

Marine and patriot, has been an example and a role model to many Americans who have the deepest respect for America's symbol and should be commended.

I am a member of the Citizens Flag Alliance, a Marine Veteran and a United States Citizen.

While on the show, I was read a telegram alleged to have been written by Senator Bob Kerry, or one of his aides, on his thoughts of not defending my right to have the U.S. Senate pass Resolution 31.

He speaks before the Members of the United States Senate as a United States Senator. He does not speak as a private citizen or as a voter and he does not speak as a Veteran. He speaks as a Representative of the people of these United States. The majority of the People of the United States want this Amendment passed. As do the people in his own home state.

In that telegram, he mentioned that he was a Navy Seal in Vietnam. At the time he was in his mid-twenties. I am positive that his opinion at that age would be to defend the Flag of this Nation and it would be the same feeling of all his Comrades.

Then how, since for about 100 years until 1989 there have been laws to protect the Flag of the United States and this had nothing to do with changes in our Nation, can he say that, in essence, our Flag does not need this Protection Amendment.

On that television show, there was another guest speaker, who would allow the burning, who kept insisting that we should not "amend our Bill of Rights". What she apparently forgot was that those original Bill of Rights were the first ten Amendments to the original Constitution of 7 Articles and were declared in force on Dec. 15, 1791.

Also, she would have done well, as should anyone against this Amendment, to read the preamble to that Bill of Rights.

No Veteran was ever told that he would protect the Right of someone to urinate upon, burn or otherwise desecrate the Flag he had sworn to protect and defend and honor.

Senator Kerry feels that there is no need to pass this Resolution because of the few incidents that may occur. My reply to that is that incidents will always occur and can increase in tremendous numbers. But that does not make flag desecration acceptable without accountability for those actions.

All any of those opposed to this Resolution need to do is to actually read the content and purpose of all those previous Amendments.

So . . . all of you who speak against this Amendment . . . who are you really speaking for???

Certainly not the Navy Seals, not the U.S. Marines, not the Army, not the Navy, not the Air Force, not the police and, most importantly, not the nearly 260 million American people and their representatives in both the State assemblies and State Senates. All these Americans want the flag protection resolution passed at the Federal level!!!!

You, at the Federal level, who are opposed to this Resolution . . . why don't you ask your own Constituents in your home States to vote on this??? You already know what they want!!!

So, just who do you represent by your opposition to your own people's will????? Not most of America!

The American Flag always brings our Nation together, rich or poor, in good times or bad. This Symbol is recognized the world over for the good that we have done and will do now and forever for as long as we have this Flag and the Honor and Respect for it that it so richly deserves. Do we, as Americans, really believe that the passage of this

Amendment will, in any way, harm or detract from, the Bill of Rights and the Constitution?? I say no!!!!

The Rights of all Americans guaranteed under the First Amendment (the argument that opponents are using to stop this Protection Amendment) have already been taking away by that Supreme Court decision in 1989.

This Amendment does not remove Rights . . . it restores them!

It does not remove the Rights of destructive scores . . . but it does restore the rights of constructive millions!

Please pass Senate Resolution 31 and House Resolution 79!!!!

If you do not heed the generous voices of millions of Americans then whose selfish voices do you heed????

Search your hearts for that age when you were in the service and not a Senator . . . when someone worried that you may not be coming home at all. You and your Comrades felt that Flag Desecration was wrong then and most feel that way now which is why those same Comrades want this Protection Amendment passed.

I want to be heard in the Congressional Chambers but I cannot because I am not a U.S. Senator or Congressman.

However, I do represent millions of Americans who want this desecration stopped.

Honor those Comrades-in-Arms and those Citizens who have a dedication to, and love for, this Nation.

I, personally have walked over 400 miles holding the American Flag and have heard the cheers and cries of Americans who also want their Flag Federally protected. I, personally, have heard and spoken with thousands of Americans as we walked through the land to Honor our Flag.

