EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

July 30, 1999

Although she's been retired, Kelly is still remembered fondly by many of her former students, said Don Sorenson, another colleague. “Margaret not only did a great job in the union, she also was a great teacher.” Kelly taught junior high English and Social Studies.

Kelly said she believed her greatest accomplishment was successfully working for state legislation to establish retiree health benefits for teachers.

Among those honoring Kelly were family members and fellow teachers, some of whom were involved in the historic St. Paul teachers strike of 1946—the first organized teachers strike in the United States. Others have been leaders of the union in the years since.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. RILEY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Mike Riley, who is retiring after a 45-year career with the Teamster union. In his管理模式, Mike has said that working as a union organizer is “one of the few things I was good at that I liked.” I don’t know about his other pursuits, but I can say without hesitation that Mike is one of the best union representatives that I have ever known.

Mike’s union career began as an accident. He was working as a truck driver in San Francisco, recently back from a tour of military duty in Korea, when he attended a union meeting. The big issue that day was whether members should support an increase in dues from $3 to $3.50 per month. Mike thought the request was justified, especially since the union had recently negotiated a $2.50 per week increase for Mike and his co-workers.

As it turned out, he was in the minority. From that point, Mike said, he spoke in favor of the union at the monthly meetings. His efforts caught the attention of union organizers, who asked him to join their ranks. He accepted the offer, and has never looked back.

Mike has held many prominent positions with the Teamsters, including International Union Representatives, International Vice President, Chairman of the Western Conference of Teamsters and President of Teamsters Joint Council 42, the position he holds today. Mike estimates he has helped negotiate thousands of contracts and settle tens of thousands of grievances through the years.

Mike counts among his proudest achievements obtaining early retirement—with full benefits—for eligible union members and helping to establish the Teamsters Miscellaneous Health and Welfare Plan, which provides medical, dental and vision benefits to an additional 25,000 Teamsters and their families.

Although he was dedicated to the union, Mike did make room in his schedule to serve as member of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles. As the father of three sons (and three daughters), Mike knows better than most how important it is for a young man to have an adult male figure in his life. One of his sons is currently serving as a Big Brother.