

1912, it was unfairly divided so that only half of the seven million Albanians who live in the Balkans today live in the State of Albania, with the other half living on her borders in five other jurisdictions. The State of Yugoslavia was created after World War I on the backs of the Albanian people and on their land. Then Communism again submerged the Albanian people—this time throwing them into a political and economic “black hole,” stretching from Belgrade to Tirana, for almost fifty years after World War II. It is a wonder that the Albanian people kept their language, their history, and their hope alive throughout the last six hundred years of occupation and resistance. It is a wonder that, amid all the national stress and personal sacrifice, that Gjergj Kastrioti has not been forgotten altogether. But he has not been forgotten, and it is a tribute to his greatness and to the besa of the Albanian people that, against all odds, Albanians are standing free today, in Albania and Kosovo, and that the sons and daughters of Skenderbeg continue to adore him as their national hero and liberator, and are building even more memorials to his past and present glory and significance—even, with a U.S. Congressional Resolution (H. Res. 522), in the capital of the only superpower in the world today, Washington, DC.

AUTHOR'S POSTSCRIPT

The battle of Apulia in the southern part of the Italian Peninsula, near Naples, is of special significance to me and my family. In 1461, after Skenderbeg and his elite cavalry helped save the Kingdom of Naples from French domination, the future security of the Kingdom was assured when Gjergj Kastrioti decided to leave two thousand horsemen there, while he returned to Albania to continue to defend the Albanian people from Ottoman Turkish domination. As an inducement for Skenderbeg to agree to what must have been a difficult decision for him, the King of Naples awarded the Albanian soldiers an area about forty miles east of Naples, including a high mountaintop village called Greci. Greci had been formed by Greek farmers and merchants in 535 AD and had since declined after most Greeks abandoned the area that they had controlled in the first millennium. Albanians changed the name of the village to “Katundi,” which is the name used today by the Albanian residents, even though the Italians still call it Greci. My father, Joseph, Sr. immigrated to America from Katundi in 1929 at the age of fifteen. His family is descended from one of Skenderbeg's two thousand soldiers, and this is a great reminder that the seeds of Skenderbeg are still spreading across the oceans of the world today.

IN MEMORY OF ADMIRAL BARRY
K. ATKINS, U.S. NAVY (RET.)

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Admiral Barry K. Atkins of Richmond, Virginia, who passed away on Tuesday, November 15, 2005. Admiral Atkins spent a lifetime in service to his country and should be honored today.

In 1932 Admiral Atkins graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and began his distinguished career as a Naval officer. During World War II, Admiral Atkins took over command of the USS *Melvin*, a Navy destroyer. Admiral Atkins and his men were stationed in

the Pacific and participated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. In one engagement, the Battle of Surigao Strait, the USS *Melvin* fired a torpedo that hit the Japanese battleship *Fuso*, splitting it in half and eventually sinking it. According to historical reports, the USS *Melvin* was the only destroyer to sink a battleship in World War II. For his heroism and leadership aboard the USS *Melvin*, Admiral Atkins was awarded the Navy Cross. In 1959, Admiral Atkins retired after 27 years of faithful service to the U.S. Navy.

Admiral Atkins' bravery during the Battle of Leyte Gulf helped change the course of our Nation's history and I am truly grateful for his leadership and unwavering courage aboard the USS *Melvin*. I hope that you will join me in honoring the life and service of Admiral Barry K. Atkins and offering our most sincere condolences to his family and friends.

IN HONOR OF KEITH SHAFFER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Keith Shaffer, an influential and much beloved member of the community in the Santa Cruz area. Mr. Shaffer lived a life of dedicated and generous service to his community. He is survived by his wife Elinor Shaffer; his two sons, William and Richard Shaffer; daughter-in-law Alana Shaffer; and his two grandsons.

Mr. Shaffer was born in the San Joaquin Valley town of Atwater, on October 15, 1915. After serving as a naval aviator during World War II, he eventually moved to the Santa Cruz area in 1950, where he took over his brother's floral business. While Mr. Shaffer was a successful businessman, he also found time to give back to the community, by serving on numerous school boards, the Dominican Hospital Advisory Board, the Rotary Club of Santa Cruz, the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce, and the California Automobile Association. Mr. Shaffer was a shining example of dedication and devotion to citizens of the community.

In 1937, Keith Shaffer married his childhood sweetheart Elinor George. Along with his wife Elinor, and his two sons, William and Richard, the other love of Mr. Shaffer's life was his orchids. Mr. Shaffer was well known within the floral community for his creation of several hybrid orchids, most notably his “Capitola Moonlight,” which was recognized by the Royal Horticulture Society with its highest honor, and perhaps his favorite, the “Elinor Shaffer.”

