

Throughout his four decade career with the labor movement, John has displayed unmatched leadership and integrity. His legacy is one of numerous, outstanding, and long-lasting contributions on behalf of the working people of America.

John established himself as a man of true courage in 1982 when he bucked the vested interests in the United Auto Workers as well as the machine of an incumbent Member of Congress to support the long-shot candidacy of an underdog challenger. John recognized that I would help give Philadelphia's working people a voice in Washington and he was willing to put his career on the line to be one of the first to give me the help I needed.

Despite strong pressure from the establishment, John stood his ground because he had the people's interests at heart. It was his strength, determination, and tenacity that brought me an endorsement from the United Auto Workers—a key factor in a tight election which I won by less than one percent of the vote.

A born-and-raised citizen of Philadelphia, John W. Taylor, worked hard to strengthen the aircraft unions in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Originally a volunteer organizer for Piasecki Aircraft—now known as Boeing Helicopter Company—John was the first elected chief organizer by his fellow workers in May 1956. John was then elected to the union's first executive board and through the years served as the local union's editor and recording secretary before becoming president in 1967.

In 1967, John had become the president of the largest local union—the UAW's region 9—which consisted of 7,200 acting members. As president, he successfully administered such a large organization with five locations and supervised the construction of the union's \$250,000 Walter P. Reuther Memorial Building in Eddystone, PA.

Soon after becoming president of UAW's region 9, John was assigned to the region 9 servicing staff, where his major duties included collective bargaining, arbitration, mediation and all forms of dispute settlements until 1980. Also in 1972, John was appointed to the staff of the international union, UAW, by then president, Leonard Woodcock, and regional director, Martin Gerber. He was selected to coordinate the activities in the UAW's Community Action Program [CAP].

In recognition of his loyalty and hard work, John was appointed to a transition team by then Governor-Elect Robert Casey in 1986. This important position led to a labor friendly Labor and Industry Department for the 8 years of the Casey administration. Finally, in 1987, Governor Casey selected John to represent labor and the UAW on the Pennsylvania State Job Coordinating Council [SJTCC] which was established under the Federal Job Training and Partnership Act [JTPA]. This position has been directly responsible for the securing of hundreds of thousands of dollars in job training funds into UAW programs and to UAW members. He continues to hold this position under Governor Tom Ridge.

Personally, this tribute is only a small token of my gratitude for John and his accomplishments over the years. His work with the UAW and the citizens of the Philadelphia region is greatly appreciated and will be missed by all. John's valued judgment has been an asset not only to me but to all people associated with

him as well. I am proud to say that John W. Taylor has become a close personal friend of mine and I wish him well on a richly deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I join John's wife Jean and his family and friends in congratulating him for a lifetime of service, dedication, and hard work on behalf of the United Auto Workers and the working people of America.

MAJ. GEN. (SEL) RONALD C.
MARCOTTE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, an outstanding Air Force officer, and an exceptional individual: Maj. Gen. (sel) Ronald C. Marcotte. On March 26, 1996, Ron Marcotte handed over command of the 509th Bomber Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base after serving as its commander from the beginning of its operational status—April 1, 1993. Major General Marcotte will be the new director, strategic target plans (J-52) and deputy director, plans and policy (J-5), at U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, NE.

During his command of the 509th, Major General Marcotte was responsible for the oversight and successful completion of the facility construction as well as the beddown of the B-2 fleet. His accomplishments, as expected, went far above and beyond his described duties. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Major General Marcotte a fond farewell from the 509th Bomber Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base. Missouri will truly miss him.

SALUTING PUBLIC BROADCASTING
EXCELLENCE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was a privilege for me to recently address the Association of America's Public Television Stations' [APTS] annual meeting of member stations to discuss my proposal to privatize funding for public broadcasting. I am among those working to reduce Federal spending, without sacrificing the high quality of television programming available to all Americans from the Public Broadcasting System.

Public broadcasters have for many years provided Americans—particularly young Americans—with programming of exceptional educational value. My own 6-year-old daughter enjoys watching "Barney and Friends," "Sesame Street," and other children's shows produced by public broadcasters. And as a student of the Civil War, I believe that "The Civil War" may have been the finest television series ever aired on public, or commercial, television.

During the APTS annual meeting, two public broadcasters in Texas were recognized for excellence in their fields. Rodney Zent of KAMU-TV in College Station was named one

of seven "Visionary Public Broadcasters" and was presented with the 21st Century Award for his outstanding contributions to the public television system. And Leon Collins of KUHT-TV in Houston was one of eight recipients nationwide to receive the Grassroots Advocacy Award, presented to those individuals and public broadcasting stations who work to garner support for public television in their communities.

I salute Mr. Zent and Mr. Collins for their past efforts to enhance the future of public television.

Mr. Zent has spearheaded Texas A&M University's efforts to impose its distance learning program. On April 3, KAMU, in partnership with GTE, will unveil the Center for Distance Learning Research, which will offer training in distance learning and cutting-edge telecommunications technology. Last year, KAMU coordinated 3,400 videoconferences on its TRANS-TEX Videoconferencing Network, which provides real-time, two-way video, data and Internet services to 44 locations throughout Texas.

Mr. Collins at KUHT has enlisted his staff, the University of Houston, and supportive volunteers on behalf of public television. Due to his efforts, the University of Houston's newsletter now features a column containing legislative news from Capitol Hill, and the station's legislative needs are a high priority on the university's agenda. It is precisely this type of local, community support, that will be key to public broadcasting's future, and I salute him for his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee, I want to reiterate my support for public broadcasting—and reiterate my desire that future generations of Americans benefit from the fine, educational programming it makes available to all our citizens.

Individual efforts by persons like Rodney Zent and Leon Collins—together with enhanced local support for outstanding public broadcasters like KAMU and KUHT—will ensure that this valuable public resource will remain with us for many years to come.

YOUTH ART MONTH

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this month we have celebrated Youth Art Month, a valuable advocacy program that cultivates and emphasizes the importance of art and of quality art education in the lives of today's children.

In today's world, filled with harsh realities and ambiguity, children often lose touch with themselves and their surrounding environment creating a damaging gap. Since art is not only a representation of life in its physically, emotionally, and spiritually, it provokes self inspection and, in turn, helps to bridge this gap. Youth Art Month reminds us that this importance should never be taken for granted, for art is one of the most integral components in the development of a child's imagination and cognitive mind. Art adds a new dimension to a child's personality—a dimension of imaginative thought, subjective interpretation, and perhaps most important—individuality.