The oldest man to walk with me (now 65) was a Marine Veteran of the Korean War and survivor of the Chosin Reservoir battle as well as being 100% D.A.V. One of the statements made by him relative to Flag protection was: "I feel very strongly (about it) . . . it's something I believe in. I lived for it. I fought for it and I'd die for it". In all of the time of the two walks (covering 2 years) he spoke only once about that battle. It was in a Firehouse when we stopped for a rest on the walk to Washington and where he met another Marine who also had been there. They spoke of the overwhelming odds of fighting off about 120,000 communist troops against our nearly 15,000 in sometimes 60 below zero weather. From this and other battles he somehow lived long enough to walk for the Honor of the American Flag 44 years later. His son did years in the Marines and now is in the Army flying helicopter gunships.

If you can figure a way that we will not lose thousands of lives in wars . . . lives which will be honored with and by their American Flag . . . Fine!!! But it never can be. Honor thy Flag as "thy Mother and thy Father".

I, personally, have never sought harsh punishment.

As a Representative of those who gave you the key to the hearts of America by their vote for you and trust in you . . . PASS THIS BILL!!

Those who put you in office . . . the average persons . . . trust them!

Give them that which you already know they want . . . their American Flag to be protected.

Let it be said by all that, at least, this Nation protects, reveres and honors its Symbol with, dignity, respect and justice!

If someone makes a mistake, the system in our courts will not be harsh but they must be just.

I thank you for your time and I hope you will pass the Resolution in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Please pass on this information by reading any part of all of it to our Senators and Congressmen on the floor of our Congress.

I thank you for our Nation.

Always for Flag and Country

RON JAMES

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mount Clemens Rotary Club. Next Friday evening, June 2, 1995, the club is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Officially chartered on May 1, 1920, the initial 19 members of the Mt. Clemens Rotary were some of the first of what is now an international organization with over a million members.

Begun in Chicago in 1905, the Rotary was established by Paul Harris, an attorney who hoped to meet individuals from other professions and encourage civic responsibility. The Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" is exemplified by the members of the Mount Clemens Rotary Club. The club originated, organized, and to this day continues to support the Macomb County Crippled Children's Society of the Easter Seals, one of the first crippled children's societies organized in the State of Michigan. They have sponsored projects to aid the aged, our youth, the ill, the poor, the illiterate, and the homeless. Over 105 charitable and civic organizations have been supported with time, energy, and over one million dollars during the past 75 years.

Taking an active role in one's community is a responsibility we all share, and the members of the Mount Clemens Rotary have been fulfilling this role for 75 years. Of the 25,000 Rotary Clubs in 184 countries, none are any more devoted to improving their community or the world than the Mount Clemens Club. Their contributions are many and they deserve our gratitude for their compassion, hard work, and good will.

I applaud all the Rotary members who serve our communities around the world and encourage them to continue their good work. I urge my colleagues to please join me in saluting the Mount Clemens Rotary Club on the event of their diamond anniversary.

JOHN BURTON: SUI GENERIS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, for those of my colleagues who served with John Burton in this House or have known him otherwise, there's no need for me to say that John is a one and only. The brother of the late Phil Burton, John is now an Assemblyman in the California legislature representing the city of San Francisco.

Sunday, April 9, 1995, the San Francisco Examiner Magazine published a feature that catches the essence of the John Burton I know and love. John tells it the way it is and he doesn't spare himself. His commitment to

his constituents, especially those that can use a helping hand, comes through loud and clear, as does his love for his city.

Some might ask why, in these days of penny-pinching stewardship, I devote limited resources to spreading the John Burton story over a few lines of this RECORD. Anyone with an ounce of compassion will know after reading what follows. Serving the public involves more than a green eye shade and a sharp pencil. John Burton has that extra ingredient. Maybe by putting these words before my colleagues some of what John Burton has will rub off. I hope so.

[From the San Francisco Examiner Magazine, Sunday, April 9, 1995]

THE LAST TANGLE

(By Edvins Beitiks)

Caught up in the memory of Jimmy Durante's how's-by-you scene from *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Assemblyman John Burton swung around in his chair, imaginary fedora tipped back on his head, imaginary nose groaning under the weight of a Hollywood gone by, ran his fingers across an invisible piano on the desktop in his office and sang, "Didju ever have the feeling that you wanted to go and still have the feeling that you wanted to stay. . ."

