

It was not difficult, however to write the words of hope, pride and conviction I had for this country and its people on September 12. And, today, a year later, I am happy to report that the hope, pride and conviction were well-founded. On September 12, 2001 I wrote, in part:

"As I walked to work across the Capitol grounds this morning, a day after the attacks, I was struck as I often am by the incredible beauty of the U.S. Capitol building. The dome was shining a brilliant white against a clear blue sky on a beautiful late summer day. I realized that the glorious dome, such a symbol of the strength and stability of our country, might well have been the final target of the ill-fated fourth hijacked plane.

"The simple truth is that even if a terrorist act had destroyed the dome, or if a thousand terrorist acts had obliterated the entire capital, America would still be standing firm as it is today."

In the past year, we have cried and cursed. We have opened our hearts and our wallets. We have buried our dead and we continue to heal our wounded and sorrowful. We have cleared the debris and begun to rebuild. Our President has led, and Congress has indeed stood shoulder to shoulder with him in support. Our soldiers have fought bravely and we here at home have done what we do best—we went back to work.

We will never again look at the world in the same way. We are sadder. We are wiser. We are closer. And, as I said a year ago, we are still standing firm. We've been through a lot. There will be tough times ahead, but today I have even a stronger feeling of hope, pride and conviction in our country and its people. God Bless America.

TRIBUTE TO GARY QUICK ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS A UNION LEADER

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man who was a union member for over forty three years and a union leader in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for almost that long. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gary Quick on the occasion of his retirement on June 30, 2002.

Gary Quick was born in downstate Michigan on October 28, 1940 and moved with his family to Rapid River in the Upper Peninsula as a child. Gary graduated from Rapid River High School in 1959.

Gary's union career began when he accepted a position as a sub assembler at the Harnischfeger Corporation plant in Escanaba, Michigan on May 4, 1959. With the new position came membership in United Auto Workers Local 632.

Gary came from a union family so he understood and valued the importance of union membership and union leadership. Gary was elected by members of Local 632 as Steward in 1963 serving until 1966.

Gary maintained the respect of the union rank and file and was elected Vice President of U.A.W. Local 632 in 1967. After two years as Vice President, Gary was elected President of Local 632 in 1969.

Mr. Speaker, Gary is not just a leader in his union, he is also a patriot who has a great love of his country. While serving his brothers and sisters as president of local 632, Gary also served his country as a United States Army Reservist.

Gary was honored to be sent to the U.A.W. Constitutional Convention as a delegate seven times between the years 1966 and 1983. He also served as a delegate to the Trades and Labor Council. In addition to his union activities, Gary served as a Commissioner on the Delta County Road Commission for six years.

The United Auto Workers Union recognized Gary's union leadership skills and service and appointed him to a union staff position as an International Representative in the United Auto Worker's Escanaba Sub-Region I-D office in April of 1989.

While serving as an International Representative, Gary successfully negotiated union contracts in a wide variety of employment settings including the health care, higher education, automotive, and aerospace industries.

Not one to shy away from public service, Gary also served on many community and industry boards and councils such as the Blue Cross Blue Shield Advisory Board, the Labor management Board, and the Private Industry Council.

After attending his last U.A.W. Constitutional Convention this year, Gary announced his retirement effective June 30, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, when Gary was asked to recall the biggest influence in his union career, he responded that former United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther was the most influential figure in his career. The late Walter Reuther, who was known to call everyone he met brother, made many profound statements in his lifelong effort to better the lives of workers everywhere.

One such statement inscribed on Reuther's statue in the Walter and May Reuther Gardens at the Black Lake U.A.W. Educational Center in my district reads: "There is no greater calling than to serve your brother. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well."

Mr. Speaker, brother Gary Quick responded to his great calling and brother Quick has served his brothers and sisters well.

While Gary may be retiring from his active position with the union, I know that he will retain his love and support for his brothers and sisters in labor. Gary will now be able to focus his activities toward his wife Beverly and step-daughter Tina, who, together with friends, relatives and union brothers and sisters celebrated Gary's retirement at a dinner on September 7, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting Gary Quick, a true personal friend and a friend of labor in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES H. GOMEZ

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of CalPERS' highest-ranking officials, Mr. James H. Gomez, as he ends his tenure as the Deputy Executive Officer.

James Gomez was appointed to the position of Deputy Executive Officer of CalPERS in December of 1996, a position that is second in command and serves as the chief operating officer under the CEO. As chief operating officer, James Gomez was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the \$145 billion retirement system. He led the implementation of CalPERS' strategic plan to ensure the system is a world-class administrator of retirement and health benefits for public employees.

While at CalPERS, James Gomez made his mark by improving customer service with the Customer Call Center which significantly improves the ability to provide solutions to members' problems. He also led the effort to obtain \$7 billion in state funding to benefit state and public school employees. The imaging project he oversaw allowed 51 million records to be imaged for increased record efficiency. CalPERS is a more effective and efficient organization due to the hard work and dedication of James Gomez.

James Gomez has been a public servant for close to 30 years working for the State Department of Benefit Payments, State Department of Social Services, California Department of Corrections, the County of Santa Clara, and most recently CalPERS. His dedication to public service kept him with the California State Department of Social Services over several years where he was tasked with ensuring that all children and foster care services were difficult to enter into but simple to leave.

James Gomez is the recipient of many distinguished awards and recognitions, including the American Society of Public Administrators and the Outstanding Public Administrator Award. In recognition for his contributions, he has earned the One to One, Leadership Award, Share the Path Program, along with other such distinguishable awards.

I am honored to join the employees of CalPERS in commending James Gomez for his many years in public service. His dedication to the community has been great and his commitment to the employees of California will serve as a model for others to follow.

U.S. SHOULD ASSUME INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2002

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I expected that the United States would have taken a leadership role in the recent international summit on sustainable development. Instead, I am disappointed to report that this Administration has taken a back seat in international discussions on global warming and increasing the use of renewable energy.

GLOBAL WARMING

The United States is the number one contributor of greenhouse gases worldwide. We have a responsibility to provide the necessary international leadership to address global warming. It is shameful that the Bush Administration has elected to ignore that responsibility. Not only did the Bush Administration decide that the United States should not take a leadership role on addressing the challenges presented by global warming, but worse, it also