made the closing argument for Revels' admission, declaring: "All men are created equal, says the great Declaration, and now a great act attests to this verity. Today we make the Declaration a reality."

During his time in the Senate, Hiram Revels voted to forgive officials from the secessionist States, who had broken their oaths to uphold the Constitution, as he made great efforts to unite a war-torn Nation. After leaving the Senate, Revels returned to Mississippi, where he became the founding president of Alcorn College. His life was one of tremendous achievement against the backdrop of the turbulent Reconstruction era.

Almost 100 years after Hiram Rhodes Revels was elected to the U.S. Senate, Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected to Congress, when she was elected to represent New York's Twelfth Congressional District in 1968 running on the slogan, "Fighting Shirley Chisholm—Unbought and Unbossed."

She reflected that spirit well during her 14 years in Congress. During her first term she spoke out for civil rights, women's rights, and the poor and against the Vietnam War. Her first term in Congress was set against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement and the women's movement for equal rights.

Shirley Chisholm had an understanding that during those turbulent times the nation required a determined leader to represent the voice of so many Americans who felt dismay at their treatment. She took an extremely active role in changing the way women were to be judged from that point on. She remarked that, "Women in this country must become revolutionaries. We must refuse to accept the old, the traditional roles and stereotypes."

This is a sentiment that I myself take to heart. Women in this Nation are now told they have a right to determine the kind of life they want to lead; Shirley Chisholm was at the core of this movement.

On January 25, 1972, Chisholm announced her candidacy for President. She stood before the cameras and in the beginning of her speech she said, "I stand before you today as