

arenas. Mrs. Hughes is a dedicated mother and role model, as evidenced by the recent takeover of business operations by her son Mr. Alfred C. Liggins III. Mr. Liggins, a graduate of The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania (1995), has taken his mother's company and expanded it to the powerhouse that it is today. He is a staunch businessman and makes the well-informed decisions that have boosted Radio One's stock to over \$40 a share. Currently, Radio One is the largest chain of African American radio stations. Still, Mrs. Hughes and her son Mr. Liggins are not satisfied and continue in their flight to even greater achievements.

Perhaps Mrs. Hughes' efforts are described best in the words of FCC chairman William Kennard; "Her political beliefs and commitment to the community are the most important things in her life. She has been able to be a spokesperson for causes and still be successful . . ." Hughes lives by a "Never give up, Stay and fight" philosophy. She is a true fighter, not only for her dreams, but for her beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I, on behalf of the 7th District, honor this inspirational American for her relentless refusal to be defeated and her efforts to soar to the highest heights.

"For she believes she can fly,
She believes she can touch the sky,
She thinks about it every night and day,
She spreads her wings and has flown away,
She believes she can soar,
She has run through that open door,
Yes, Mrs. Hughes you can fly!"

IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTOR VAN BOURG

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness to pay tribute to the passing of Victor Van Bourg, one of the nation's most respected and legendary labor union lawyers and senior partner of the nation's biggest labor law firm. He was 68 years old.

Raised by parents who were union organizers, Victor entered the University of California at Berkeley and graduated from Boalt Hall School of Law in 1956. He began his noted career working in the general counsel's office of the California Federation of Labor where he met Cesar Chavez and began working for Chavez' National Farm Workers Union prior to opening his San Francisco law office. In 1966 he represented Cesar Chavez' union—known then as the National Farm Workers Union—in its merger with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee.

One of Victor's most recent victories included a unanimous California Supreme Court decision that upholds a labor agreement under the authority of the San Francisco Airport's Commission to contract exclusively with union labor on the airport's multi-billion dollar expansion project.

Throughout his 44-year law career, he argued four times before the U.S. Supreme Court and made numerous appearances be-

fore the California Supreme Court. His labor law firm became the largest labor law firm representing over 400 unions in the United States including the Service Employees International Union.

Victor fought unrelentingly for working men and women of America and improved the living standards of untold numbers of people. He will be truly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues in the San Francisco Bay and national communities.

I sadly extend the condolences of my constituents and my colleagues to the Van Bourg family.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Nov. 13, 1999]

LABOR'S FAREWELL TO A FRIEND: 1,000 AT PALACE OF FINE ARTS REMEMBER VICTOR VAN BOURG

(By Steve Rubenstein)

Victor Van Bourg, the legendary labor lawyer who sometimes worked out of his big blue car and wore a miniature meat cleaver for a tie tack, was remembered for four decades of sticking up for the little guy.

The little guys of the Bay Area and their union leaders and lawyers showed up at the Palace of Fine Arts theater to say farewell to the larger-than-life union man who helped raise their salaries and their morale.

"He was hirsute, 50 to 100 pounds overweight, noisy, literate, vulgar and profane," said University of San Francisco English professor Alan Heineman, whose union Van Bourg helped organize in the 1970s. "He was often wrong but never in doubt."

"He was a great, shaggy, menacing bear who became a ballerina at the bargaining table."

Van Bourg, 68, whose Oakland law firm represented 400 unions, collapsed and died October 26 at San Francisco International Airport. He was rushing back from Washington, D.C., to be with his gravely ill daughter, who died the same day.

Nearly 1,000 labor leaders, lawyers and other friends of Van Bourg filled the hall, hummed along to "Solidarity Forever," told each other the earthy stories that Van Bourg was fond of and trooped to the stage to deliver encomiums.

Sal Rosselli, the president of Local 250 of the Service Employees International Union, praised his friend's "spirit of defiance and in-your-face unionism. . . . He was afraid of no one."

Everything about Van Bourg was big—his waist, stamp collection, ego, client list, appetite and the sound of his voice across a courtroom or a bargaining table.

"He had an irreverence for judges, particularly federal judges," recalled a former law partner. "He used to tell me, 'When you appear before them, remember what class they represent.'"

His secretary recalled that most employees in the office had been fired by Van Bourg a couple of times but "generally had the presence of mind to come to work anyway."

When they did, she said, they would often find Van Bourg conducting business not from his desk but from the front seat of his car, which was parked in front of the office.

"Bicycle messengers would make deliveries to the car," she said.

An ironworker thanked Van Bourg for "keeping my a-- out of trouble." An engineer thanked him for "being on my side." A janitor thanks him for "caring about immigrants and the most disempowered members of society that no one else would care about."

A native of New York and a graduate of Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, Van Bourg was a former socialist, painter, musician, raconteur and patron of Russian restaurants. The memorial which lasted more than two hours, at times resembled nothing so much as a marathon bargaining session.

Heineman speculated that Van Bourg was probably hard at work filing a grievance over his death, calling it an "arbitrary and capricious act by Management," and no one in the hall was betting against the grievance being upheld.

SUPPORTING THE PRISON CARD PROGRAM

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, the distinguished Ranking Member of the Appropriation Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, the gentleman from New York, Mr. SERRANO, to highlight a successful initiative for more than 25 years, and to urge its continuation. The Salvation Army has been working with the Bureau of Prisons to operate what is known as the Prison Card Program. Under this highly successful program, greeting cards are donated to The Salvation Army which are then given to inmates at correctional facilities across the country. This program allows inmates to keep in touch with family and friends—affording them the opportunity to stay in contact not only during the holiday season and on special occasions, but throughout the year. This clearly benefits the inmates and their loved ones, but we know that the community at large benefits because prisoners who maintain strong ties are less likely to return to prison once their sentence is completed. In short, this a win-win program.

The Department of Justice and the Bureau of Prisons should be commended for their support of this program. The Prison Card Program has the support of Congress and the Department should have confidence in such support for this program—which has operated for more than a quarter-century. My colleague, the gentlemen from New York, Mr. SERRANO, and I are prepared to work with the distinguished Chairman of the Appropriation Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, the gentlemen from Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS, and other Congressional supporters of the program in the coming months to ensure that the Department of Justice receives the continuing and specific authority that might be needed to ensure that this important charitable program is sustained well into the future. I can assure the Members of the House that I will work with them to develop legislative language if necessary to assure a long term solution on this issue. The parties involved should be confident that Congress supports programs such as this.

The gentleman from New York, Mr. SERRANO, and I share the support for this program and know what a valuable contribution it