

By working together, the partnership between the labor movement and the environmentalist has become a powerful force for change in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

For his dedication to building alliances between labor and the environmental community, the Executive Board of the Labor Council has named Al Shur our 2009–2010 “Labor Leader of the Year.”

HONORING RICHARD RECHTIEN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard (Dick) Rechten and his business, Rechten International Trucks, which received the prestigious honor of the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

The Circle of Excellence Award is awarded by the international dealer organization of Navistar, Inc., and honors international truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Rechten International Trucks was founded in 1981 and is headquartered in Miami. Under his leadership, it has grown into one of the preeminent truck dealerships in the Southeast and the entire nation, with 188 employees and four dealer locations, including Miami, Riviera Beach, Fort Pierce and Broward County. Dick has served as chairman of the International Dealer Council and of the Florida Trucking Association, and as co-chair of numerous dealer advisory groups for Navistar. With this most recent award, Rechten International will now receive the Circle of Excellence Award, under Dick's leadership, a total of 23 times.

Through his commitment to hard work and outstanding customer service, he has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. Madam Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join with me in congratulating Dick Rechten for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to our South Florida community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 9, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall Nos. 92–94. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 92 “yes”—Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act.

Rollcall No. 93 “yes”—Congratulating Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith for being awarded the Nobel Prize in physics.

Rollcall No. 94 “yes”—Honoring John E. Warnock, Charles M. Geschke, Forrest M. Bird, Esther Sans Takeuchi, and IBM Corporation for receiving the 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation.

HONORING ED GOTTHARDT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late Ed Gotthardt, former Mayor of Seguin, Texas. Mayor Gotthardt served the community through his distinguished business career and great service as mayor for two terms in Seguin, Texas.

Mayor Gotthardt was born on January 1929 in Galle, Texas and passed away of natural causes February 2010 in New Braunfels, Texas. His accomplished lifetime as a businessman and mayor stemmed from his humble beginnings. His childhood was spent on a farm in Galle in a town between Seguin and San Marcos where he learned about produce. He received his education in the public schools of Guadalupe County, where he graduated from high school. At the age of twenty-one, the late Gotthardt was hired as a produce worker at a local grocery store. With a twelfth grade education, he rose through the ranks to store manager, unit director, to the corporate office as a buyer and then as Vice President of Produce Marketing. In the 1980s, he retired having lived during his career throughout the area in Seguin, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi. The late Gotthardt had a thirty-seven year career in the grocery business before serving two three-year terms as Mayor. After his retirement, he later served as President of the H-E-B grocery store retirees' organization.

In 1990, Gotthardt announced that he planned to run for mayor of Seguin. He had not previously held any position in public office, but his involvement with the community and commitment to the people of Seguin aided to his election. His re-election was without opposition, serving as mayor until 1996. During his time in office, Mayor Gotthardt contributed to the city by ensuring that the Sebastopol State Historical Park in Seguin was renovated and dedicated much of his work for those who served their country in the military. He worked on the Veterans Memorial at the Guadalupe County Courthouse extensively. The late Mayor Gotthardt was recognized for his tireless efforts to ensure the community and people were provided the services needed.

Along with his business career and terms as Mayor of Seguin, the late Gotthardt was a member of Seguin Masonic Lodge AF&AM 109, Alzafar Shrine, Elks Lodge 1229, Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 555, the Seguin Chamber of Commerce, the Seguin Rotary Club and the Comal County Seniors Center. His leisure time was spent with the Seguin Chamber of Commerce, senior center, and with his family.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the late Ed Gotthardt, former Mayor of Seguin, Texas on his contributions to the community.

HONORING MS. ERIN CONATON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Erin Conaton, the Majority Staff Director of the House Armed Services Committee, who leaves our staff today to become the new Under Secretary of the Air Force.

Madam Speaker, this is a bittersweet moment for me. I have come to depend upon Erin Conaton as a trusted advisor and friend since she joined the House Armed Services Committee staff in 2001. Seldom does one person have the combination of talent, good judgment, knowledge, devotion to duty, common sense, and, as we say in Missouri, “good get along,” but Erin is blessed with all of these qualities. And while I am not happy about losing her to the Pentagon and no longer working with her on a daily basis, I know that our country will not just be in good hands, but better hands, with Erin as Under Secretary of the Air Force.

