

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH TOMASI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, on April 9, our community lost a giant of a man dedicated to the greater good and betterment of all. Joseph Tomasi, lifetime labor union leader and resident of Ohio, passed from this life to the next at the age of 86 after a decade long and valiant struggle with kidney disease. He loved his family and community and devoted his noble life to the cause of working men and women.

For nearly all his life, Mr. Tomasi built the labor movement within Ohio and America. In an effort to stand up for what he believed in, Mr. Tomasi lost his first job because of participation in union activities, and later dedicated his life to this cause. He served our Nation during World War II in the United States Army and was awarded the Purple Heart medal. When he returned, Mr. Tomasi continued to exhibit his dedication to his community by working as the director of Region 2B for the United Auto Workers for 17 years. Even after retirement, Mr. Tomasi helped to establish and served on the board for the Northwest Ohio Cooperative Labor Management Center at the University of Toledo. His efforts there saved thousands of jobs in our region through careful attention to negotiated workouts and settlements and gained respect from all involved.

Joe Tomasi showed compassion to all. He gave back to the community every chance he was given. He served on numerous boards and committees throughout the Northwest Ohio area, always striving to help bridge the gap between management and labor.

Mr. Tomasi's calm and collected manner, his keen insight and unbounding enthusiasm will be missed by all. He always fought for the underdog—in his profession, his community, and his politics. His spirit inspired all those who knew him. May God royally bless him for a life lived for others. We extend our deepest sympathies to Mr. Tomasi's daughter, son, grandchildren, brothers and sister and extended family. We know Joe joins his childhood sweetheart, Evelyn, in the heavens beyond.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH WHALON
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Whalon, 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 264, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

SAFETEA-LU TECHNICAL
CORRECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank our Chairman, JAMES OBERSTAR, for his dedication to our Nation's highways, and for his willingness to work with me on an issue of great importance to Arizona as H.R. 1195 continues its way through the legislative process.

H.R. 1195 makes technical corrections to the law that funds our Nation's highways: the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users ("SAFETEA-LU").

Unfortunately, when the law was drafted, Arizona was left out of a key provision. That provision concerns the Federal funding share that is made available for certain highway projects.

Under existing law, the Federal Government is supposed to assume a larger share for Federal highway projects in states with large portions of Federal lands.

Currently, SAFETEA-LU identifies 6 such states with large amounts of public land.

Unfortunately, Arizona . . . which ranks 3rd in the Nation in public lands . . . was left off that list.

I believe this was a mistake, and should be corrected along with all the other mistakes that H.R. 1195 addresses.

At the time SAFETEA-LU was initially drafted, no one from Arizona served on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and thus, there was no one to bring this omission to the Committee's attention.

I am now proud to serve on that committee.

When we marked up H.R. 1195 earlier this month, I offered an amendment to add Arizona to the list of states with large amounts of public lands which are supposed to receive a higher Federal share.

My amendment was budget-neutral. It would have cost nothing. It would not have reduced any other state's highway funding. Rather, it would have merely given our state . . . a state with more public lands than 47 other states . . . the flexibility it needs to allocate its Federal funding between our various highway projects.

At the Chairman's request, and in exchange for his commitment to work with me on this issue as H.R. 1195 goes to conference committee, I withdrew my amendment. I know the Chairman understands how important this is to Arizona, and I am grateful for his assistance.

I would also like to publicly thank Senator JON KYL, who has been a champion of this issue for years. He has fought hard for this in the Senate, and I know he will do the same again this year. I look forward to working with him as well, for the good of Arizona, when the bill reaches conference committee.

IN HONOR OF THE EQUALITY
RIDERS**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary group of young adults—The Equality Riders—who have dedicated 2 months of their lives, traveling thousands of miles, visiting 32 colleges and universities around the country and talking to countless students, faculty members and staff in pursuit of social justice.

The spirit of The Equality Ride was born out of the recognition that homophobia is globally pervasive and that no country, state, city, community or school escapes its reach. The Equality Ride offers a unique opportunity for student activists to dedicate their time and energy in the pursuit of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered equality through the practice of nonviolent resistance and educational campaigns.

I embrace the spirit of The Equality Ride and these leaders in the fight for social justice. The participants of the Equality Ride as well as its supporters have changed numerous lives, raised awareness and challenged notions regarding homosexuality through both on and off campus activities.

