

something I continue to insist upon for any trade agreements.

I continue to work to insure that any trade agreement is fair to the American worker and results in a fair deal for our economy, rather than a fast deal. To that end, I support inclusion and expansion of the Trade Assistance Act. American workers laid off as their company moves jobs abroad deserve to be compensated for such action. These workers must be retrained for other jobs. This bill would prohibit free trade agreements without strong, enforceable worker rights and environmental safeguards.

West Virginia workers deserve better trade agreements. The time has come to stop these undemocratic trade agreements. As "The Logan Banner," put it best, it's time our elected leaders put Americans first.

[From the Logan Banner, Apr. 17, 2002]

WHERE WE STAND

The workforce of Logan Manufacturing Company Inc., a local garment manufacturer creating the Sportsmaster brand of apparel got a dose of bad news this past week. They were laid off. Logan Manufacturing is just the latest victim of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement.

These people lost their jobs because sales dropped off and the company couldn't compete with products from overseas that are made by laborers who are paid next to nothing.

Logan Manufacturing has been here for 39 years. October would have been its 40th year.

Back when the Clinton Administration passed the North American Free Trade Agreement one H. Ross Perot warned of the coming of the "Great Sucking Sound" as American companies would leave our shores in order to cash in on the cheap slave labor south of the border.

Perot warned the deal would cost Americans their jobs. He was right. It only stands to reason that in an agreement where we lower all our tariffs with Mexico (and other countries) to nothing while only reducing theirs 10 percent a year it would be a good deal for them and cause many of us to wind up unemployed.

Logan Manufacturing said the federal government's allowance of imports to be procured for much lower rates than what can be manufactured in the U.S. through programs such as NAFTA, Caribbean Basin Initiative and the African Trade Bill along with the economic downturn following the Sept. 11 attacks was more than they could handle.

When will our elected officials in Washington wake up? Foreign trade deals that boost sales of cheap items made overseas at the expense of hardworking Americans are no deal at all. Thousands of American have been unemployed over these bad deals. It is time that our elected leaders put the U.S. first.

TO HONOR CHARLES R. (CHUCK)
HUGGINS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chuck Huggins for the 30 years of service he has given to the State of Arizona. Chuck will be retiring as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Arizona AFL-CIO in May. He has served the people of Arizona well and his dedication and professionalism will be missed.

Chuck knows the challenges and rewards of being a working man. He started as an Ap-

prentice Electrician in 1964 and soon became a Journeyman Electrician in both the mining and construction industries.

As an active member of Local 518 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, he began showing the skills and instincts necessary for leadership. But, in today's world, he knew that hard work was sometimes not enough. He realized that education was important too. So he continued to educate himself in accounting and business management at Eastern Arizona College and the University of Houston.

Chuck has pioneered innovative programs to help Arizona's workers be better prepared to meet the economic demands of our State. He has initiated training initiatives and re-training programs that have ensured that union members who have fallen behind due to no fault of their own can meet the challenges they may face in new work environments. He has served on the Governor's Workforce Development Committee, and is an active member of his church.

Chuck believes the most effective way to build strong communities is through the organization of strong individuals. He has led the AFL-CIO members through many difficult years, when some believed that Unions were dead and they no longer spoke for the average working American. Chuck proved all this wrong and has shown his fellow Union members that they have a place at the table, they are a force, and they are the strength and backbone of our communities and society.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that Chuck will be missed by his fellow union members and all working people. But, even more, he will be missed by the people of Arizona. Chuck kept us honest because he was honest. He knew that a hard day's work rendered a hard earned reward. He knew that if you paid the price, you moved ahead. And he showed us all how to pay the price.

Chuck, we all wish you health and happiness and give thanks for your showing us the way.

IN MEMORY OF LENORE
DEMANDANTE DOROMAL TUCK

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Lenore D. Tuck of Buies Creek, North Carolina, who died April 7, 2002. In her passing, North Carolina has lost one of its most outstanding citizens and I have lost a friend.

As I began collecting my thoughts about Lenore and what she has meant to my family, and me, I realized how good God has been to me. He has seen fit, in His infinite wisdom, to place me on the same highway of life with some of the most talented, energetic, dedicated, noble human beings it was possible for Him to create. Then He made them my friends. Such a friend was Lenore Tuck. My wife Faye and I are doubly blessed by Lenore's life. Lenore was Faye's teacher at Campbell University and her inspiration. Lenore became her lifelong friend.

