

great State of Michigan. Michael was active in Michigan's 16th Congressional District of the Democratic Party, which he joined in 1950. Michael became a precinct delegate, then a member of the Executive Board, and finally a member of the Democratic State Central Executive Committee, a position he retained until 1964.

Under Michael's leadership from 1964 until 1972, the 16th Congressional District became one of the most powerful congressional districts in the State of Michigan, and grew in the 1960s into the largest in the United States. Michael led the district with an extraordinary sense of fairness and discipline.

Michael was one of the best district chairmen the 16th District ever had. He was smart as all get out, hard-working and he had a great sense of policy and public interest. His sensitivity and honesty always kept the district in good shape. In over 50 years in Congress, the 16th District had many good chairmen, in fact, we have never had a chairman I didn't respect, admire and love, and Michael was amongst the best of them.

Michael Berry went on to serve as the long-time chairman of the Wayne County Road Commission. The International Terminal at Detroit Metro Airport and the Michael Berry Career Center in Dearborn were named in his honor. He was awarded the National Order of Cedar by the Lebanese government on October 21, 1993, and was the recipient of the 1998 Ellis Island Medal of Honor—among many other honors.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in wishing Sir Michael Berry, a truly great American, a very happy 90th birthday.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID L. NICHOLS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of my mentor, teacher, and dear friend David Nichols who passed away at the age of 81 on March 11, 2010. David is survived by his four beautiful children . . . Mark of Oregon, Paul of Hillsborough, Beth DeGolia of Alamo, Stu of Los Altos, his beloved seven grandchildren, his daughter-in-laws and son-in-law. His beloved wife Edie preceded him in death.

David Nichols was born in Turlock, California and received his Bachelor of Science and Master's Degree in Business Administration at the University of California at Berkeley. David was the captain of the varsity basketball team at the university and it was also where he met the love of his life and future wife, Edith (Edie) McEwing who was then the Student Body Vice President.

When he graduated from Cal, David took his first job in Contra Costa County as an Assistant Administrative Analyst. This position was followed by a 35 year career of distinguished public service that shaped the lives of residents of Sonoma and San Mateo Counties. In 1955, David went to Sonoma County as an Assistant County Administrator, and in 1968, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors appointed him Chief Administrative Officer. In January 1977, David became the

County Manager of San Mateo County where he remained until his retirement in 1989. There was a point in time when David, as San Mateo County's Manager and his son Paul worked in the same building as a Deputy District Attorney. His son mentioned that even though they worked in the same building they would rarely go out to lunch because David would instead have lunch at home with Edie.

Throughout his distinguished tenure in county government, David was involved in a number of professional organizations, regional governments and regulatory bodies. They include the Association of Bay Area Governments, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Coastal Commission, Bay Vision 2020 Commission and the National Association of County Administrators, where he served as President in 1977. While he was actively participating in all these organizations, David remained a staunch supporter of the University of California Alumni Association and the Bear Backers who support athletic programs. Beside his family, Cal was without a doubt, the other great of his life.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of David Nichols and that we express our deepest condolences to the Nichols family on their loss. I am especially blessed to have had him as a mentor, a teacher, and friend during the many years I served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, with David as County Manager. David Nichols had a deeply held regard for public service. He treated all employees with respect and made sure those who worked with him were always faithful in the execution of the public trust. He lifted all of us to a higher standard and it was his unquestioned integrity that established a 'gold standard' in everything we did in service to the people we represented. We are indeed a better country and a better people because of David Nichols and his extraordinary legacy of public service, as well as a life with values. America was blessed to have him as a son and a servant of the people.

HONORING JOSEPH PETERS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Peters, who is retiring as Director of the United Automotive Worker's Region 1 in Michigan. Our friendship and working relationship spans the many issues important to working Americans—trade, automotive, and health care—we worked on throughout the years, and it is my pleasure to pay tribute to him today.

Mr. Peters first joined the UAW in 1967 and, in the decades since, has been a tireless advocate for automotive workers. Certainly, the past few years have been ones of tremendous challenge for the automotive industry, and Mr. Peters' dedication to preserving the industry, strengthening it for the future, and supporting the jobs of its employees, was steadfast.

