

President of the Massachusetts Chapter. Today, Michael serves as Director of Solutions Engineering at Plant CML where he is responsible for leading the company's largest and most complex projects.

Other than the love of family, I don't think there is any greater honor in life than to receive the recognition of your peers in your chosen profession. Michael Mangini is not only a worthy recipient of this industry professional award, he is also owed a debt of gratitude for his service to his community, his Commonwealth and his country. I am very proud to be able to present him with this award.

TRIBUTE TO CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who stood up for justice and fair treatment for all Americans.

During his life, César E. Chávez was committed to providing fair wages, better working conditions, decent housing, and quality education for all. Mr. Chávez also served the United States proudly in the Navy during World War II. His spirit and his vision are still alive today and I am determined to celebrate what he stood for and his great accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, today, I introduce legislation to rename the post office located at 2777 Logan Avenue in the Barrio Logan section of San Diego as the "César E. Chávez Post Office." This is the least we can do to honor such a great but humble man dedicated to justice. Please join me in giving Mr. Chávez his rightful place in American history.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIANA CHILDREN'S WISH FUND

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Indiana Children's Wish Fund on its 25th anniversary and for its mission of fulfilling the dreams of children suffering from life-threatening illnesses.

Children forced to battle terminal diseases rarely get to experience a normal childhood and are forced to grow up quickly. By granting their wishes, this organization seeks to bring a smile to these children's faces by bringing laughter, joy and normalcy to their lives.

Since 1984, this organization has granted 2,000 wishes to Indiana children between the ages of 3–18. Each year, it assists approximately 140 children, many of whom are referred to the Wish Fund by hospitals, social workers and families from across the state. With the average cost of a wish being \$5500, the Wish Fund would not have been able to provide these services without the generous support of its community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Indiana Children's Wish Fund as it celebrates 25 years of service and for its com-

mitment to helping children realize their dreams.

BEST-IN-CLASS APPLIANCE BILL

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, Congressman MIKE ROGERS of Michigan and I have co-authored H.R. 1786, a bill that will help Americans transition from older, energy-wasting washing machines, refrigerators, and other household appliances to newer, super-efficient versions.

According to the Department of Energy, appliances currently account for about 20 percent of energy bills in a typical household. Many of these "clunkers" are the products of another era—manufactured years (sometimes decades) ago, when technology was antiquated and efficiency a low priority. Removing old, inefficient appliances from circulation will go a long way toward cutting energy consumption and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Our bill will task the DOE with creating a "Best-in-Class" appliance program to provide financial "bonuses" to retailers for every Best-in-Class product sold (defined as the top 10 percent of models in the product class, in terms of efficiency), and to manufacturers that mass produce Best-in-Class appliances.

Retailers who participate in the program must provide a government-funded "bounty" (a reduction in price for a new, more efficient appliance) to consumers who surrender old appliances. Experience shows that many consumers hoard old appliances—perhaps moving them from the kitchen to the basement—eliminating the potential energy savings resulting from the purchase of a newer appliance. This trade-in feature will help take these clunkers completely out of circulation, substantially accelerating our transition to an energy-efficient economy.

This bill is a consensus product, and is endorsed by the NRDC and leading industry groups. We urge its swift passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on March 30, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Table H. Res. 295, H.R. 20, and H.R. 479 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 163, on the Motion to Table H. Res. 295, Raising a question of the privileges of the House, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 164, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 20, the Melanie Blocker Stokes MOTHERS Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 165, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 479, the Wakefield Act, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO ALVIN SYKES

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on April 24th, the Olathe, Kansas, Human Rights Commission will pay tribute to Alvin Sykes, a tireless crusader for civil rights within the Kansas City metropolitan region, who recently persuaded the U.S. Congress to approve, and President Bush to sign, legislation establishing a permanent "cold case" unit in the U.S. Department of Justice to review approximately 100 unsolved murders, including the notorious killing of 14 year old Emmett Till in Mississippi in 1955. Both as chairman of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign and as a leader of numerous other struggles for human rights and racial justice in the Kansas City area, Alvin Sykes has received much-deserved national attention for his efforts, as is detailed in two articles from USA Today and wolfmanproductions.com, which I am including with this tribute. I join with the Olathe Human Rights Commission in paying tribute to this important leader within the Kansas City community and I know that all members of the U.S. House of Representatives join with me in celebrating this tireless activist for social justice.

[From USA Today]

PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF FOR CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

(By Laura Parker)

WASHINGTON.—Alvin Sykes holds none of the standard credentials to wield influence in the power corridors of this political city. He is a 51-year-old high school dropout with no steady job.

Yet senators listen to him. Prosecutors return his calls. As a self-made civil rights activist, Sykes persuaded the Justice Department to re-investigate the 1955 slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till, and he deserves a fair share of the credit for the department's recent decision to review as many as 100 old murders in 14 states.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales announced the investigation as Congress prepares to vote on a bill that would set up a permanent cold case unit in the Justice Department to probe those old crimes.

Last year, Sykes, as chairman of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign, persuaded his then-home-state senator, Jim Talent, R-Mo., to introduce the bill. Since then, Sykes and other civil rights leaders have helped sell it. Although Talent lost his seat in last fall's election, the bill—which authorizes \$11.5 million to fund the unit—has new sponsors and has gained momentum in both houses and parties.

"He reflects the spirit of the civil rights movement, where ordinary people found a way to make a difference," says Brenda Jones, spokeswoman for Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., whose beating during a protest march through Selma, Ala., in 1965 helped propel the Voting Rights Act through Congress. Lewis is sponsoring the House version of the Till bill.

Sykes is described by those who know him as tenacious and informed. "He's a very pragmatic man," says Donald Burger, a retired Justice Department mediator who met Sykes in the 1970s during battles to desegregate Kansas City, Mo., schools.

U.S. Attorney Jim Greenlee of Mississippi's northern district in Oxford had never heard of Sykes when Sykes asked him in 2004 to reopen the Till case.