only by his devotion to his amazing family. Mike and his lovely wife, Amy, are happily married and enjoy spending time with their family, especially their beloved nieces and nephews and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Michael Sullivan as he is honored for his lifetime of service to the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, its membership, and communities across the nation. Michael Sullivan is worthy of the highest praise for the tremendous contributions he has made to all of us. As my 95-year-old father, John Visclosky, would say, ''He's a 100 percent guy.''

HONORING THE VETERANS OF HOPE PROJECT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary work of Dr. Vincent Harding and the Veterans of Hope Project, VOHP, headquartered in Denver, Colorado. Founded in 1997 by long-time human-rights activists and educators Dr. Harding and the late Rosemarie Freeney Harding, the Project encourages a healing-centered approach to community building, creativity and education regarding religion, culture, democracy, reconciliation and nonviolence.

The couple founded the Project on the Iliff School of Theology campus, where Dr. Harding was a decades-long faculty member. Borrowing from Dr. and Mrs. Harding's deep roots in the Southern Freedom Movement of the 1960s, the Veterans of Hope Project took shape as a spirit-centered social justice and humanitarianism campaign.

With the help of their daughter, Rachel, the Hardings honed the Project as an education resource for spiritual, intergenerational community building and compassionate leadership development. One example of their multi-faceted work is a series of professionally filmed interviews with over 70 pioneering activists from around the world, including Grace Lee Boggs, Staughton and Alice Lynd, Charles Long, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Tom Feelings, Katherine Dunham, Imam Warith Deen Muhammad, Dolores Huerta, Vine Deloria, Corky Gonzales, Andrew Young, Dorothy Cotton, Bishop Samuel Ruiz, Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons and others.

Currently, the Project is creating a ''Network of Hope'' that engages youth and elders to demonstrate and develop compassionate leadership skills. With the help of Executive Director Gloria Smith, staff, volunteers and Dr. Harding's guiding and inspirational vision, the Veterans of Hope Project is preparing a compassionate leadership force for the 21st century. VOHP's effective programming includes an ''Ambassadors of Hope'' program that utilizes creative mentorship opportunities between elders and youth, workshops and training in compassionate leadership development, and a public symposium series.

Moreover, as Dr. Vincent Harding celebrates his 80th birthday, I would like to personally thank him for his continued work to build community bridges across national, racial, ethnic, religious, class and gender lines. His ever-expanding network of friends, colleagues and collaborators, including Education for Liberation, The Black Star Project and the Tewa Women's Project, speak of the breadth of his recent travels and the vast extent of his altruism.

Therefore, I salute Dr. Vincent Harding and the Veterans of Hope Project as they continue to tell the stories of faith, peace and justice that communities around the world must recognize, promote and impart. Thank you, once again, for all that you do to educate and encourage a new generation of compassionate leaders. I wish you all the best in the coming years.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF THOMAS ''TOM'' CLARK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Tom Clark of Bakersfield, California, who passed away on July 23, 2011 at the age of 65. Tom was a great champion for the people of Kern County, California and a respected voice in the development of water policies. Most importantly, Tom will be remembered for being a loving family man and loyal friend.

A second generation Californian, Tom was born on October 21, 1945 in Bakersfield, California. He graduated from North High School in 1963. Three years later, he married his wife Karen and they were blessed with two children, Krista and Jeff. Tom joined the United States Army where he served our Nation at Fort Irwin, California and received an honorable discharge in 1970 with a rank of Sergeant E–5.

A loyal son of the Central Valley, Tom attended Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield. Tom decided to further expand his horizons and attended the University of Pittsburgh on a full scholarship, where he earned a Master of Science in Water Supply—Water Pollution Control in 1974.

Tom began his water career in 1974 with the Kern County Water Agency as a Water Resources Planner where he was responsible for contract administration and planning. His tenacity and passion led him to do work for Nickel Enterprises and La Hacienda, Inc., where he helped establish the Rio Bravo hydroelectric plant on the Kern River. In 1986, Tom returned to the Kern County Water Agency and served as Assistant Manager. In 1989, he was promoted to Assistant General Manager, and in 1990, he was named General Manager.

Tom's legacy will live on through a series of groundbreaking water deals that he helped broker. Before Tom stepped in as General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency, Kern County had perhaps the most unreliable water supply in the State. Through his hard work, Tom was able to secure a much more stable supply for the people of Kern County.

In an industry where tensions run high, Tom's character was able to shine. He was well-liked by his colleagues—even the ones who did not agree with him. Tom was a pillar in the community and could be relied on to provide leadership and creative management skills to find solutions to some of the Valley's most pressing problems. Of note was the way in which he handled disputes over the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta. He was consistently an advocate for the Central Valley, while being able to understand and respect other points of view.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Thomas ''Tom'' Clark, a man with passion and persistence who accomplished great things for the people of California. He enriched the lives of all those who knew him and will forever be remembered.

RANDY CAMMACK, 2011 LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proclaim that organized labor is often the sole source fighting for the rights of not just union members, but all workers.

Today, we are recognizing a great leader of working men and women in Randy Cammack. Randy currently serves as the Vice President at Large of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Executive Board President Joint Council 42, and the Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 63.

Randy Cammack began his Teamster career in Los Angeles, California as a UPS truck driver in 1967. He has logged over 31 years as either a business agent or officer with the Teamsters International. As the Vice President at Large of the Teamsters International, he represents over 1.4 million workers; and as President of the California State Federation of Labor, he is the voice for over one million workers.

Randy has served on several collective bargaining teams at the local, state and national levels. He is frequently brought in to help solve many complex, tough grievances and wage negotiations sessions. It is basically in this area of his vast experience that he has earned numerous local, state, and national recognitions.

Among the many awards he has received are the Hispanic Community Service Man of the Year Award, twice won the Community Service Man of the Year Award, 2011 Inaugural Labor Award and the 2011 Gladys Mason Labor Award for Patriotic Leadership presented to him by my colleague, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ.

It gives me great honor to join with the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council in honoring Randy Cammack as the 2011 Labor Leader of the Year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SPC. DENNIS JAMES, JR.

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, August 31, 2011 a Central Florida Soldier lost his life in service to our nation from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit