

Teamsters Local 542, as he is honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO for his leadership in the successful United Parcel Service (UPS) strike of 1997.

Phil and the Teamsters gathered overwhelming public support for working families and the plight of the growing part-time workforce during the UPS strike—and his leadership in bringing the UPS contract to a successful settlement is being acknowledged by this Leadership Award.

Under Phil's direction, dozens of strike counselors were trained to provide food and financial assistance to Teamsters during their contract dispute. Five hundred checks, totaling \$30,000, were written to assist workers with their bills, and thousands of pounds of food were distributed.

Phil is also a member of the Labor Council's Board of Directors and is a supporter of the Unity Coalition of Organized Labor in San Diego.

My congratulations go to Phil Saal for these significant contributions. I can attest to Phil's dedication and commitment and believe him to be highly deserving of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO Leadership Award.

HONORING BLISSFIELD YOUTH

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to four of my constituents who have demonstrated the true meaning of community service. So many people talk about the need to get involved and pitch in when they see a problem, but my district is blessed to have four young people who put those words into action.

This week, the Make A Difference Day committee, organized by USA Weekend, named the group of Christi Stoker, Natalie Eisenmann, Amanda Nicolai, and Stephanie Powell among ten recipients of a national award from the Make A Difference Day Foundation.

These girls offered some helping hands to a homeless shelter in Toledo, not too far from their hometown of Blissfield, Michigan. The girls, who are 13, organized a coalition of community members to donate books, games, wallpaper, and other materials to make this shelter more of a home for the kids and their parents who sought refuge there. They ended up collecting more than \$800 in contributions for the shelter.

And, these special young people didn't stop there. They helped a young girl at the shelter and her mother find a place to live. The girls still stay in touch with the family to whom they gave this precious gift.

Mr. Speaker, we are a nation that turns famous people into heroes—TV and movie stars and our national journalists. But to me, America's true heroes are those who devote time and energy in their communities to give, offer assistance and compassion to those who need it.

Few people have performed that task better than Christi Stoker, Natalie Eisenmann, Amanda Nicolai, and Stephanie Powell.

CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP ACCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1151, the Credit Union Membership Access Act. I am proud to have been an original cosponsor of this important legislation.

My vote is a continuation of longstanding personal backing for credit unions in general. I believe they provide an invaluable service to working men and women—a service which is both convenient and comfortable.

Credit unions are familiar places which in many cases don't offer a full range of banking services but nevertheless do provide basic financial assistance—whether it be pocket money or a small unsecured loan.

After the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overturned a credit union decision in July of 1996, many of us in Congress realized the need for legislation to protect credit union members. Today's vote is the culmination of our efforts.

By passing this legislation, we allow Americans to choose the institution in which they put their money. By promoting continued operation of credit unions in a sound and reasonable manner, we spur competition and encourage savings. By supporting credit unions in this manner, we demonstrate our faith in the wisdom of working people.

On behalf of my constituents in central New York who will benefit from this consumer protection law, I want to thank the House for today's passage.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM COLORADO'S FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Distinguished Teacher Award recipients from Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. These educators have committed their lives to teaching young minds in the Poudre School District. As individuals devoted to excellence, possessing talent, patience, fortitude, a personal love of learning, and the kind of tough love necessary to teach children, these individuals are the pride of our community and a credit to their profession. To the men and women of this Chamber and to the people of Colorado, I echo the words of Distinguished Awards Founder, Harry McCabe, "You have these very special people who have dedicated themselves to the young people in our society." Let us today honor them by name.

Distinguished Teacher William 'Skip' Caddoo of Leshar Junior High School, eight years of dedication to our schools.

Distinguished Teacher Jayne Hennen of Poudre High School, 22 years of dedication to our schools.

Distinguished Teacher Nancy Jacobs of Eyestone Elementary School, 19 years of dedication to our schools.

Distinguished Teacher Lana Jensen of Lopez Elementary School, 12 years of dedication to our schools.

Distinguished Teacher Ronald Jensen of Fort Collins High School, 14 years of dedication to our schools.

