

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted “aye” on the following roll call votes 837 and 846, and “nay” on the following roll call votes 836, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844 and 845.

JAIME BARTON—“LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR”

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jaime Barton for receiving the “John’s Labor Leader of the Year Award” from the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO.

Jaime Barton began his career with the Cement Masons Local 744 San Diego in 1982 right out of high school. In 1988, Jaime was approached by the financial secretary of the local to become the apprenticeship coordinator for the Cement Masons apprenticeships. In 1990, Jaime was elected as a business agent for the local, a position that he currently serves in today.

In 1999, Jaime graduated from Mesa College with an associate degree and continued his educational quest at the George Meany Labor College with a bachelors degree in the political economics of labor. In addition, Jaime has been a trustee of the San Diego County Cement Mason Trusts Funds since 1992. Jaime is also a speaker, moderator and trustee committee member of the International Foundation of Employee Benefits.

Jaime has been closely involved with the Cement Mason Apprenticeship Dedicated Donation’s Projects which helps many non-profit organizations in San Diego County. Projects completed included the San Diego Blind Center, San Diego Children’s Museum, Habitat for Humanity, several Little League ball parks, elementary schools, Disabled Children’s Homes of San Diego County, the Sheriff’s County SWAT White House Project and at several churches of all denominations.

Jaime recently became a member of the LEAD San Diego Graduate Program, which develops future leaders of San Diego County. Jaime also sits on many boards and commissions, including the San Diego County Building and Trades Council, San Diego Labor Council, the John S. Lyons Memorial Foundation, the City of San Diego Housing and Advisory and Appeals Board, the United Way of San Diego County and the American Red Cross of San Diego County.

Jaime Barton is highly deserving of this award and he received it from a very distinguished labor council that goes far beyond the call of duty on behalf of all working men and women who reside in San Diego County.

IN RECOGNITION OF DETECTIVE ROBERT T. SOLTIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Robert T. Soltis

on the occasion of his retirement, and to thank him for thirty-seven years of service protecting the citizens of Garfield Heights.

Detective Soltis joined the force on January 1, 1970. Since that day he has been dedicated to making Garfield Heights a safer and more vibrant community. Detective Soltis took his obligation to his community seriously, and never has wavered in his commitment to public safety.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the distinguished career of Detective Robert T. Soltis. As he retires to spend more time with his wife, Juanita, and children Robert, Sharon, Lenny, Pamela and Jennifer, I congratulate him for his career of distinction. May his commitment to protection of the public good serve as an example for future generations.

HONORING REVEREND BILLY DEAN

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Billy Dean of Hamilton County, Tennessee. We celebrate Reverend Dean’s 60th year in the ministry and his 77th birthday.

Billy Dean was born on September 20, 1930, to parents James Thomas and Kate Dean. He had four brothers and one sister.

Billy began his religious pursuit in a small country church in Soddy Daisy, Tennessee. He attended Kirkman Vocational High School and graduated in 1950. Billy entered the ministry when he was seventeen and pastured at Shanty Town Baptist on Sand Mountain. Because of his commitment to the ministry, Billy would ride the bus to Trenton and walk up the mountain to church for morning and evening services on Sunday.

Billy married Jo Whitmire in 1953 and became the proud parents of a three year old son, Vince, when they adopted him in 1962. After his marriage Billy attended Tennessee Temple Baptist College in Chattanooga.

Reverend Dean went on to pastor several Baptist churches, including Philadelphia Baptist and Maranatha Baptist, as well as serving as a detective for 28 years at the Chattanooga Police Department. Billy retired from the police department in 1991.

In 1992, Frawley Road Baptist approached Billy to come as interim pastor to help them get through a difficult period for the church. After 15 years, Billy is still pastor at the growing Frawley Road church and his son, Vince, is now Music Director and Associate Pastor.

I have been a friend of Billy Dean for many years. I have firsthand given witness to his extraordinary testimony and even watched his son enter public service as a result of his father’s walk of faith. State Representative Vince Dean carries on the Dean tradition in the Tennessee General Assembly as we hail this family for their lifetime of service and faithfulness to God and His people.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in celebrating Reverend Dean’s birthday and thanking him for his commitment to the Kingdom of God here on earth.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF TEMPE ON THE GRAND OPENING OF THE TEMPE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the gala opening of the Tempe Center for the Arts, in my hometown of Tempe, Arizona. This wonderful event has been years in the making, and is the culmination of the collective efforts of our citizens, volunteers, and city staff under the leadership of a forward-thinking mayor and city council.