Lenore was small of stature. But she was larger than life in the work she did, the friends she made, the causes she served, the good works she left scattered over Harnett County and North Carolina. She met every task with

a smile as broad as the ocean; she fairly jumped with excitement when new work was laid before her. She was a devoted Democrat, the kind of person any candidate for office has to love. Once she is committed to you, there was no turning back, and she never dreamed you would not be successful. She had a way of making you believe in yourself. I have been in Congress now for more than five years. Until recently, Lenore has served in my Lillington office that entire five years. She brought to the job the same efficiency that was characteristic of her. Every telephone call was important; every constituent request necessitated action.

We celebrate a great life lived to the fullest and of great consequence to our community and us. Her passing forces us to ponder the great issues of life and death as we say goodbye to our friend, Lenore. It has always seemed to me that when God puts us on this Earth, it is with the silent admonition that we work to leave the world better than we found it. Certainly, Lenore did so. Both in her home in the Philippines and in her adopted home in North Carolina. She was an uncommon woman who did uncommonly good work. And we were lucky that she walked among us.

A native of the Philippines, Lenore came to the United States in 1953 as a Tandang Sora Scholar. She received a degree in Home Economics from Radford College and a master's degree in nutrition from the University of Tennessee. Later she earned a master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She taught home economics at Campbell University from 1965 until her retirement in 1996.

When she was honored by the Raleigh newspaper, *News & Observer* as "Tar Heel of the Week" in November of 1979, she explained the philosophy that guided her active participation in her adopted community. "It is very important to be a part of the community. I love Buies Creek and would never leave . . . If there is something here that needs to be done, I feel obligated to do it. And if I do it, I'm sure going to try to do it right." The people of Buies Creek would agree with me that Lenore always did it right.

Nearly every existing organization benefiting the community had her support. Where there were unmet needs her organizing skill for meeting those needs was invaluable. In every area of her life, she made strong contributions. She was active in professional organizations: The American Dietetic Association, American Home Economics Association, American Association of University Professors and American Association of University Women. As a registered dietitian, she served as consultant to area hospitals and nursing homes. She helped organize and secure funding for the Harnett County Women, Infant and Children nutrition program.

Her interest in children extended past nutrition. She was a Girl Scout troop leader and a Boy Scout den mother. She was a PTA member and president. As a charter member of Memorial Baptist Church, she provided the skills for establishing and organizing the Stokes Day Care Center, which has provided pre-school and after-school care for hundreds of children. She continued to serve the Center until her death. Her public health concerns included the lack of adequate water and sewer

facilities in the county. She helped establish the Buies Creek Sewer District and later served on the Northeast Metro Water District Board.

She was also on the organizing board of the Harnett County Habitat for Humanity. She served as president of the Dunn-Erwin Rotary Club, conducting their foreign exchange program and leading an exchange group back to her homeland in 1993. She was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow and was Rotarian of the Year in 1993. Also a member and past president of the Coats Kiwanis Club, she was honored as a George F. Hixson Fellow in 1999. Always interested in promoting and recognizing the work of women, Lenore was the county coordinator for the N.C. United for ERA. A devoted Democrat, she was a member and officer of the county and state Democratic Women. Last year she received the state Democratic Women's Star Award. Her political activism began long before she came to the United States.

She grew up during the Japanese occupation of her homeland, where she became a patriot and resistance member. Later she was a member of CONDA, a YMCA-sponsored Congress to promote post-World War II understanding among students in the Asian countries. She served as president of the Congress, which is credited with the election of Romoán Magsaysay as President of the Philippines.

Mr. Speaker, I marvel that any single human being could have been as active in so many agencies, organizations, and associations. Or that any single individual could have accomplished so much. Moreover, Lenore's accomplishments include being a mother to Dr. Paul D. Tuck, mother-in-law to Sarah Tuck, sister to Julia Borromero, as well as six brothers, and grandmother to Ryan, Hunter, Alden, and Karson Tuck. All of whom will truly miss her.

I know that Lenore would not want us to be sad. I know that she would caution us that life is for the living, that day will follow the darkest of nights, and that we should leave this place with our spirits high, our hopes redeemed. I believe, based on what I knew about her, the life she lived, the successes she enjoyed, the way she loved life, she would want to say to us: "Be happy, my friends. I went willingly into that long night." Heaven is a happier place since Lenore arrived. Lenore is rushing around greeting those who have gone before. She is already planning projects that, even in Heaven, need doing. She is seeking out children she can help, and planning her flower garden for this spring. Indeed, in this case, as the Bible tells us:

"O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory?" Amen.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH AND AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, May is Older Americans Month, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our parents, grandparents, and all others who have gone before us, protecting and nurturing us through good

times and bad, and providing opportunities for younger generations to grow and live responsible, comfortable lives.

