

same expenses as their active duty counterpart. In August 2000, the Marine Corps Sergeant Major Symposium recommended the payment of dislocation allowances to retiring members, who in the opinion of the Sergeants Major, bear the same financial consequences on relocating as those still on active service.

When active duty military members retire they must often seek employment not knowing what opportunities exist in the civilian world, where those opportunities are located, what the pay will be, or what possibilities are available for spousal employment. They are sometimes faced with the prospective employers who offer less wages knowing they are in receipt of retirement pay, and falsely believing that retirees don't need the same salary as civilians for the same position. Additionally, the new retiree will have to meet the same financial demands for mortgages, insurance, taxes, and food but on a smaller income.

For those reasons, I am reintroducing the Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act. This legislation would help ease the transition into retirement by amending 37 USC 407 to authorize the payment of a dislocation allowance to all members of the armed forces retiring or transferring to an inactive duty status such as the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Reserve. The vast majority of these new retirees have given our Nation over 20 years of dedicated service. They have helped protect the very freedoms we all hold dear. Rather than simply pushing them out the door upon retirement, we should reward their service by providing modest assistance for their final change of station move. That is exactly what Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act does.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the Fleet Reserve Association for their outstanding work on this initiative. I am an honorary shipmate of the FRA and proud to be so because of their steadfast commitment to the men and women of the military services, in particular the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard family. FRA spent considerable time and effort towards the introduction and reintroduction of the Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act and I look forward to continuing our work together to see this important legislation enacted.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF THE REV. WOODROW MEDLOCK

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of the Rev. Woodrow Medlock. He has preached the gospel for nearly seven decades and continues to spread God's word with tireless dedication.

Rev. Medlock is an inspiration in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. His ministry has touched many lives and spanned many communities. He has founded several local churches and has pastored at many others across the Middle Tennessee region. He has also been involved in the founding of a school and a children's home, as well as other worthy organizations.

Rev. Medlock shows no signs of slowing down, either, as he will turn 90 years young

on Friday, February 28. A prime example of Rev. Medlock's untiring service to the Lord is his upcoming trip to Jamaica in April. Once there, he plans to take the good Lord's message to the Caribbean island's prisons, nursing homes and orphanages.

The world is a much better place because of Rev. Medlock. His faith and humanity have influenced all who know him. I congratulate Rev. Medlock for all the good he has done and wish him the best in the years to come.

HONOR CESAR CHAVEZ: A FIGHTER FOR ALL AMERICANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 963, legislation to rename the Southeastern Post Office, in San Diego, California, the "Cesar E. Chavez Post Office."

In San Diego, as well as across the Nation, the name Cesar Chavez symbolizes dignity, admiration, and devotion to equality and human rights. This man dedicated his life to ameliorating human rights in our country. In the 1950s and 60s, when minorities were given little or no respect or rights, Cesar Chavez cleared the path for equality.

In the early 1950s, after fighting in World War II, Chavez began his involvement in battling racial and economic discrimination against Chicanos. As his attention and personal interest focused on the poor working conditions of farm workers, he realized that his dream was to start an organization to aid these workers.

Having been a farm worker himself, he was far too familiar with the inhumane working conditions farm workers were forced to endure. In 1962, he founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), and in 1965, the NFWA joined an AFL-CIO sponsored union boycott against major table and wine grape growers. Through this five year long, successful boycott that rallied millions of supporters, the NFWA merged with the AFL-CIO union and formed the United Farm Workers (UFW).²

From the beginning, the UFW followed the principals of nonviolence practiced by Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He organized peaceful demonstrations to bring attention to the farm worker's conditions. His slogan, Si se puede!, Yes, we can!, became known worldwide.

National attention to the farm workers came in 1968 when Senator Robert Kennedy visited Cesar Chavez in California after Chavez led a 25 day fast. Kennedy was right when he called Cesar "one of the heroic figures of our time."

Cesar continued to organize boycotts and strikes around the world against table grape growers in California. His efforts paid off when, in 1975, growers supported then California Governor Jerry Brown's collective bargaining law for farm workers, the 1975 Agricultural Labor Relations Act.

Cesar Chavez is remembered today for his continual efforts and dedication to justice and equality. As Cesar said, "There are many reasons why a man does what he does. To be himself he must be able to give it all. If a lead-

er cannot give it all, he cannot expect his people to give anything." The people of San Diego thank Cesar Chavez for always giving his all.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that recognizes such an honorable man by naming a San Diego Post Office in his honor.

NO SUPPORT FOR MIGUEL ESTRADA NOMINATION

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that the other body has not acted on the judicial nomination of Mr. Miguel Estrada.

The constitution provides that the other body has the power to approve the President's choice of judges. This system has worked since the inception of our nation. But now the other body is being stopped from exercising its power to confirm or not confirm Mr. Estrada. In fact, they are conducting a filibuster to keep a confirmation vote from taking place.

To have a legislative body that is simply afraid to vote is not good for democracy. What do they fear? Is Mr. Estrada unfit? If so, they should simply vote "no."

In America, even our suspected criminals are guaranteed due process under law and a speedy trial. But Mr. Estrada, who the American Bar Association gave its highest rating and who has a top-notch record of fairness and respect for the law, is left to languish without even a hearing.

I urge the American people to call their Senators and tell them to give Estrada an up-or-down vote. They deserve nothing less than open and fair action.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to be joined by 73 of my colleagues in introducing legislation to increase the minimum wage. The legislation that we are introducing today provides for a \$1.50 increase in the minimum wage, in two steps. Our bill raises the minimum wage from its current level of \$5.15 per hour to \$5.90 sixty days after enactment and raises it again to \$6.65 one year thereafter. In addition, the legislation extends the applicability of the minimum wage to the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Our bill is identical to legislation introduced in the other body by the Democratic Leader, Mr. DASCHLE, and 34 of his colleagues.

The minimum wage has not increased from its present level of \$5.15 since 1997. A minimum wage worker who works 40 hours a week, fifty-two weeks a year earns \$10,712—almost \$7,500 below the poverty level for a family of four, more than \$4,300 less than the poverty level for a family of three, and \$1,200