Mr. Speaker, the service of local members of the community are an asset to this Nation, and I am deeply grateful for the contributions of Mr. Shaffer. The passing of Mr. Shaffer is a painful loss for the community. It is clear that Keith Shaffer has made a lasting impact on the community, and I join the Santa Cruz area in honoring the memory of Mr. Shaffer.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW YORK
CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER GIFFORD MILLER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Gifford Miller, Speaker of the New York City Council. Speaker Miller led the Council through four contentious years, winning on issues that are important to New Yorkers. He has been an exceptional City Council Speaker who has truly made New York City a better place to live. As a colleague, an ally and a friend, he has been one of the best public servants around.

Speaker Miller began his political career in my office. He rose quickly from an entry level position in my Washington office to running my New York district office. From the beginning his talents were obvious. He was hardworking and dedicated, drafting legislation to fund the development of pocket parks in urban areas and other matters. Recognizing his abilities, I soon promoted him to run my district office.

As Chief of Staff in my New York office, he established himself as a knowledgeable, committed leader in the community. Most of all, Speaker Miller clearly loves New York City, and wants to make this the best possible place to live. Thus, when he ran for City Council in a special election, he had enormous credibility and was able to defeat a well-known opponent.

I will never forget that election. Called for the dead of winter, petitioning took place on chilly street corners in dreadful weather. I joined Miller and his volunteers in standing out in freezing temperatures. People were impressed by his energy, drive and cheerfulness, even in appalling conditions. They saw clearly that he was going to work hard for his constituents, and he always has.

Miller quickly established himself as a smart and aggressive legislator, who was able to stand up for his district. He passed laws to reduce noise, increase voter participation and protect the environment.

On January 9, 2002, Miller was unanimously elected by his colleagues to the post of City Council Speaker. For the last 4 years, Miller has led the New York City Council, overseeing the passage of all new laws and the city's \$47 billion budget. As part of the budget agreement for FY2005, Miller fought for and won \$50 million in tax cuts for more than 700,000 workers through the passage of New York City's first Earned Income Tax Credit.

Under his leadership, the Council has passed more legislation than any previous council, including bills to extend a living wage to 50,000 workers, protect children from lead paint poisoning, provide training and education to people moving from welfare to work, require every city hospital to offer emergency contraception to sexual assault victims, provide more school nurses to more city students and establish tax credits to encourage greater energy saving and cleaner air.

Throughout his term as Speaker, Miller was forced to battle the mayor and Governor to preserve New York's priorities. He was remarkably successful. Miller led the Council in overturning mayoral vetoes 21 times, more

times than any previous Council. These mayoral overrides enabled much-needed legislation to become law, including measures to provide rape victims with emergency contraception, expand access to birth control, provide training for people moving from welfare to work, prevent homeowners from being unreasonably fined and protect our air and water. As a result of his efforts in budget fights, hundreds of millions of dollars have been restored to the City budget for health care, child care, college scholarships, libraries, senior citizens and HIV/AIDS prevention. In 2002, Miller's Education First campaign helped prevent hundreds of millions in proposed cuts to New York City's public schools.

Gifford Miller is an extraordinarily talented and hard-working public servant. Although term limits are bringing an end to his Speakership, I am hopeful that he will remain active in public life. New York city needs him.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Speaker Gifford Miller, a remarkable public servant and community leader.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF CURTIS
MCCLAIN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Curtis McClain, a champion of the trade union movement and trailblazer for racial equality, who passed away November 6 after a long battle with cancer. Friends and colleagues will gather on December 3 to pay tribute to his lifetime of service to the working men and women of America.

Born of humble means in Akron, Ohio, World War II provided Curtis passage to a new life. After his discharge he relocated to San Francisco to find work. He found it in ILWU Warehouse Local 6 working at Schmidt Lithography. He said, "I went into the paper seasoning department where work was sweaty, hot and dusty. Although it was the last place I wanted to work, I needed the job so I stayed for 14 years."

Curtis became frustrated by post-war discrimination against African-Americans in the labor movement. Being passed over repeatedly for promotion due to race inspired Curtis to form a group of African-Americans in Local 6 called the Frontiersmen. Their encouragement and that of International and other local officers drew Curtis into leadership positions. In 1960, Curtis became in the first African-American to be elected Business Agent for Local 6.

By 1969, Curtis was an important labor leader in San Francisco and was elected Local President, followed 2 years later by a position on the International Executive Committee of the ILWU. In 1977, he broke another racial barrier when he was elected ILWU Secretary-Treasurer, the position he held until retirement in 1990.

Curtis served with ILWU International President Jimmy Herman. Together they fought for a democratic and diverse trade union and guided their membership through turbulent times.

Longtime Local 6 leader LeRoy King, who helped found the Trailblazers with Curtis, re-

members: "He was a natural leader. He helped lead the efforts to break the color line, not only in the ILWU, but in other unions and in the community. He was an outstanding negotiator and union officer. And he took care of business for the members."

Curtis was a tireless advocate of working people. He helped form the alliance between the Teamsters and the ILWU that created the Northern California Warehouse Council, whose influence stretched to the Oregon border. Curtis was also instrumental in the civil rights movement, opening up employment opportunities to people of color in San Francisco's auto and burgeoning hotel and tourism industries.

Curtis McClain also led in movements for social justice, peace, and disarmament. Mayor Jack Shelly appointed him to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and Mayor George Moscone appointed him to the San Francisco Fire Commission where he served for 12 years.

Curtis McClain reminded us what can be accomplished with determination and belief in the person working right beside you. His hard work for social justice and workers' rights broke barriers and deepened the ties of our wonderfully diverse community. Our thoughts are with his family and friends as they gather to remember him, and we thank them for sharing Curtis with us.

TRIBUTE TO LUTHER C. WALLACE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Luther C. Wallace of Marin County, California, a community leader who passed away from a brain tumor on November 10, 2005. Luther was a visionary whose approach to inclusivity and human rights taught us all a lesson.

Born in Bakersfield in 1941, Luther grew up in Oxnard where, at a young age, he learned the importance of empowerment from his family. As a preteen, he stuffed envelopes for the NAACP, church functions, and local politicians. In 1968, after serving in Viet Nam, he worked as a community organizer with the Ventura County Community Action Agency while using his GI bill allotment to complete a degree in Psychology from California State University, Northridge. He later earned a Masters in Public Administration just prior to his first brain surgery.

Luther went on to manage an energy conservation program for the State of California and service agencies in Ventura, Santa Cruz, Marin, and Santa Clara counties. Under his leadership, the Human Rights Resource Center, Inc. in San Rafael provided services—including training manuals, Cultural Awareness Training, and public policy recommendations—to every State as well as to 9 foreign countries.

Luther's influence, often centered in the African American community, was also widespread through his commitment and involvement in the California Rainbow Coalition (co-founder), The California Democratic Party Executive Board, the Marin Black/Jewish Dialogue (co-founder), the Marin City Project, the

Marin Council of Agencies, the Marin County Adult Criminal Justice Commission, the Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement, the African American Coalition of Marin, and many other groups.

His special interests were people, music, reading, learning new things, all sports, and working with his family in his herb and vegetable garden. With a voice as smooth as silk, his love of music (his "unforgiving mistress") called to him no matter where he was. On international junkets with the UN and the Jewish Community Federation, the band somehow knew to invite him on stage to sing. Shortly before his death, Luther achieved his greatest dream with the publication of his book of short stories titled, "Our Color Our Kind: A Male Bedside Reader." At the time of his death, he was at work on an original screenplay and new short stories.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Mary Christine [Tina] (Mattice) Wallace; son James Matthew Wallace, Santa Cruz, CA; daughter Cassandra Jane Wallace-James, Thousand Oaks, CA; grandchildren Tanesha Cherie, Tony LaBarron, Jr., and Luther Demetrius, IV Wallace-James; his special "sister" Donella Dennis, Los Angeles, CA; and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Luther Wallace inspired so many with his passion for human rights and justice. His dedication and leadership enriched and informed the African American community and all of us in Marin County who will benefit from his legacy.

TRIBUTE TO TONY BENNETT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an Icon of American Culture and one of our country's finest citizens, Tony Bennett. Much has already been said and written about the life and work of Tony Bennett, but I am honored to have the opportunity to say a few words about my friend here.

Tony has been a part of the experience of being an American for the last six decades. His arrival as a force in our culture was announced nearly seventy years ago at the opening of the Triborough Bridge in New York City. At 10 years old, the son of an Italian immigrant and grocery store operator, Anthony Dominick Benedetto was invited to sing at a ceremony to open the bridge by another famous son of Italy, New York's iconic Mayor Fiorello La Guardia. At the time, our country was in the midst of a staggering Great Depression, President Roosevelt had begun the "New Deal," and that bridge was a concrete symbol that New York City, that America, and that Americans, would persevere. The Bridge stood as the accomplishment of our American ingenuity, our hard work, and our craftsmanship. Looking back, with those values in mind, it is altogether fitting that Tony Bennett was there.

The ingenuity of his voice and his style have transcended generations of American music fans. Tony once quipped that he was spoiled because he, "never had to sing songs [he] didn't like." But it is generations of Americans