Burton laughed. "Saw Durante in Vegas once," he said. "What a show. I goddamn tingled."

There are other names that get Burton smiling: Burl Ives, doing his version of "Big Rock Candy Mountain." Louis Prima and Keely Smith. Phil Harris and "That's What I Like About the South." June Christy singing "Something Cool."

Burton remembered listening to Christy on the hi-fi in the mid-'50s, when he pulled a tour with the 2nd Armored in Germany. "Midnight Sun" "I'll Take Romance," he said. "That got me through the Army."

When California's term limit kicks in on the veteran Democrat, forcing him to leave office in 1996, he'll be going back to Ives, Harris and Christy for some soothing words. Not that he needs to be soothed—politics these days isn't what it used to be, said Burton, and leaving the Assembly won't be that hard.

"It's tougher to do the public's business, every day," he said. "You're fighting a battle against people who want to cut off a whole hand. I've never been one to take any satisfaction in being able to say, 'We saved two fingers.' I've never been happy with saying, 'Well, we got them to cut only \$10 instead of \$20 from the old people's pension.' That's no thrill for me."

These are miserly times, said Burton, who publicly underlined his disgust by introducing legislation at the end of last year to "criminalize" poverty. His Swiftian bill, AB44, suggested that if a family of four "intentionally or maliciously" falls below the federal poverty guideline of \$14,763, the parents should go to jail.

Republicans brushed the bill off as another piece of windmill-tilting by Burton, but the longtime liberal said he just wanted some honest debate on the issue. At the time, he explained: "Maybe during the hearings it might come out that . . . you can't make it a crime for someone to be poor because a lot of people don't want to be poor."

Sitting behind the desk at his Sacramento office, Burton said, "It was something I felt like doing. The idea is to let somebody have a reasonable chance at a decent job and a good standard of living. You know, people don't want to be poor. They don't want to live that way.

"I'm very pessimistic at the way things are going," he said. "Your basic Republican

comes goddamn near to being an anarchist. They accuse the Democratic party of steam-rolling, but they did something Democrats haven't done—threatening their moderates that if they don't go along with this b.s. they won't get committee chairs, they won't get anything."

Republicans have also pushed for a constitutional amendment on a balanced budget—a concept Burton has always opposed. "It's government by minority," he said. "Businesses are allowed to go into debt, individuals are allowed to go into debt, individuals are allowed to go into debt to buy a home or a car. But to say the entity responsible for providing the common defense and promoting the general welfare . . . isn't allowed to go into debt? That's crazy."

After 30 years of political give and take, said the 62-year-old Burton, "The thing I miss most is . . . your word is your bond. A guy gave you a handshake and that was it. No more."

Although he didn't see eye to eye with former governor George Deukmejian, Burton acknowledged that "Duke at least stood up for what he said. And Ronald Reagan, for all his faults, was much more human than Pete Wilson."

Burton dismissed the current governor as "this p— —. He's not reactionary. He's not moderate. He's nothing. He was for affirmative action when it was popular, now he's against it. It was OK to bring in Mexican farmworkers, now he's against immigration. I don't like people like that."

He hasn't changed much since his first election to the Assembly in 1964, Burton said, "except that I'm more tolerant of viewpoints different than mine. I don't consider that members who are conservatives are, on the face of it, fascists, although some right-wingers would put on brownshirts in a minute if they could."

Burton learned to distrust conservatives on his daddy's knee. His father, Thomas, was a traveling salesman who decided to go to medical school when he was 36 years old and brought his family west to set up shop in San Francisco—making house calls in Hunters Point, not charging patients who couldn't pay.

"The guy always had a social conscience," said Burton. "He was always very color-blind. . . . I can remember driving once down Golden Gate with him and we saw these kids playing, 6 to 7 years old, black and white, and he said, 'Kids that age don't have a problem, but when they grow up they're told, 'You can't play with those people.'"