This opening could not have happened without the visionary voters of Tempe who, in May 2000, demonstrated their commitment to local arts by passing Proposition 400. That measure dedicated a small source of funding to support the development, construction and operation of the center.

This opening would not be possible without the leadership of the Tempe City Council—both past and present—who under the leadership of former Mayor Neil Giuliano, I showed an unyielding commitment to making Tempe an even stronger community. Their foresight helped make the Center for the Arts one of the hallmark structures along the shore of the Tempe Town Lake—a shining reminder of how the arts can enrich our lives every day.

Let me also recognize the unsung heroes of this project: the Tempe city staff and the army of volunteers who worked every day, and made significant sacrifice, to make this project a reality. Their work serves as a glowing example of what great things can happen Tempeans work together.

Let me tell you something about this magnificent facility. It is a truly multipurpose building with 88,000 square feet, complete with a 600-seat theater, a 200-seat studio, 3,500 square feet of gallery space for showcasing visual art and 3,400 square feet of meeting and event space. The art theme even extends to the outdoors with a 17-acre park and sculpture garden.

The building itself is a work of art designed by Tempe’s own Architekton in collaboration with Barton Myers Associates of Los Angeles. The soaring roofline and expanse of windows overlooking the Tempe Town Lake truly makes this a “jewel in the crown” for the City of Tempe and its citizens.

What I really appreciate about the new Center is that it has been driven by citizen input from the very beginning. At the outset, the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission worked tirelessly on all aspects of the project and stayed true to the vision of a professional level facility which would serve the community.

Just last year, the Friends of the Tempe Center for the Arts formed as a separate non-profit entity whose stated mission is to “support the artistic activities of the Tempe Center for the Arts; support a system of funding through public, private and philanthropic sources; encourage and foster appreciation of the arts for future generations, and help to develop the Tempe Center for the Arts to be known in the community and regionally as a dynamic center for exciting cultural experiences.”

Based on the quality of the finished project, I would have to say that the original vision is well on its way to fruition.

To the thousands of people who had a hand in bringing this wonderful venue to the citizens of Tempe, I say thank you and well done.

HONORING DON BROWNE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work and accomplishments of a visionary leader in the television industry and the impact he has made upon the South Florida community.

With four decades of experience as a journalist, Don Browne is currently the president of the Telemundo Network. He oversees all functions of the Telemundo television network and its 16 owned and operated stations and played a key part in acquiring and integrating Telemundo into the NBC global family.

In a very short time, Mr. Browne led Telemundo from zero original programming to more than 1,000 hours of original prime-time productions a year produced out of Telemundo Studios' production center based in South Florida. During Mr. Browne's tenure, the network has become the world's second largest producer of Spanish-language content, due in part to several initiatives he set forth. Mr. Browne oversaw the launch of the successful Yahoo!Telemundo partnership and the inauguration of the network's state of the art headquarters and news bureau in Mexico City, as well as the successful relaunch of mun2, a Latino channel for youth. Thanks to Mr. Browne's commitment to original programming, Telemundo has carved a unique competitive position in the market, syndicating its programming properties to over 60 countries in more than 20 different languages and distributing its content in a variety of emerging digital media platforms.

After working for CBS for more than a decade, Mr. Browne joined the NBC team, where he earned a national reputation for being particularly active in the recruitment and career development of women and minorities. For example, Mr. Browne is the visionary behind the creation and expansion of the bi-coastal "Taller Telemundo," an innovative educational program designed to discover, recruit and train the next generation of "telenovela" writers and actors. He is also co-founder and board member of the "Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program" for at-risk high school girls. He was a charter member of the NBC News Taskforce on Women and Minorities and currently serves as a member of NBC's Taskforce on Diversity.

Numerous awards and accolades have been given to him in recognition of his dedication to community service. The prestigious Ida B. Wells Award was bestowed on Mr. Browne in 2004 for his commitment to promote diversity in the work place. In 2006, he was the recipient of the Governor of Florida's Points of Light Award for exemplary service to his community.

I am privileged to have a friend in Don Browne and grateful for his service to our

community. It is an honor to celebrate Mr. Browne's 40 years in broadcasting. His foresight and innovation have left an indelible mark on South Florida.

