

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