

TRIBUTE TO HARRY LESTER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Harry Lester upon his retirement as the Director of District 2 of the United Steelworkers of America.

Mr. Lester has dedicated his life's work to the well-being and safety of steelworkers. The son of a West Virginia coal miner, who was tragically lost in a mining accident, Mr. Lester grew up to be a leading advocate for protecting the rights of steelworkers through the creation and preservation of decent wages, health benefits, workplace safety regulations, and education opportunities.

Mr. Lester began his career as an engineer with the McLouth Steel Corporation in Trenton, Michigan, in 1954 and rose to national attention in the 1980s for his leading role in the fight to save the company from bankruptcy and to preserve the jobs of its 3,600 steelworkers. As the USWA District Director and a member of the McLouth Steel Board of Directors, Mr. Lester orchestrated in 1988 the largest employee stock buyout of the time. While the company ultimately closed its doors in 1994, he has never ceased in his efforts to preserve the United States' steel industry and to provide for the rights of USWA members.

Notably, Mr. Lester engineered a Voluntary Employee Benefit Association plan and negotiated Cooperative Partnership Agreements between USWA members and National Steel Corporation. As steel companies consolidated, Mr. Lester worked at the negotiating table to guarantee that these protections were not lost. The language he ensured in these negotiations for workplace health and safety was recognized by the Supreme Court as the standard for workers. He has extended his championing of workers' rights into negotiations with Dow Chemical, National Standard, Quanax, and DSC, Ltd.

In addition to his commitment to his fellow workers, Mr. Lester has been a vigorous citizen of Michigan and is deeply committed to improving education and health in the State of Michigan. He and his wife established the Harry E. & Mary E. Lester Scholarship Fund for Steelworker Children to provide scholarship opportunities for the children of steelworkers in District Two. He was appointed by three governors to serve on the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners and serves as a board member to many distinguished organizations, including the United Way of Michigan, the Michigan State AFL-CIO Board, the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, and the Greater Detroit-Area Health Council. Mr. Lester initiated and co-chairs the Annual Downriver Community Prayer Breakfast in Southgate, Michigan, and holds the rank of "Ambassador" for the Detroit Muslim Temple of the Shrine. Recently, Mr. Lester was granted an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humanities from Michigan State University.

Harry Lester often stood at the intersection of workers' rights and public policy. He understood that federal trade policy, and especially unfair trade practices of other nations, dramatically impacted the industry in which he worked and he was tireless in his efforts to impact change in Washington, DC. He also un-

derstood the real impact of federal policies on workers and their families when it came to retirement security, pensions and health care. He was passionate and articulate both in terms of impacting legislation, and informing his membership of the importance of those policies on their work and family life.

Mr. Speaker, I have been privileged over the years to work with Harry Lester, to observe his leadership and to call him a friend, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Harry Lester for his decades of tireless and effective service to our Nation's workers.

TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA IMLER

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Alyssa Imler, a teacher at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Harrison, for her 2006 Disney Teacher of the Year Award nomination.

Imler has a unique method of teaching which keeps the students engaged in learning. She was nominated for this award anonymously by one of her students. If Imler is among the 40 Teacher of the Year honorees, she will be flown to Los Angeles for a red-carpet recognition ceremony. The honorees and their principals will participate in a week long educators conference. Honorees will also receive \$10,000 while their schools will receive \$5,000.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Alyssa Imler and her 2006 Disney Teacher of the Year Award nomination. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual such as Alyssa Imler.

VIOLA GEORGIAN BALESTRERI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Viola Georgian Balestreri, who passed away on January 25, 2006 in Carmel, California, at the age of 92. Viola was born on September 19, 1913 in Brooklyn, New York to Amelia and Aniello Crispo and was the only girl among 11 brothers—a special child, indeed! After the death of her husband Vincent Balestreri, whom she married in 1938, she moved to Carmel in 1957. She taught at Junipero Serra School for many years while raising her two children, to whom she was devoted.

Viola was a strong woman who never criticized or said a harsh word about anyone. She was eternally optimistic and grateful for her family and the blessings in her life. She was a loving mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, sister and friend.

Her son, Ted Balestreri, owner of the famed Sardine Factory restaurant in Monterey, has been a good friend of mine and I grieve with him over the loss of his mother. I wish to ex-

tend my deepest sympathies to Ted and the entire Balestreri family on the loss of this beloved woman.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to Coretta Scott King, a great leader in the movement for civil and human rights on the occasion of her passing.

Known first as the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Mrs. King's commitment to the struggle for all people continued throughout her life. Attending Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, Coretta Scott King earned a Bachelor's Degree in music and education, skills she used to organize Freedom Concerts to benefit the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Serving as a delegate from Women Strike for Peace at a 1962 Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, Mrs. King demonstrated her commitment to working for peace and justice worldwide.

Following the tragic murder of her husband, Coretta Scott King committed herself to promoting Dr. King's principles of nonviolence and social justice. First, in establishing the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, which has trained tens of thousands of people in the philosophy and methods of Dr. King, she has been able to preserve and further his legacy. Second, she served as chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission and worked for the national recognition of Dr. King's birthday.

In addition to working for the recognition of her husband's legacy, Mrs. King was always a tireless advocate for the abolition of Apartheid in South Africa, women and children's rights, gay and lesbian dignity, full employment and ecological sanity. In recognition of this work, Coretta Scott King has lead goodwill missions across the globe consulting with world leaders. In addition, the American Library Association has awarded Coretta Scott King Awards to more than 175 books written or illustrated by African Americans that promote understanding and appreciation for all cultures and demonstrate commitment to equality and justice.

Surely the passing of Coretta Scott King is a great loss to this Nation and the world. Mrs. King demonstrated a resilience and commitment to the ideals of equality and justice that has been matched by few and we all owe her a debt of gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO THE SISTERS OF ST. EMMA ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Sisters of