Thomas Burton, a native of Indiana, was an early supporter of Franklin Roosevelt and the liberal wing of the Democratic party. "In 1956, he sent a \$1,000 check to Adlai Stevenson, which was a lot of money for anybody, much less our family," Burton said.

His father's liberal leanings were passed on to his three sons, starting with Phillip Burton. "He ran the first time in 1954," John Burton said of his legendary older brother. "Challenged an incumbent who died two weeks before the election and the guy still won."

"In '56, just after I got out of the army, he went against Tommy Maloney, who'd been in city politics forever. I told my brother, 'You're f——g nuts! If you lost to a dead man, how are you going to beat this guy?' But he did, and when he won it, it was a great tonic for me. The beginning of my political career, really."

In 1964, John Burton was elected to the Assembly from the old 20th District, a district so Democratic he couldn't lose.

"It was different in Sacramento back then," he remembered. "I was calling the sergeant-at-arms 'Sir.' Jesse Unruh was speaker, I voted against him and he started

to s—— on me a little bit. That kind of stuff happened all the time."

Unruh, son of a Texas sharecropper who boasted of not wearing socks until he was 12 years old, was of the old school, said Burton. "People like Unruh and my brother ate, slept and breathed politics. Not many people up here are into it like that anymore."

His longtime friend Speaker Willie Brown belongs to the old school, too, and it made Burton grin to see the way Brown out-manuevered Republicans to win back his spot after the last elections. "Some Republicans objected to even calling him 'co-speaker.' They didn't want to even give him a share, and now he's the speaker. The kind of tickles me."

Calling back faces from the past, Burton remembered San Francisco Supervisor Bill Blake, who once arrived late to a restaurant, threw the keys to his car to a man standing at the curb, thinking he was a valet, and came out after dinner to find his car stolen. And then there was Congressman Eddie Patton, who "used to talk out of the side of his mouth like this," Burton said, tossing frogtones out of his lower lip. "Eddie was a piece of work."

The phone rang and Burton talked a little, chuckled a little, then offered the three golden rules for a man getting old: "Never pass a urinal, never ignore an erection and never trust a fart." He leaned back in his chair and smiled, nodding his head to the laughter that came bursting from the other end of the phone.

Burton turned to talk about his growing-up years, when he lived at the edge of West Portal and the whole city was his playground. "I went to Jefferson Grammar School, played behind Colonial Creamery on Irving Street. When I was at Lincoln High, we used to go out to McCoppin Park, 24th and Taraval, regular. Drank some beer, played some basketball.

"I can remember, as a 12-year-old kid, working at the YMCA on Friday nights, getting out about 9:30 and walking down Leavenworth and up Market. You'd have all these hucksters out on the street, selling trick packs of cards, ducks with their heads dipping in water, and never thought for a minute anything could happen to you.

"Sometimes I'd walk all the way out to Sloat Boulevard, rights through the tunnel. If the streetcar came through, you had to step to one side, let it go past. Walk all that way, and never worry."

Burton drew other pictures of San Francisco in the air, including the image of John D. Monaghan, bartender at No. 10 Sanchez. "I used to take my daughter there on St. Patrick's Day—John standing behind the bar, answering the phone, 'No. 10,' kind of rocking back and forth on his feet, talking to everybody, more full of s— than a Christmas turkey. Oh, man, how could you not love it?"

But those days are gone, said Burton.

"Society's getting worse, therefore the city's getting worse. You had the 'homeless' at Third and Howard, a few drunks sleeping at night in Union Square * * * but now 'homeless' is a part of our society. Not since the Depression has there been the underclass we have now."

Because the government flat gave up on the War on Poverty, said Burton, "we're reaping a whirlwind of neglect."

There has been plenty of speculation about Burton's options after he leaves the Assembly. He waves it away, saying, "When I get out, there are two things I want to do—learn Italian and play some bocce ball."

But he's not getting out anytime soon.