Erin has an impressive academic and professional background. She holds a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Before becoming a Congressional staffer, Erin was highly recommended to me as a result of her outstanding work as the Research Staff Director for the U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century, also known as the Hart-Rudman Commission.

Erin joined the House Armed Services Committee staff in 2001, serving as a Professional Staff Member covering a range of defense policy issues. In 2005, she became the committee's Minority Staff Director. And at the start of the 110th Congress in 2007, Erin assumed the post of Majority Staff Director, serving all of the members of our committee and overseeing the committee's 70-person staff. She has run the House Armed Services Committee as well as anyone in my 33 years in Congress.

In the nine years that I have had the privilege to know and work closely with Erin, she has consistently demonstrated her leadership ability, mastery of national security issues, and dedication to our men and women in uniform. Erin's work ethic is unparalleled, but more importantly, she has a rare gift for getting along with people. Despite the demands of working on Capitol Hill, Erin is unflappable and approaches every challenge with a level head, whether working with Members of Congress, Congressional staff, or Administration officials.

I am delighted that the Obama Administration recognized that Erin Conaton would be an excellent nominee for the next Under Secretary of the Air Force. I can't brag on her enough, and I am pleased that the other body confirmed her nomination last week. I know Erin will make us proud as she continues her career in public service with the Department of the Air Force, and I wish her all the best as she takes on this new challenge.

HONORING DOUGLAS MALONEY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Marin County counsel Douglas Maloney who passed away on February 17, 2010 at his home in San Rafael, California. Serving on the legal frontlines of county government for more than three decades, Marin has greatly benefited from his unwavering dedication and skilled advocacy of the public's best interest.

Born in San Francisco in 1933, Mr. Maloney, a 50-year member of the California Bar Association, received his bachelor's degree from the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, California, and his law degree from the University of San Francisco. A world traveler, voracious reader, exceptional public speaker, and a prolific writer, Doug Maloney loved life!

It was Doug Maloney who led the county's legal defense of the "Marin-only" provision in Ross philanthropist Beryl Buck's multi-million-dollar bequest. Maloney took on the San Francisco Foundation's challenge to spend the millions on needs beyond the county borders. With an outstanding legal team, he presented strong arguments upholding the Buck bequest and proving that, despite Marin's affluence, there were plenty of needs right in the county that could use financial assistance. The 1986 court-approved settlement transferred the Buck Trust to newly formed Marin Community Foundation to focus funds on research into aging, advocacy against alcohol abuse and research into educational issues. Had that battle been lost, Marin would be a far different place.

The legal engineer of land-use restrictions that saved West Marin from suburban sprawl, Maloney successfully defended the county's 1972 zoning restrictions designed to preserve and protect West Marin farmland and the ranching lifestyle. Challenged in 1989, Maloney won a federal court decision upholding the zoning restrictions and turning back a lawsuit by a Chicago landowner wanting to carve up his 561-acre Nicasio ranch. While we may take our open space and ranch lands for granted, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the vision, political courage and legal skill of Douglas Maloney.

A man of great personal integrity and not one to back away from a rousing legal argument, Doug was good humored and a passionate follower of film and stage. He enjoyed rewriting fashionable Broadway shows and stage musicals, putting on a Marin spin and political satire to benefit local causes, complete with titles like, "As the Candidate Turns," "Damn Yuppies" and "Caucus Line." A popular op-ed columnist for the Alarín Independent Journal, readers enjoyed his musings and appreciated his skill at weaving literature, history, politics, opinion and the proverbial Marin angle into his biweekly essays.

Doug Maloney was a devoted husband and father. In addition to his sister, Marion Berger of Redding, California, Mr. Maloney is survived by his wife of twenty-two years, Ellen Caulfield of San Rafael, Marin County, six children, ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Douglas Maloney will be missed by so many who shared in his work

and vision. A man of letters and the law, he practiced what he preached. It is fitting to recognize his extraordinary efforts on behalf of Marin County and its residents. I join the many people who will miss Doug Maloney's inspiration, friendship, bright spirit, and clever quotes delivered with perfect timing and meaning.