While conducting their work on the various campuses, riders confront some of their harshest critics and engage in structured dialogue with the academic community through classroom presentations, panel discussions, school-wide forums and film screenings as well as informal interactions. Outside of the college and university campuses, communities have welcomed the riders to share in worship, potlucks, fundraisers and meetings.

I applaud these riders and their supporters who have tirelessly waged a campaign of truth based on the nonviolent practices of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi to end the cycle of fear and misunderstanding that causes this vicious form of prejudice. As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, it is my great honor to pay tribute to these visionary young people and congratulate them on their courage, determination and dedication.

RECOGNIZING ALEX J. MARTIN
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex J. Martin, 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 264, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

CONGRATULATING KATY
RHOADES, ELIZABETH GHELETA
AND PATRICIA BROWN ON BEING
AWARDED A JEFFERSON AWARD
FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to three remarkable women in my Congressional District in California. These women are distinguished recipients of the prestigious Jefferson Award for Public Service in 2006. I would like to express my own personal gratitude to these women and share their stories with my colleagues.

Katy Rhoades is an extraordinary volunteer who has devoted herself to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities. She became an advocate for the disabled when her son, Kit, was first diagnosed with spina bifida. Katy left a career in the insurance industry to care full-time for her son. While she worked tirelessly with Kit, she also managed to find the time and energy to work with others with disabilities in San Mateo County. I am happy to announce that her son, now 21, has become a successful, independent young man and is currently enrolled at Cañada College in Redwood City. Katy has continually given of herself, tirelessly advocating for people with disabilities.

Her work on behalf of disabled people includes serving on the San Mateo County

Commission on Disabilities, the Health Plan of San Mateo, the Meals on Wheels Coalition, New Beginning Coalition and the Second Harvest Food Bank. Katy has also worked with the California Children Services and the Far-West Wheelchair Sports Association. Katy developed the "Transition to Independence Fair" to help children with disabilities as they grow into adulthood. This unique fair now takes place every other year and is growing in importance. Katy Rhoades is an incredible ally and friend to people with disabilities. She has made her community in the Bay Area a better place for everyone.

Madam Speaker, Elizabeth Gheleta is another recent winner of the Jefferson Award. She has helped rebuild the lives of thousands of San Mateo County jail inmates and former inmates, and has also provided support and assistance to their children and families.

A long, distinguished career with the San Mateo County Service League has made Elizabeth Gheleta an invaluable and integral part of the agency's history. When Proposition 13 closed down the Service League in 1978, Elizabeth took on a leadership role that salvaged it. She built the Service League into a well-established, non-profit community organization with 25 staff members and over 500 dedicated volunteers.

This tireless and visionary woman expanded local in-jail resources to include educational programs, religious services, substance abuse counseling, and life skills to aid in the transition back into society. Elizabeth's success with the Service League has resulted in similar programs that have given hundreds of former inmates and their families a second chance in life.

Elizabeth Gheleta has spent 38 years with the Service League, and her recent retirement will leave a large void in the agency, but we can all take comfort in the knowledge that she leaves behind a strong and essential pillar of

our community. She refused to give up on prison inmates and has given countless men and women the skills and support they need in order to return to productive lives in our society.

Madam Speaker, the third, and certainly not last, extraordinary woman I want to tell you about is Patricia Brown, who has retired from the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center after 20 years of service. She has been the Executive Director of PCRC since 1992, guiding the non-profit organization in its mission to provide conflict management and resolution services in San Mateo County. This remarkable organization has grown under Patricia's leadership and today trains people to communicate and solve problems together, through constructive means. Through her vision and commitment, conflict resolution today not only involves adults, but children in school as well.

Patricia is also an active community volunteer, involving herself in the creation and development of a number of partnerships, including development of the Multi-Option Alternative Dispute Resolution Program. She has served on the California Judicial Council's Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee and was involved in an innovative alliance of San Mateo County non-profits known as Thrive. A founding member of the California Dispute Resolution Council and its non-profit partner, the California Dispute Resolution Institute, Patricia can point to countless success stories relating to successful conflict resolution.

Madam Speaker, let me recognize with great pride Katy Rhoades, Elizabeth Gheleta and Patricia Brown, three women who have devoted their lives to making our community a stronger, safer and more vibrant place to live. These women are gems in San Mateo County and an inspiration to all of us. I am honored to be able to highlight their accomplishments.