Last month, he threw his fedora into the ring for state senate—the 3rd District seat

belonging to Sen. Milton Marks. Burton's ultimate decision, though, will take into account whether Willie Brown runs for mayor of San Francisco or Marks' seat.

"I think it's important for somebody to be doing battle with the right-wing Republicans, who are more and more taking over the Republican party in this state," said Burton. "To thwart their efforts to cripple public education, cripple environmental protection and take away women's right to choose. These are tough times, and you should get in the fight and stay in the fight—not drop out and kind of bitch and moan."

Burton's name has been mentioned for The City's mayoral race, but he doesn't see himself running. "My mother didn't raise me to cut back on libraries or playgrounds or AIDS funding, or go after poor people on the street," he said.

Lately, San Francisco has been "penny wise and pound foolish," added Burton. "But, to be fair, the city just doesn't have the resources."

It doesn't seem that long ago that Burton's best friend, George Moscone, was assassinated at City Hall on Nov. 27, 1978. But it's been a long time, and—for Burton—a hard road.

Moscone was his friend from the day they met in 1946 until the day the mayor was shot to death with Supervisor Harvey Milk, said Burton, who still can't understand the killings.

"It was such a f—g nutty thing," he said, looking down at his hands. "I heard some political forces were egging (Dan White) on—'Somebody ought to kill that f—r,' things like that. I don't know.

"During that period I was, shall we say, involved in doing drugs, and I started doing more," Burton said. "I don't know if what happened to George was the reason for it, but I guess I used it as a reason. I mean, George was as close to me as my brothers."

Burton found himself hooked on "what they call crack now, called it free-basing back then. I would get so depressed I couldn't move. I'd stop for a couple of days and had to start again, just to get energy.

"I got into nitrous oxide, too," said Burton. "I'm a very addictive-compulsive person * * * went on a four-month run once, like you see on TV or in the movies, the guy's OK one day and the next he's in the gutter.

"I learned you can't quit for six months and go out and celebrate with a couple of toots or a couple of tokes and quit the next day. The only way to do it is not to do it at all."

By the time of Moscone's death, Burton was already known for stream-of-consciousness speeches from the floor of the legislature that made no sense. In "A Rage for Justice: The Passion and Politics of Phillip Burton," a biography due out this fall, Sacramento political columnist John Jacobs writes, "John Burton was going downhill fast. Rumors surfaced that a dry cleaner found packets of cocaine in his coat pocket * * * friends feared they would find him dead somewhere."

Burton got the message himself, calling an end to his brief Congressional career two days before the filing deadline for the 1982 elections. He remembers the date exactly: Sept. 30.

"I went back to vote against the balanced budget amendment. That was on Thursday. Sunday, I flew down to a hospital in Arizona and checked myself in. It was easy after I really decided to do it, after I acknowledged half-assed to myself that I've got a problem, instead of, 'It's no big deal.'

"Haven't had a drink since then," he said. "Not too long ago I was at a party where they had that Australian beer—Foster's—I took a little sip and I could feel it going

down. I knew I'd be in trouble if I took a good gulp. And nonalcoholic beer? I had some once and the guy says, 'Tastes good, huh?' and I said, 'Yeah, it *does* taste good. I better not have anymore.'

"I don't miss it," Burton said. "I don't really like being around people who drink. Three drinks and they have a heat on, don't even know what they're saying. Women who take a drink and just get silly."

Burton, who has been married twice and remains divorced, smiled and said, "I'm sure it breaks their hearts, but I just have to pass."

In Jacobs' book, one Republican argued it was worth keeping Burton in office because "at least John Burton stood back in his support and didn't do much but vote wrong."

But Burton's legislative record has been anything but passive.

"At one point, before the Republican governors got ahold of it, our aged, blind and handicapped had a better standard of living than the aged or blind anywhere else in the country," said Burton, who sponsored SSI bills for the handicapped. "And our autistic children's program was the first in the nation."

Burton was also proud of his "asset forfeiture law—keeping law enforcement officers from just coming in and grabbing property without cause."

But he acknowledges his own political career doesn't compare to the record of his brother, Phillip.