Our responsibility, in return, is to ensure that our parents and all older Americans live the rest of their lives free from overly burdensome financial concerns related to their health. Yet today, one of the greatest worries of older Americans is how to pay for prescription drugs since Medicare does not provide for this most basic need. On average, one in three Medicare beneficiaries have no drug coverage for the duration of any given year; nearly half have no coverage for some portion of the year. Of those who have coverage, most have it from their employer. Seventeen percent are covered by Medicare HMOs. But in North Dakota, very few of our seniors have employer-provided prescription drug coverage and none of the Medicare beneficiaries in North Dakota have access to a Medicare+Choice plan offering drug coverage. In my state that has the highest per capita population of seniors, M+C plans offering drug coverage are not an option!

The need for a comprehensive prescription drug benefit is clear. Older Americans make up 13 percent of the population but account for 34 percent of all prescriptions dispensed and 42 cents of every dollar spent on prescription drugs. Seniors in my state, Mr. Speaker, are regularly forced into the absurd choice of paying for their prescription drugs or covering their food and rent for the month. This is no choice at all and we should be ashamed for allowing it to come to that.

This month, the Alliance for Retired Americans and other groups will provide buses for seniors from states that border our northern neighbor, including North Dakota, to travel to Canada to fill their prescriptions. It is an embarrassment to our health care system that older Americans must leave the United States in order to purchase affordable prescription drugs. We must correct this by including meaningful prescription drug coverage as a standard option to all Medicare beneficiaries.

Many states have become frustrated by the lack of action here in the nation's capital. They are trying to take steps on behalf of their own citizens to curb prices. But, they are facing challenges in the courts and in the press. States are trying their best to make drugs affordable to seniors, but this is a national crisis. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that prescription drug prices will incur double-digit inflation each year over the next decade. This crisis is only getting worse and we must act now to protect our seniors today, and in the future.

Congress has the authority to make an affordable and comprehensive prescription drug benefit available to all Medicare beneficiaries. We have the authority, now we must show we have the will. Let's not kid ourselves: a meaningful prescription drug benefit is going to be very expensive—the \$350 billion some are talking about probably isn't even in the ballpark. We must make some hard—and responsible—budgetary decisions to fund such a plan, but our seniors deserve nothing less. Mr. Speaker, let us honor older Americans by enacting a comprehensive, affordable, and voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALFRED A. MCKETHAN

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to Mr. Alfred Augustus McKethan, a devoted civic leader and philanthropist in Hernando County and the State of Florida, who passed away on April 1 at the wonderful age of 93.

It is impossible to fully describe the extent of Mr. McKethan's reach during his lifetime. He touched so many lives, in such positive and lasting ways.

His family roots were and continue to be solidly embedded in Hernando County—a place his family helped to settle starting in 1842 when Florida was just a territory and not a state. He was very proud to be a fourth generation Brooksville native and devoted his entire life to making the community in which he lived a better place.

After attending the Virginia Military Institute for two years, Mr. McKethan graduated from the University of Florida and returned home to Brooksville to work at Hernando State Bank, fondly known in the community as HSB. The bank was founded in 1905 and, from early in its existence, was led first by his father, Will McKethan, and then by Alfred, and would flourish under this son's leadership. When Will McKethan became ill and could no longer be active in the bank, Alfred's mother, Alice Hale McKethan, known to all as "Allee," became the first, and for many years, was the only female bank director in Florida. Mr. McKethan, and the other stockholders, sold the independent bank to Sun Banks Inc. in 1985 and retired as chairman in 1994.

During his banking career, Mr. McKethan became a mover and shaker in the banking industry. In 1947, he became the youngest person to become president of the Florida Bankers Association. He was only 38 years old at the time and would thrive in the position. He is credited with helping to push through significant banking legislation that, according to the St. Petersburg Times, resulted in the "modernization of the state's banking industry."

Dade City banker and longtime friend, Hjalma Johnson, described Mr. McKethan's banking career this way, "He is the dean of banking. No one has had more influence over the course of the banking industry and its ability to deliver services to the ever-growing state of Florida than the chairman." (St. Petersburg Times)

Jim Kimbrough, who married Mr. McKethan's daughter, and who would one day take over as head of SunTrust Bank/Nature Coast, said of his banking career and role as mentor: "It's been a privilege to be at his side professionally." (St. Petersburg Times)

But his interests and political involvements stretched far beyond that of the banking industry. According to Brooksville lawyer Joe Mason, McKethan's nephew, "His influence is everywhere you look. Probably no one in the last half-century has had as much of an impact on the community as he has had." (St. Petersburg Times) Mr. Mason also pointed out Mr. McKethan's unique and very effective style of conducting business. "Over the years, much important business was transacted at