

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE PASSING OF SAN FRANCISCO
LABOR LEADER WALTER JOHNSON

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Walter Johnson, the working men and women of San Francisco have lost an extraordinary champion and a powerful advocate; our nation has lost a strong voice for economic justice. Many of us in Congress were proud to call him a friend.

Walter Johnson was a giant in the labor movement, who dedicated his life to advancing and expanding the rights of workers—the cornerstones of a thriving middle class. He championed fair pay for a full day's work, equal rights and protection in the workplace, and social justice and opportunity for all. Walter's imprint can be seen across our city, whether in better conditions for home care workers, greater access to health care, more affordable housing options for families, or increased diversity at San Francisco City College.

Born on April 22, 1924, in Amenia, North Dakota, Walter arrived in San Francisco following three years of service in the United States Army during World War II. While working as an appliance salesman for Sears, he joined the Retail Clerks Union, where he was elected President in 1958, and in 1964 was elected Executive Officer, the top position in his local. Under Walter's leadership, the rights of women, people of color, and gay people working in retail were protected. His expert guidance resulted in his subsequent re-election over the next 11 years.

Walter was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council in 1985 and held that post until he retired in 2004. From that powerful perch, he fought for workers' benefits, health care reform, and workplace equality. Walter educated, enlightened and mobilized union members to fight the unjust and unfair practices that existed in the workplace. He had a special talent for negotiation, helping to settle many contentious disputes.

Walter possessed unflinching moral courage. He spoke out against the Vietnam War, even though it was supported by the AFL-CIO national leadership. He was one of the first labor leaders to give unconditional support to the gay rights movement. Even after his retirement, he was active in labor demonstrations, where he walked picket lines and was arrested at sit-ins.

A humanitarian, Walter's friendships extended far beyond the labor community. He was known by all, from the owner of the corner store to the homeless person on the street. His friends were blessed by his generous nature, his wry sense of humor, and his penchant for storytelling. He was rarely without a personal anecdote or a footnote from history.

Walter Johnson's life was a story of extraordinary courage, leadership, and service to the

labor community and the people of San Francisco. His legacy will live on in our continued pursuit of fairness and workers' rights in our city and across the country.

We hope it is a comfort to Walter's son Lawrence, his daughter Emily Davis, his grandchildren and a multitude of friends and loved ones, that so many share their grief and are praying for them at this sad time.

HONORING NANCY B. KELLEHER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Nancy B. Kelleher of Scarborough, Maine, on the occasion of her retirement as AARP's Maine State Director.

Maine has the highest median age in the United States, and our state's seniors depend on a strong advocate for the issues that matter most to them: greater access to affordable health care and financial security. Since 2008, Nancy Kelleher has served Maine's 228,000 AARP members as State Director, spearheading legislative efforts to provide protection for Maine seniors on issues such as access to affordable health care and prescription drugs, predatory lending and homeowner protections, funding for home care services, and the repeal of the older worker penalty.

Prior to joining AARP, Nancy worked in the Speaker's Office of the House of Representatives, where she coordinated administrative and policy issues for three Speakers, and was named Chief of Staff to Speaker Steven Rowe. Nancy also served as the Deputy Secretary of State for Corporations, Elections & Commissions for former Secretary of State, Dan Gwadosky, and as the Director of the Division of Community Services, a cabinet level position under former Governor Joseph E. Brennan.

Nancy is a leader in her community. She serves on and volunteers for several health-related groups, amongst which are the Elder Abuse Task Force of Maine, the Stakeholders Group on Health INFONet, the Maine Health Management Coalition and the Aligning Forces for Quality Project. Her contributions are not limited to just health issues. Nancy volunteers for and has served as the President of the Scarborough Public Library Board of Trustees. Her additional interests include helping women and families with housing issues. Most recently she has worked with American Friends, a group that assists recent refugees to adjust to life in America. In 2002, she was named a YWCA Woman of Achievement.

She and her husband, Edward, live in Scarborough, Maine and are the proud grandparents of four. I wish her the best in her retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Nancy B. Kelleher for her life-long dedication and service to the people of Maine.

CONGRATULATING STEVE COSTA
ON HIS TENURE AS STATE
PRESIDENT OF THE CABRILLO
CIVIC CLUBS OF CALIFORNIA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to Scott Costa, as he concludes his tenure as State President of the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California. This prestigious organization is one of California's oldest and largest groups committed to promoting and preserving the memory of John Rodrigues Cabrillo, who discovered our great State in 1542. Scott's dedication to the Cabrillo Clubs, community service, and education makes him a role model and a source of pride for our community.

Scott grew up in southern California and graduated from Antelope Valley High School. Upon completion of his studies, Scott pursued a career in the hospitality industry, where he managed and sold hotel properties in El Paso, Texas, as well as Sacramento and Fresno, California. Not only is Scott a successful and savvy businessman, he is also a tireless advocate for the people of our community and California.

Demonstrating his commitment to community service, Scott joined Sacramento Civic Club No. 5 in 1999 as an Honorary Member. Honorary Members are recognized for having made "outstanding contributions to the welfare and advancement of the Portuguese in California." In 2005, he became an Affiliate Member, and was eventually eligible to serve as a subordinate club officer. Scott was elected to serve as President of the Sacramento Club and completed five consecutive terms. An Active Member of the Cabrillo Civic Club by 2008, Scott was elected 2nd Vice President at the State Council Convention in 2009, which led to the State Presidency in 2011.

Continuing its long tradition under Scott's leadership, the Cabrillo Clubs of California have proudly served California's students by providing over 175 \$500 scholarships to high school seniors throughout the State. In addition, members have volunteered over 130,000 hours in a year.

Scott Costa is the proud father of Kay Lee Hinds and Rebecca Jackson of Austin, Texas; Billy Ingraham of Seattle, Washington; and Lisa and Michael Gavin of San Jose, California, grandfather of seven, and soon-to-be great-grandfather of one. He has lived at the Costa Family Farm since 2002 and has become proficient in the farming of a vineyard.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Scott for his diligent work and many years of dedicated service to the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Scott Costa's commitment, dedication, and success and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors.

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