

It is a fact that Hugh's vision has increased the organizational, programmatic, and policy capacity of the National Urban League. Under his leadership, the League dramatically strengthened its fiscal performance and reached new heights in fundraising through strategic partnerships with corporations, foundations, and governmental agencies.

Under Hugh Price's talented leadership, signature Urban League Movement programs moved to the forefront of urban communities. One such program, the Campaign for African American Achievement, became synonymous with standards of academic excellence in urban schools across the country. This program provided positive reinforcement for young people who earn good grades through the National Achievers Society—a nationwide, community-based honors society recognizing children who have earned B averages or better in school.

Expanding upon its innovative work in the education arena, Mr. Price guided the National Urban League into a partnership with Scholastic, Inc., to create Read and Rise—a parent guide for helping children become proficient readers—and a companion public service campaign to spread the word about this free resource throughout the African American community.

Finally, Hugh Price's talented leadership positioned the Urban League Movement as a leading agenda setter of many policy issues affecting Americans. From education policy to affirmative action and racial profiling, Hugh B. Price inserted the National Urban League into the policy fray with fact-based arguments that often added new and thoughtful insight into strident policy debates.

His role as a master policy architect was also evidenced by his dedicated efforts to reconstitute the Washington office of the National Urban League into the Institute for Opportunity and Equality—a policy and research think tank that is quickly emerging as a leading information resource concerning issues important to African Americans.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am proud as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus to stand before you today to laud the many accomplish-

ments of Hugh B. Price, thank him for his service, and wish him a heartfelt farewell as he transitions from his successful tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League.

A TRIBUTE TO JACK BUCKLES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to pay tribute to Jack H. Buckles on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Jack was born in Watagua, Tennessee on March 12, 1923. He was raised in a strong Democrat family of eight sons and two daughters. Following the outbreak of World War II, Jack enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served aboard LCT 666, making numerous landings of soldiers and equipment on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. After being honorably discharged at the end of the war, Jack returned to his home in Tennessee, where he became the first member of his family to attend college. On August 18, 1947, he married Billie Roberta Leonard. Shortly after his marriage, Jack became a journeyman steamfitter, working on numerous Tennessee Valley Authority construction projects. In 1959, Jack moved his family to Frederick, Maryland.

Jack joined the Steamfitters Union 602 in Washington D.C., where he served for more than 35 years with professionalism and commitment. Recognized for his exceptional skill in his craft, Jack was identified as one of the pool of select union members assigned to duties at the White House and other highly sensitive federal job sites. He supported the expansion of the medical and pension plans for the rank and file which today is recognized as one of the model union programs in the building trades in the District of Columbia.

A long time resident of Frederick, Maryland, Jack has proven himself to be a pillar of his community, a strong leader in his church and

active in numerous community and service organizations. A life long Democrat, Jack has devoted himself to working for the advancement of the Democrat Party and Democrat candidates at the local and state level. He has been a member of the Christian Church of Frederick for more than 30 years, where he was selected by the congregation to serve as a Church Deacon.

Jack considers his family as his greatest achievement. A loving husband of over 55 years to Billie R. Buckles, they have one son, a daughter, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Jack H. Buckles before this body of Congress and this nation today. His contributions to his community, his church, and his family have been immeasurably beneficial in the lives of many.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL IRWIN WOLFF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joel Irwin Wolff who will be named Pioneer of the Year by Grays Harbor County, Washington on March 23, 2003.

Joel Wolff's father came to the United States from Germany and established Wolff's Department Store in Aberdeen, Washington, in 1897. Joel Wolff was born on September 26, 1908, and has spent his entire life in Grays Harbor County.

Joel Irwin Wolff has been the devoted husband of Ruth Kauffman Wolff for 65 years and he is the proud father of Susan Desmond of Portland, Oregon, and George Wolff of Hillsborough, California.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true pioneer and a great American, Joel Irwin Wolff.