Distinguished Teacher Larry Lashley of Poudre High School, 27 years of dedication to our schools.

Distinguished Teacher Sandy Martinez of Lincoln Junior High School, 16 years of dedication to our schools.

Distinguished Teacher Tim Pearson of Riffenburgh Elementary School, 16 years of dedication to our schools.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, excellence in education has been the focus of my efforts since my days in the Colorado State Senate. As the son of two school teachers and the father of three children who attend public schools (and one on her way), no issue is closer to my heart and home. Exceptional public school teachers deserve our admiration, not only for their hard work but for the sheer weight of their accomplishments—the cultivation of an educated citizenry. These inspirational individuals give me a glimpse into what the future can hold if we let it. If we continue to improve our system by recognizing and building on the achievements of great educators like these men and women, the sky is the limit for American education.

HONORING FRED HIRT

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, next week, the Mount Sinai Medical Center, one of the leading medical centers in the United States, must wave good bye to Fred Hirt, its CEO and the individual responsible for many of the Center's most notable achievements. With much appreciation and admiration, the residents of the 18th Congressional district wish Fred much success as he progresses into the next phase of his professional life.

As CEO of Mount Sinai Medical Center, South Florida's only private, not-for-profit independent teaching hospital, Fred, who has been twice named "Best Hospital Administrator" by Medical Business, has achieved many notable accomplishments of great benefit to South Florida. The many achievements during his tenure include the construction of a state-of-the-art Comprehensive Cancer Center, the development of one of Dade County's most active cardiac programs, the establishment of the Wien Center for Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders, and the acquisition of the St. Francis-Barry Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Moreover, he has also supervised the contribution of an estimated \$10 million each year for the care of South Florida's indigent population.

A specific example of Fred's vision has been his ability, over a decade ago, to identify those forces that would be of great value to today's health care industry: outpatient satellite facilities. For over a decade, Mount Sinai, with Fred at the helm, set up its first

outpatient satellite facility and has gone on to develop seven more of these centers throughout South Florida.

Fred has also taken his duties beyond Mount Sinai and has dedicated his leadership and vision to over 50 local and national organizations. His participation in many state and federal legislative issues has been critical to the passage of significant legislation.

We thank Fred for his endless dedication to Miami's health care industry and for making Mount Sinai Medical Center, a national, not-for-profit, independent teaching hospital a force to be reckoned with nationally. His efforts will leave a mark on South Florida for many years to come and although he will be greatly missed, we wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors, where he will assuredly excel.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DICK AND
BOB ANDERSON OF ANDERSON
FARMS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dick and Bob Anderson of Anderson Farms for receiving the Fresno County Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service Award. The Andersons have been providing dedicated service to the agricultural community since the 1940's and are very deserving of this honor.

Dick and Lesta Anderson began farming in Tulare in 1940. Over the years, both of their sons, Bob and Craig, and grandchildren have joined in the family farming enterprises.

In 1974, the Andersons purchased land and equipment in the Huron area from the Giffen Ranch. They started Vasto Valle Farms, Inc. where Bob Anderson served as the ranch manager. During the first year, with only one tractor operating, they managed to harvest tomatoes and a variety of row crops. During the 1970's, they primarily farmed tomatoes, onions, melons, and lettuce.

In the 1980's, the water situation and commodity prices affected their cropping patterns. The Andersons added many vegetable crops which were new to the Westside. These crops included peppers, mixed melons, corn, celery, garlic, broccoli, leaf lettuce, cauliflower, beans, and cabbage. With their increased interest in vegetable production, the Andersons recognized the opportunity of building and operating their own cold storage facility and began to ship vegetables under their own labels of Vasto Valle Farms, Weston, and Dancin Andson.

In 1977, the Andersons formed a partnership and built a state of the art greenhouse nursery in Huron. The Plantel Central Valley Nursery now has 127,000 square feet of greenhouse space, with plenty of room for expansion.

Anderson Farms has grown significantly over the years. The Andersons now plant vegetables during every month of the year. In 1998, the Andersons expected to grow about 6,400 acres of vegetables.