Some of Burton's best memories come from sharing the spotlight with his brother back in Washington. "I kept thinking about what Phil and I together were doing to all those conservatives in the Old Guard. Driving them up the wall. I laughed my ass off.

"You look at what Phillip's done, it's awesome. There hasn't been a minimum-wage bill since he did it, and he's been dead 10 years. Redwood Park, Golden Gate National Park, miners' lung legislation, and on and on and on. He just brought me along for some of it."

And Burton enjoyed the ride, every minute of it. He remembered walking down the steps of the Capitol with his brother, making up words to a song about angry Republicans, then making them angrier with new legislation.

"Nowadays, there are so many intrusions into people's rights to live decently," said Burton. "If I did something for the quality of life for people, just helped a little, who gives a s— whether they erect a statue to you or not?"

Having his political life wrapped up in the wonder of California has made it all worthwhile, Burton said. "California's got so much, you know? Like Pat Brown used to say—'When I fly over this great, big beautiful state of ours. . . .'"

Burton, whose desk holds a glass ball that beams, "God Made the Irish #1" and a nameplate with shamrocks on either side, reminisced about the power of Irish districts when he first started out, when "the Mission was Irish, Noe Valley was Irish, the Sunset. Around the Castro it was the Scandinavians, the Excelsior was Italian, Potrero Hill—Russians and Slavs, the Richmond was kind of Irish, kind of Russian, there was Manila Town off Kearny, and the Haight was a mixture.

"The mix has changed, but it's still a melting pot, and it's wonderful. You can't beat it," said Burton, grinning all at once.

"San Francisco. You've got to f— love San Francisco," he said. "I remember once when I went out to eat at a restaurant, must have been down around Westlake, and there's all this fog. I got out there, wound up just walking around the parking lot for 10 minutes, maybe more, taking it all in.

"The woman I was with must have thought I was nuts, but being away from San Francisco and coming back to the fog . . . you've got to love it."

Burton looked around his office, filled with photos from three decades of political hand-shaking and head-shaking and hand-wringing and loud singing in the front room with people from the Mission and Sunset and Bayview. He smiled to himself, hummed a bit of "Big Rock Candy Mountain," and said once more "You've got to love it."

UNION CITY, NJ, CELEBRATES ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding community, the city of Union City, NJ, and to congratulate the residents on the celebration of the city's 70th anniversary. This is a special anniversary because this year the city, which I am proud to call home, is opening a new addition to its historic city hall.

Union City was originally comprised of two smaller and separate communities, named West Hoboken, incorporated in 1861, and the town of Union Hill, incorporated in 1864. In June of 1925, the two towns merged to form the dynamic, bustling place we know today as Union City.

Union City typifies this Nation's proud immigrant heritage. It has always been home to immigrants seeking a better way of life. The founders of West Hoboken and Union Hill were German and Dutch immigrants who moved to the western shore of the Hudson River to escape the crowded conditions of Manhattan. In fact, many of the original municipal documents were written in German.

In the 1870's, industry discovered Union City and the population began to grow. Woods and fields were transformed into homes and businesses. Streets were cut through, and sewer, water, and gas mains laid. Breweries, silk, chocolate, cigar, and pencil factories moved to the city. It became a hub of the U.S. embroidery industry.

The immigrant tradition continued throughout the years, drawing Irish and Italian immigrants during the first half of the 20th century. Cubans fleeing the tyranny of a brutal dictatorship came in growing numbers during the early 1960's. They established hundreds of thriving businesses along the main commercial strip, known as Bergenline Avenue. They were followed by immigrants from throughout Latin America, who make up the largest segment of the current population. During a short walk on Bergenline one can sample the cuisine of dozens of nations. Goods and merchandise from around the world are sold on the bustling streets.

The people of Union City have always been its greatest asset. Diversity in our schools and in government is viewed as a strength not an impediment. I was proud to serve the residents as their first Hispanic mayor from 1986 through 1992. Earlier, I served on the city's board of education and later as chief financial officer for the school system. Union City is in the forefront of promoting the use of computer technology in the classroom. The new city hall