

IN HONOR OF MARCUS R. HABEEB

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Marcus R. Habeeb in recognition of his dedication and commitment to creating funding opportunities for those in need.

Marcus R. Habeeb is a proud product of New York's education system. As he tried to decide on a career path, he received a paralegal certificate from Adelphi University. Once he recognized that the law was not for him, he changed his focus and received a Finance degree from Baruch College, followed by a Master's of Business Administration from the same institution.

Over the past twenty years, Marcus has developed and broadened the scope of his expertise. Beginning in 1980, as an Accounts Receivable/Computer Operator, Marcus has steadily increased his responsibility and broadened his portfolio. He followed his first job, with a position as an Assistant Controller, where he was responsible for the financial management of a fine jewelry manufacturer. A few years later, he moved on to a position as a Chief Financial Officer, for a company in a difficult financial situation. Marcus was able to work with the bank and other creditors to recover potentially large losses. He moved from this position to Senior Vice-Presidency for a financial institution. While there he built a small Asian bank into a very important player on Wall Street. In his next position, he expanded his scope of responsibilities yet again, as the Operations Manager for Hometrust Mortgage Bank. While there, Marcus began to focus increasingly on marketing strategies, investor relations, and home mortgages. He has used this experience, most recently, in creating his own business, P & R Funding. Finally, Marcus is able to bring together all of the knowledge that he has accrued over his twenty year journey to independence to focus on developing financing and business products for those in need.

Marcus is also the proud husband, of fifteen years to Annie, and the father of two children.

Mr. Speaker, Marcus R. Habeeb has dedicated himself to business and his community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving this recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

IN HONOR OF JAMES BUTLER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of James Butler in recognition of his lifetime of outstanding service.

Jim Butler, is the President of a 10,000 member union, Local 420 Municipal Hospital Workers Union, DC 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO. He has had a lifelong interest in the living and working conditions of the people around him. For over 40 years he has played a leadership role in the struggle to improve those conditions.

Since beginning his career at Local 420 as a union organizer in 1954, Butler has been a tireless fighter for better pay, health, education and other benefits for hospital employees. Gains for workers in these areas are the most obvious marks of his leadership. "I never felt better," said President Butler, "than when we were able to win respect for hospital workers."

Over the last several years, Jim Butler and his local have waged a battle against threats to privatize public hospitals in New York City. The Local saw their efforts pay off with a victory in stopping the privatization of Coney Island Hospital, and the recent victory in saving Brooklyn Central Laundry, and 200 member jobs with no layoffs. Jim Butler is currently engaged in a boycott at several hospitals against the contracting out of employee cafeterias to fast food operation such as McDonald's and Burger King.

No less important, however, are his contributions to the community which the hospital workers serve. Butler has been the driving force behind the union's frequent demonstrations and rallies for social justice. Under his leadership, Local 420's political action also makes itself felt in voter education and registration drives. Annually the Local registers thousands of voters and directly involves hundreds of union members in political campaigns. The Local was a key supporter in the historic campaign to elect the first African-American Mayor of the City of New York, the Honorable David N. Dinkins.

Jim Butler has long been part of the struggle for equal opportunity for minorities within the labor movement through active membership in the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, PUSH, NAACP, Urban League, and SCLC Labor Committees. He served on the executive board of CBTU's New York Chapter. He also served as a member of the New York Consumer Assembly's Board of Directors.

Butler is the recipient of numerous awards and honors from civil rights, labor and community organizations, including the Labor Committee of the NAACP, the New York and Jamaica (Queens) chapters of the NAACP, the CBTU New York Chapter, Memphis Municipal Workers Local 1733, the Coalitions of Labor Unions Women, New York State's Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, the Hispanic Labor Committee, the Harlem YMCA, Queensborough Women's Clubs, the Negro Labor Council, the Community Leadership Network, and Central Baptist Church's honoree for Outstanding Christian Leader.

Jim Butler has been the President of Local 420 for 27 years and on August 18, 1999 he was elected as a International Vice President to the "mother union", AFSCME. Jim resides in Astoria, Queens, NY with his wife, Eloise.

Mr. Speaker, because of his dedication to helping health care workers and fighting for social justice, Jim Butler is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable leader.

IN MEMORY OF BONNIE SCANLAN

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a heartfelt tribute to Bonnie Scanlan, a

dear friend and civic-minded individual who worked tirelessly for the community of Echo Park in the City of Los Angeles, California. On Sunday, October 7, 2001, we lost Bonnie after a characteristically valiant fight for life following a massive heart attack. Bonnie was laid to rest Saturday, October 13, 2001 at Rose Hills Cemetery in Whittier, California; we are comforted knowing that today she rests in peace.

Bonnie Susan Gerzofsky was born in Brooklyn, New York on January 28, 1946 to Molly and Leonard Gerzofsky, already parents to toddler Stan. When she was in the fifth grade her family moved to Alhambra, California. From All Souls Catholic School and San Gabriel Mission High School, Bonnie went on to graduate from Pasadena City College and then become a social worker for the County of Los Angeles.

She later married John Scanlan, together raising their three children Johnna, John and Stephan. Bonnie was a very hands on mom; she passed on her family's love of baseball to her boys, teaching them how to catch. She passed on the importance of community involvement to her children, as Bonnie's mother had to her, serving as Troop Leader during her daughter's days in the Brownies and the Girl Scouts. Bonnie was very proud of her family, especially her grandsons Christopher and Tommy. Perhaps the only love equal to that for her family, baseball and helping others was Bonnie's love for her ancestral homeland of Ireland.

Ownership in a Domino's Pizza brought Bonnie to the community of Echo Park in the late 1980's. Even though Bonnie remained a resident of the nearby city of San Gabriel, she felt that as a business owner in Echo Park she had a responsibility to the community and its people. Bonnie's contributions are countless: helping to organize the Echo Park Pride Day, donating a monthly "Pizza Night" to the Chris Brownlie AIDS Hospice, holding a food drive at her pizza establishment every year during the holidays, feeding hungry police and firefighters during times of tragedy and crisis, and bringing the Los Angeles Philharmonic Musicmobile to the children at Mayberry School. It seems you could always count on her to support any cause that helped young people in the neighborhood and, of course, to dole out those pizzas whenever and wherever the need arose.

In 1998 Bonnie was elected President of the Echo Park Chamber of Commerce, a position she held at the time of her death. She invigorated the Chamber: reviving the community Holiday Parade, instituting the Jackie Finer-Reed Scholarship, starting the Echo Park business district's "Face Lift" program, and organizing the yearly Echo Park Night at Dodger Stadium. And, yes, there were always pizzas at every event.

I feel deeply privileged to have known Bonnie. She was a trusted friend. She was blessed with a kind, honest heart. And, as all who knew her will attest, she spoke her mind. How I miss that . . .

On December 9, 2001, the community of Echo Park paid tribute to Bonnie Scanlan by dedicating this year's Holiday Parade in her memory. Bonnie served posthumously as Grand Marshal with her family riding the parade route in her stead. The people of Echo Park may not realize it, but Bonnie always felt that the community did more for her than she ever did for the community.