HONORING BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bethel Community Church, a small, non-denominational church in Newberry, Michigan. For 100 years, this church has served as an anchor in the Newberry community, helping its congregation celebrate the good times and weather the bad times.

Bethel Community Church is steeped in local history. Prior to erection of the current church, a group of Christian families first began meeting in the home of Margaret "Grandma" Walker and later held services at Pratt School. The Bethel Community Church was dedicated in August of 1907.

The name of the new church was selected from Genesis 28:17-19, wherein Jacob, after spending a safe night of sleep, established an altar and named the place "Bethel," meaning the House of God. Bethel is further mentioned in Genesis 35:1-15, and is a town 12 miles north of Jerusalem. In the Old Testament, the only place mentioned more often than Bethel is Jerusalem.

Sunday School at Bethel Community Church began in the 1890s and was initiated by "Grandma" Walker, who would hold meetings in her home. When the number of attendees exceeded the capacity of her home, the Sunday School class was moved closer to Pratt School. Margaret "Grandma" Walker's family would remain active in the church and her family would leave an indelible mark on the church's history. "Grandma" Walker's daughter, Gladys Matelski, was more than just a member of the congregation, she was a Sunday School teacher and church organist for more than 50 years before her passing in 1996.

As church attendance continued to grow in the late 1800s, members began talking about building a church home. Around 1901, a Ladies Aid Society was established to begin raising funds toward a church building. In 1905, the present land site was donated by Tom Smith's family and construction began. The early Newberry community rallied together and with members of the congregation volunteering their time and effort to build the church. Tithes provided the funding for the materials.

The original church building is still used today for bible study, worship services, Sunday School services and meetings of the church's "Christian Endeavor Society." Eventually, worship services were held on alternate Sundays with the Christian Endeavor Society.

As a small, non-denominational church, Bethel relies on area ministers to conduct their worship services. Frequently, pastors from the Methodist Church serve in the pulpit, but ministers and pastor from the Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, and Wesleyan churches have all provided services for area residents.

Through the commitment of its congregation, the church continued to improve. In the

1920s, a basement, bathroom and classroom were added to the original church building. In the 1940s, another room was added, creating more classroom area and a dining area for potluck suppers and other church activities. These additions continue to be used for Sunday School, bible study classes, meetings, quilting of the Ladies Aid Society and other functions of this small church—including the upcoming 100th Anniversary celebration.

Today, Bethel Community Church remains a vital part of the local Newberry community, averaging 22 worshipers each Sunday and 10 worshipers for Sunday Bible Study. The church invites area residents and visitors to attend its Sunday services. Presently copastored by Reverends Forrest and Lois Rank, Sunday School/Bible Study is held each Sunday, followed by worship service.

Madam Speaker, this small church has played an important role in the Village of Newberry. This Sunday the people of Newberry will observe Bethel Community Church's 100 years of service. As Newberry honors this pillar of its community, I would ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating the church's congregation and honoring this piece of Newberry's history.

CONGRATULATING CHANDLER LITTLE LEAGUE NATIONAL ALL-STAR TEAM

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chandler Little League National All-Star Team from my home state of Arizona. They played a tremendous season and made it all the way to the United States Semifinal round of the 2007 Little League Baseball World Series.

Arizona is a young state, but is rich in baseball history. Our Cactus League is the home to the Spring Training sites of a dozen major league teams. Future major league stars blossom in the Arizona Fall League. Minor league baseball has long called Arizona home, and our state's collegiate baseball and softball teams frequently outperform their peers.

But I can tell you from experience that in Arizona, we are most proud of our Little Leaguers. We are proud of the boys and girls who play not for money or fame, but for the love of the game. And, today, all of us in Arizona are especially proud of each and every player on the Chandler team.

Over the last six weeks, this group of 13 young baseball stars played their hearts out to achieve an impressive 23 to 3 record. They played in Prescott, Arizona, California and went all the way to Williamsport, Pennsylvania as they represented the U.S. West Division with spirit and determination.

Even more important than learning about how great success on the field can feel, I know the members of this team learned valuable life lessons: the importance of teamwork, what it means to have a teammate depend on you, and why it is important to practice sportsmanship. As a former teacher and coach, I know these lessons are as important as any of the lessons they will learn in the classroom.