

election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA F. BROOKS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Andrea E. Brooks of Indianapolis, Indiana. She passed away on April 25, 2009 at the age of 65. Andrea was a great leader and an inspiration to us all.

As a government servant, Andrea dedicated her career to working with the Department of Veterans Affairs and as a labor activist to the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). Her perseverance stemmed from the belief that unions play a necessary role in the fight for fairness and equal justice in the workplace.

Over the course of 30 years, Andrea had led a brilliant career. She served as the National Vice President of Women's and Fair Practices Department at the AFGE. Before that Andrea was Chief Steward, then Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Vice President and then President for ten years of the AFGE Local 490 at the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Los Angeles, California.

Andrea left behind a legacy of being a visionary activist. Her hope for the union was for it to be a leader for civil rights activism, protecting the rights and freedom of women, minorities and the disabled. Andrea's many accomplishments will continue to motivate everyone who was touched by her work. I extend my deepest condolences to her friends and family as they mourn her passing. My thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker and esteemed colleagues, I urge you to join me in paying tribute to Andrea E. Brooks for her distinguished service to our Nation's workforce.

HONORING MARK HAWKINS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Hawkins as he retires from the General Motors Truck Assembly plant after 37 years of service. Mark was the Shop Chairman of UAW Local 598 for the past 20 years and a member of the UAW Local 598 bargaining committee for the past 31 years. A celebration will be held on May 15 to recognize his achievements and life.

A graduate of Beecher High School, Mark has worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of the employees of General Motors. His skill as a negotiator has earned him the respect of GM Management, UAW Local 598 membership and the UAW international leadership. The National Bargaining Committee elected him to chair the National Negotiations in 1993, 1996 and 2003. Mark negotiated a Living Agreement between UAW Local 598 and GM

Flint Assembly in 1997. This unprecedented agreement secured new work for the plant and a \$500 million investment from the company. He was elected without opposition in his 7th bid for Local 598 chairman. Earlier this year he negotiated a new Local Living Agreement that is serving as the role model for other plants in the United States.

Over the years, Mark has gained a reputation for helping those less fortunate. Starting in 1994, UAW Local 598 membership has donated over \$1 million to feed and clothe needy children. Mark has organized the building of 8 playgrounds at local elementary schools and parks. Responding to the tragedy of September 11, he spearheaded the drive to build two trucks with donated labor and GM components for the New York Fire Department. Across the Nation the UAW and General Motors followed his example and a total of 60 trucks were given to the Fire Department.

The community has recognized his contributions and Mark has received the following awards: 2000 Walter Reuther Award, 2000 Liberty Bell Award, 2001 American Red Cross Hero Award, 2002 Martin Luther King Award, and in 2003 he received the Michigan Parks and Recreation Committee Award.

Mark and his wife, Shelley, have been married for 19 years and have 3 children Joseph, Brandi, and Richard and four grandchildren Brooklyn, Olivia, Chace, and Emma.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the life of Mark Hawkins. He has been diligent in fighting for the rights of the UAW membership. Gifted with vision, tenacity, and mediation he has brought a deep comprehension of both sides of a problem to the negotiating table. Deeply engaged in the struggle to bring dignity to the workplace, Mark Hawkins has been a true friend to workers everywhere. I consider him a friend and have valued his insight and wisdom over the future of the U.S. auto industry. I am a better Congressman for having known Mark and I wish him the best as he starts this new phase of his life.

REVEREND CHARLES E. SMITH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I have the honor of welcoming and recognizing Reverend Charles E. Smith, who just gave the opening prayer before Congress this 13th day of May, 2009. Reverend Smith is the Pastor at Berea Baptist Church in Forest Hill, Texas. He is joined today by his wife Gloria, his children, and several members of his family and church congregation.

Reverend Smith is a native of Texas and a longtime resident of Fort Worth, where he and his wife live with their six children. A graduate of the Southern Bible Institute and of the University of Texas at Arlington, Reverend Smith has served as a spiritual foundation in his community for over 25 years.

Madam Speaker, I commend Reverend Smith for his long-standing service to Fort Worth and to the members of his congregation whom he has so capably served. It is my pleasure to have Reverend Smith here today, and an honor to represent him in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the RECORD my position on the following votes I missed on May 12, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 243 to table the motion, "yes" on rollcall 244 on H. Res. 413; and "yes" on rollcall 245 on H. Res. 378.

A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF
STEVEN L. ZELKOWITZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Steven L. Zelkowitz, a visionary leader in our community and an inspiration to all of New York.

Steven L. Zelkowitz, an independent energy consultant and attorney, is a senior veteran in New York's energy industry. He began as an attorney in private practice, representing utilities and energy companies for twenty years. He then joined Keyspan Corporation, serving as its General Counsel, Chief Administrative Officer, Executive Vice President, and eventually President of the Energy Assets & Supply Group. At every point in his career, Mr. Zelkowitz distinguished himself by his keen understanding of New York's energy needs, his tireless work ethic, and his loyalty.

Steven L. Zelkowitz has also earned an excellent reputation for supporting local organizations and institutions of higher learning. Mr. Zelkowitz serves on the Board of Trustees of Brooklyn Law School and is chair of its Finance Committee. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Brooklyn Bar Association, a member of National Board of Governors of the American Jewish Committee, a member of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association, and a past chair of its Public Utility Law Committee.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Steven L. Zelkowitz, a well-respected leader in Brooklyn's business and educational communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Steven L. Zelkowitz.

REMEMBERING THE QUARTERBACK FOR FREEDOM, JACK KEMP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in somber remembrance of Jack Kemp, who on and off the field, played his position with sure hands and a compassionate heart. That position—as I called it—was Quarterback for Freedom, a role he assumed effortlessly and