Dick and Bob Anderson have always been supportive of their community. They have both served on the Board of Directors of the Huron

Ginning Company. They support local schools and help students with their projects and activities. Bob's son, Mark, is currently in charge of Anderson Farms fresh fruit and vegetable sales and is Vice Chairman of the California Cantaloupe Advisory Board. His daughter, Robyn Black, is Deputy Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. Robyn has served as an advisory board member of California Agriculture in the Classroom and is a member of the California Farm Water Coalition Board of Directors.

The Andersons are a four generation farming family. Their love of farming keeps them searching for new and innovative methods of keeping up with the constantly changing times.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Dick and Bob Anderson for receiving the Fresno County Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service Award. It is their exceptional dedication and contribution to farming that warrant this recognition. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Dick and Bob Anderson many more years of success.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY: LABOR
TO NEIGHBOR AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 206 and the Ironworkers Union Local 229, as they are honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO for their strong support of the Labor to Neighbor program. The Labor to Neighbor program educates and involves union members and their families in the campaign to protect jobs and the future of working people in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

The Sheet Metal Workers Local 206 is being recognized for its leadership role in the Farm Team Project that recruits and develops future candidates for all levels of elected office throughout our area. They also provided major financial assistance for the Voter List Project and for the fight against Proposition 226, the thinly-veiled attack on organized labor's right to participate in our democratic process.

The Ironworkers Local 229 is being recognized for their ongoing commitment to Labor to Neighbor, having been also recognized last year with this same honor. Local 229 organized an annual Labor to Neighbor fund-raising golf tournament to support efforts to educate union members on important issues and elections throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties.

For these activities, the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO recognizes the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 206 and the Ironworkers Local 229 with their "Labor to Neighbor Award." I am pleased to join in honoring their contributions to the working families of both San Diego County and Imperial County.

PUNJAB POLICE FOUND GUILTY
OF HARASSING REPORTER

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, on April 22, Burning Punjab reported that two Punjab policemen were found guilty of harassing a Hindu journalist, Sanjiv Sharma, and three other members of his family. Police Sub-Inspector Girdhara Singh and police officer Balhit Singh tortured Sanjiv Sharma, his father Chander Muni Lal, his friend Ranjiv Thakur (a Chandigarh car dealer), and lawyer Ajit Singh. The police in "the world's largest democracy" are harassing journalists, lawyers, private businessmen, and old men! This does not give me a great deal of confidence in the Punjab police.

On September 21, 1996, Mr. Sharma had appeared at a hearing in Patiala. On their way home, they were intercepted at Bahadurgarh, according to Burning Punjab, by a police officer who brought them back to Patiala, where they were beaten. The four men filed a complaint with the high court, which ordered the district magistrate to investigate the matter. The investigation report called for criminal action against these two police officers.

Unfortunately, this conduct is typical of the Punjab police. Here is a police force which kidnapped human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khrala, which just last month raped 17-year-old Hardip Kaur, and which has murdered thousands of Sikhs and collected cash bounties for doing so. These are not the actions of a law-enforcement agency in a democratic state. They are the actions of a tyrannical occupying force. We must take strong action to stop this routine oppression.

The United States must speak out for basic human rights in Punjab, Khalistan. We should impose strong sanctions on this corrupt regime and speak out in support of a free and fair plebiscite on the political status of Punjab, Khalistan. These measures will help to end the kind of tyrannical abuses that were inflicted on Sanjiv Sharma.

CUBAN-AMERICAN ARTIST XAVIER
CORTADA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Xavier Cortada for his newly unveiled exhibition entitled, "Cubaba". Having exhibited on four different continents, this month marks the inception of Xavier's first solo show in his hometown of Miami, Florida.

Growing up Cuban-American in Miami was the foundation that inspired Xavier to paint the enlightening cultural celebration that is Cubaba. With combined elements of Hispanic culture and of Anglo-American college life, Xavier gave life to the feelings of "identity and belonging, about then and now, about being Cuban, being American, being both and being neither." The renegotiation of identity that mirrors members of the Cuban generation who find themselves "on the hyphen".