

the Cultural Fund, Marie has over the years helped to enable millions of school children and seniors enjoy the wonderful free programs presented at the PNC Bank Arts Center.

It is truly fitting that such a tireless advocate of the arts should receive an award as esteemed as the Francis Albert Sinatra Tribute to the Performing Arts, which recognizes dedication to improving the cultural life of residents in the state of New Jersey. Marie Sevell joins the ranks of this award's many distinguished past honorees, including the beloved Frank Sinatra himself, and I wish to join her family and friends in applauding her on the occasion of this outstanding achievement.

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HONORING TODD OLSON

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize the hard work, strength and courage of one of Colorado's finest, Mr. Todd Olson of Carbondale, Colorado. I applaud his positive outlook and determination and wish him luck in his battle with leukemia.

For over 20 years, Mr. Olson has worked to help others enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of Colorado. Guiding visitors on exciting river trips on the Colorado and Roaring Fork rivers, Mr. Olson came to love working outdoors. In 1970, he made his way to Aspen after growing up in Minnesota. He began work as a ski instructor for Aspen Skico and later became quite fond of summer rafting. His love of the outdoors and the rivers led him to become a guide for Glenwood's Whitewater Rafting.

At age 47, Mr. Todd Olson maintains a dual career as ski instructor in the winter and raft guide in the summer. Throughout his life and outdoor career he has experienced great challenges and has overcome many obstacles. Now as he faces a life threatening battle with leukemia, I hope that his battles with nature will give him encouragement and the will to continue fighting.

Mr. Speaker, it is with this in mind that I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Todd Olson for his work to maintain and help others enjoy the wilderness of Colorado. Mr. Olson is a man with spirit, a man who knows the meaning of enjoying life. I would like to thank Mr. Olson for the example he has set, and I would like to let him know that our thoughts and prayers are with him.

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IN HONOR OF VOLNEY J. TEEPLE

**HON. DEBBIE STABENOW**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Mr. Volney J. Teeple, a life-long Michigan resident, who will be named Chevalier of the National Order of the Legion of Honor this week.

This honor was ordered by the President of the French Republic and is the highest civilian award bestowed by the government of France.

Mr. Teeple was born in 1897 in Pinckney, Michigan, and enlisted in the armed forces in 1918. During World War I, he was sent to France where he helped assemble and maintain the U.S. air fleet.

After the war, Mr. Teeple returned to Michigan, where he married and had three sons. Each of his sons followed in their father's footsteps by serving in the military, and his eldest son, William, died serving his country in World War II.

In 1966, he retired after a 28-year career with Union Carbide. He is a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and played in both the American Legion and World War I drum and bugle corps. Volney Teeple has spent his recent years hunting and fishing in Northern Michigan, and he still enjoys listening to the Detroit Tigers games on the radio. At 102, he very well may be the Tigers longest fan.

Today I would like to join the French Ambassador in honoring Volney J. Teeple for his commitment to his country so many years ago. Thank you for your lifelong service and your commitment to the United States of America. Your contributions will not be forgotten.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID MINGE**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, due to the death of my mother, and in order that I might attend her June 18 funeral, I was not present during several rollcall votes on June 17 and June 18. I would like to enter into the RECORD votes that, had I been present, I would have cast on amendments to and final passage of H.R. 1501 and H.R. 2122.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 235, 236, 237, 238 and 242. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 234, 240, 241 and 244.

The provisions I would have voted for are targeted at improving gun safety and at reducing the risk that firearms would fall into the hands of convicted felons and others who should not own firearms. These are common sense reforms that deserve support.

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A TRIBUTE TO MS. SHIRLEY WARE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Shirley Ware, a longtime resident of East Oakland, CA whose strong voice for labor will be remembered by the many people whose lives she so positively affected.

Ms. Ware was one of the first African-American women elected to lead a major union.

She served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Oakland-based Health Care Workers Union/SEIU Local 250 for more than ten years, managing the multimillion dollar budget of the second largest health care union in the United States. As Secretary/Treasurer, Shirley Ware and the "New Leadership Team" brought Local 250 from the brink of financial disaster into an era of economic stability. During her leadership tenure, Local 250's membership grew from 21,000 to 46,000 members. Ms. Ware left SEIU stronger, bigger, and better.

Ms. Ware was born in Shreveport, Louisiana on August 24, 1941 to Mary Jane Jones and the late Robert Wilson. When she was a child, her family moved to Oakland, where she attended Fremont High School; Ms. Ware later attended Chabot Community College, where she earned her certification as a licensed nurse.

Shirley Ware entered the labor movement as an organizer in 1963, when her co-workers in an East Bay nursing home complained to her about working conditions. Her natural instincts as an activist said, "organize." Her co-workers gathered around her. Confident and strong, Mrs. Ware knew what to do. They would organize, and, together, they did. Without knowing it at the time, Ms. Ware had begun a 30-year career in organizing, a calling to which she would dedicate the rest of her life.

Shirley Ware was a unique and a special role model for young people, African-Americans, women, union activists, and for all of us. In the years following her initiation into union work, she became an LVN. Then, as one of the first two women hired by Local 250 as a field representative, she worked diligently to present the workers' point of view on a full-time basis. For the next two decades, health care workers would see Shirley as a tenacious, hardworking fighter, and a critical voice for patients' and workers' rights. Her opponents saw her as a dynamic and powerful adversary.

Ms. Ware was a member SEIU's Public Sector Board and, in 1998, was appointed as a trustee to the pension trust of the Service Employee International Union. Ms. Ware also was a delegate to the Alameda Central Labor Council for 31 years, was elected to the executive board in 1989, and was named "Unionist of the Year" in 1991. Since 1989, Ms. Ware was a delegate to the California State Democratic Central Committee and served as a delegate to the 1992 and 1996 Democratic National Conventions. In addition, Ms. Ware was a member of the Alameda County Human Relations Commission from 1970 to 1997, and served as the Commission's chair from 1992-1994. She was the Oakland Mayor's appointee to the Private Industry Council.

"Shirley dedicated her life to the cause of helping workers," said Sal Rosselli, president of Local 250. Throughout her career, even during the last year of her life, Ware expressed deep concern for the members of Local 250 as well as for other health care workers. Even after she learned last year that she had cancer, Shirley Ware remained fully engaged in the struggles and challenges of the Union.

Ms. Shirley Ware, lifelong organizer and advocate for working people, passed away on