A native of Highland Park, Michigan, Mr. Peters began his career with the UAW Local 400 at the Ford Motor Company Mount Clemens Paint Plant. In 1978, he was elected to serve as the midnight shift committeeman

of the Ford Utica Trim Plant and quickly gained recognition for his hard work and dedication: he was elected to the plant bargaining committee in 1981, chairman of the Utica Plant in 1984, vice president of Local 400 in 1985, and president of Local 400 in 1986.

Mr. Peters was appointed to the UAW International Staff in 1988 and served for the next eleven years in the Union's National Ford Department. There, he was responsible for health, safety, benefits and job security issues, and was involved in four national negotiations. He became assistant director of Region 1 in 1999 and was elected the Region's director in 2005.

Despite this accomplished career, Mr. Peters cites as his greatest achievement the "No Child Without Christmas" foundation. This program brings together union workers, community leaders, and businesses to provide clothing, food, and gifts to thousands of homeless, neglected, or abused children each year during the holiday season.

Mr. Peters' commitment to improving the lives of those around him is unyielding. He has a kind heart, an intense focus on what is important to workers and communities, and a loyalty to purpose and people. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Peters on the occasion of his retirement after more than forty years with the UAW and decades of community and public activism. We recognize his many achievements and extend to him and his wife, Ann, and their entire family our best wishes.

TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLION MOM MARCH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the 10-year anniversary of the Million Mom March and to recognize its efforts to put an end to gun violence. This historic event united approximately three-quarters of a million people, making it the largest protest against gun violence. Celebrating its 10-year anniversary, this event sparked a network of activists supporting a national push to achieve commonsense gun laws. For this, I celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Million Mom March, for its efforts in promoting the safety of our communities.

On May 14, 2000, thousands of activists from all parts of the country arrived in Washington, DC, to promote and defend gun safety. The Million Mom March was made possible by those who tirelessly made calls and campaigned for the importance of their cause. The historic turnout of this day proved that the fight for gun safety is strong and will persevere until commonsense legislation is passed.

On that same day as the march, the Washington Post and ABC News reported that out of 1,068 polled adults, approximately one in ten stated they have been shot at and almost one in four had experienced a gun pointed at them. Since the march, approximately 872,247 people have been killed or injured with guns, but there is no telling how many lives were saved through education and advocacy for gun safety. As the Million Mom March celebrates its 10th anniversary, it is a great time

to reflect on the importance of protecting the safety of our community, and educating others on gun safety.

The Million Mom March is an inspiring event in history, and I am immensely proud of all Americans, both past and present, that fight to stop gun violence. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress toward the Million Mom March and the event's ongoing impact on our nation's safety.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague to congratulate the National Urban League for 100 years of service to the people of America.

The Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes was established on September 29, 1910, in New York City. This group later became the Urban League. The group was formed to address the needs of African-Americans escaping the oppressive Jim Crow South. Opportunities in the North were few and far between and de facto segregation had forced many blacks into marginal roles in society. These conditions were still preferable to the state-imposed second-class citizenship of the South. In its first 10 years, after mergers with other groups fighting for gender equality and worker safety, the Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes changed its name to the National Urban League.

Even at its founding, the Urban League was an open and progressive organization. Mrs. Ruth Standish Baldwin, Dr. George Edmund Haynes and Professor Edwin R. A. Seligman of Columbia University all played critical leadership roles in the organization during its infancy.

The organization counseled black migrants from the South, helped train black social workers, and worked in various other ways to bring educational and employment opportunities to blacks. Its research into the problems blacks faced in employment opportunities, recreation, housing, health and sanitation, and education spurred the League's quick growth. By the end of World War I the organization had 81 staff members working in 30 cities.

The Urban League was a crucial supporter of A. Philip Randolph's 1941 March on Washington Movement to fight discrimination in defense work and in the armed services. Additionally, the Urban League hosted, at its New York headquarters, the planning meetings of A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights leaders for the 1963 March on Washington.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its history, the Urban League has been on the right side of America's most pressing issues. Whether it has been gender equality, workers' rights, or civil rights, America can count on the Urban League to hold it accountable to its promise of equality and opportunity for all citizens. Our country has been forever changed for the better by the efforts of the Urban League. All of our lives have been touched by and benefited

from the work they have done and continue to do.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN LEGION MILTON L. BISHOP POST NO. 301

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Legion Milton L. Bishop Post No. 301 of Connellsville for signing the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

In his Second Inaugural Address, Abraham Lincoln urged the country to "care for him who shall have borne the battle." By signing the Armed Forces Community Covenant, the members of Post No. 301 have assumed this high moral obligation. They are committed to improving the quality of life of service members and their families. With this solemn pledge, the members of Post No. 301 recognize the importance of caring for those who put their lives on the line for our country's safety and freedom. It is a great act of patriotism and human decency.

The Connellsville Legion's commitment to service members and their families is truly admirable. I commend Post No. 301 for volunteering its time and efforts to this worthy cause, and I thank the Post for its devoted citizenship.

BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION CON- DEMNING MALAWI'S HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bipartisan resolution calling on the Government of Malawi to immediately release two prisoners of conscience—Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven Monjeza—and to address the pervasive violation of human rights in the country and the criminalization of consensual sexual conduct by adults.

Messrs. Chimbalanga and Monjeza were arrested at their home on December 27, 2009, after holding a traditional engagement ceremony. These two men now stand accused of "committing acts of gross indecency," punishable by up to 14 years in prison under Malawi's law. They have been repeatedly denied bail and subjected to psychiatric evaluation without their consent. While in prison, Mr. Monjeza's health has gravely deteriorated.

In prosecuting two innocent individuals solely on the basis of consensual sexual conduct, the Malawian authorities have severely violated the fundamental human rights of Mr. Chimbalanga and Mr. Monjeza under international law.

Amnesty International has declared these men "prisoners of conscience", and Human Rights Watch and other organizations have called for their immediate release.

The final ruling that will decide the fate of these men is expected on May 18, 2010.

Today, with my colleague from Wisconsin, Representative TAMMY BALDWIN, I call on the

Government of Malawi to immediately release these two individuals and for Secretary Clinton to closely monitor human rights abuses in Malawi.

HONORING MARIA RODRIGUEZ FOR A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate decades of service to the community by a longtime and dear friend, both to me and my husband and to the children and families of New Haven, Connecticut: Maria Rodriguez.

Elected to New Haven's Board of Aldermen in 1976, Maria has the distinction of being the first Hispanic alderperson in the history of our city. But that service was only the beginning of her contributions to our city and state. For as long as I have known her, Maria has given of herself to the people around her, and has worked to make New Haven a richer, more vibrant, and more compassionate community.

Indeed, Maria has spent a lifetime doing so. She began her career in the early 1970s as a trained mental health therapist at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, where she worked day in and day out to improve the experience and the quality of life of Hispanic families in the Greater New Haven area. As my husband Stan, Maria, and I worked on so many local political campaigns then, we became great friends. She helped us to forge many wonderful friendships in New Haven's Hispanic community. She is a tireless worker and a strong ally.

After receiving her Masters from Southern Connecticut State University in 1983, and spending a year as a key and valuable aide to my predecessor, Bruce Morrison, Maria soon moved into full-time social work. For over 25 years, through organizations such as the Connecticut Board of Education, Family Counseling of Greater New Haven, and Latino Youth Development, Inc., she provided therapy to families and students in need of mental health care.

In her off-hours, Maria kept on giving. From serving on the board of the YMCA to tutoring students in her free time, she has always looked for more ways to help those in need and to improve our city. And, now that she has decided to retire from the Connecticut Board of Education, I can only expect she is already thinking of new ways to volunteer her time and her effort.

For that is who Maria is. For decades now, she has continued to infuse our community with her warmth and energy, her caring and compassion. I thank her deeply for her service to the families of New Haven, and for her years of friendship to me. And I congratulate her and her family—her husband Alquilino, her son Paul, and daughter-in-law Bunny—on reaching this milestone. Congratulations, Maria, you have earned it.