HONORING SOL PRICE: A TRUE
FRIEND OF LABOR**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, few in the business world have had as great of an impact on building the middle class as San Diego's own Sol Price.

When Price passed away in December, San Diego's middle class lost possibly its greatest advocate in the business world. Price's Fed-Mart stores, and later Price Club, were known for skimping on the luxuries of modern chain retailers. The bulk stores occupied warehouses in out-of-the-way locations, avoided unnecessary displays, and limited advertising to essentially word-of-mouth only. Besides low prices, the one thing his stores did invest in was its employees. The Price business model realized that the happiness of customers, employees, and stockholders are not mutually exclusive. At Sol Price companies, all three could be, and were, successful.

"We think the stockholder comes last," Price told Wall Street analysts in 1985. "But if you do the other three jobs well, (the stockholder) will be taken care of." This method of business resulted in all Price Club employees, union and non-union, receiving "close to the highest prevailing wages in the community."

Sol Price's legacy lives on today, as the average wage of Costco employees is \$19 per hour, with 90 percent receiving health care. A far cry from the disturbing trend of retail stores becoming low-wage outposts.

In San Diego County, workers at several Costco stores are proud members of Teamsters Local 542.

For these reasons, Sol Price will always be remembered as a friend of labor.

CONGRATULATING THE VOLK
FIELD COMBAT READINESS
TRAINING CENTER FOR RECEIVING A 2009 AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center for receiving a 2009 United States Air Force Organizational Excellence Award. The National Air Force award recognizes the Western Wisconsin based Airmen to be among the top Air Force units in the nation.

The Volk Field Unit Airmen have consistently demonstrated a high level of excellence and efficiency in their service to the Wisconsin Air National Guard. Volk Field is one of four

Combat Readiness Training Centers in the nation and the only selected for this top Air Force Award in 2009.

The citizen-Airmen at Volk Field provide an invaluable service to our nation in supporting the National Guard, the Reserve, and inter-agency training and operational needs. This award sets the Volk Field unit apart from similar units and congratulate them on this outstanding achievement.

I commend the strong leadership of Volk Field's Combat Readiness Training Center Commander Colonel Gary Ebben and the great work of both the civilian staff and the men and women in his unit. I am proud to represent such dedicated and hardworking Wisconsin citizens committed to public service.

The Volk Field unit exemplifies the great work ethic that characterizes the citizens of Western Wisconsin. I anticipate continued achievements from the Wisconsin Air National Guard units.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLARA
WHITE'S 60 YEARS OF VOL-
UNTEERISM AND SERVICE TO
THE GREATER PONTIAC COMMU-
NITY**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Clara White, a native of Michigan and Pontiac resident, for her lifelong dedication to volunteerism and community service. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Mrs. White for her many accomplishments and to thank her for her dedication to strengthening our shared communities.

At 86 years old, Mrs. White has spent over six decades giving back to the people and institutions of Pontiac through her countless hours of volunteer work. Her volunteer efforts are even more impressive considering that for 20 years of this time she also worked as a social worker for Oakland County Children's Village and raised a family with her husband, William, to whom she was married for 52 years.

A major facet of Mrs. White's 60 years of volunteer service centers around her work with the National Urban League's local organization in Pontiac. The Urban League is a national civil rights organizations dedicated to improving the lives of urban area residents. Her involvement with the Pontiac Urban League even included two terms as Chairman of its Board of Directors. In 1996, for her outstanding dedication and service, she was awarded the honor of "Living Legend" from the National Urban League. After 50 years of volunteerism with the National Urban League Mrs. White was awarded with the Diamond Urban League Pin, an honor very few Urban League members ever receive.

In addition to her work with the Urban League, Mrs. White shared her vitality of spirit and passion for community service with many other community organizations which have had a profound positive impact on the Pontiac community. Mrs. White's served on the Executive Board of Pontiac Youth Assistance, aiding the organization in its efforts to support Pontiac youth and prevent truancy. Mrs. White's