

Founded and directed by former House and Senate staffer, Eric Federing, the program fosters cultural and educational exchanges between the United States and Australia. Mr. Federing deserves distinguished praise for his efforts in coordinating this program and the support he provides to all participants is truly incredible. Outside of working in Democratic and Republican House, Senate and Committee offices, interns are given the opportunity to explore our brand of democracy through panel discussions with political correspondents, Members of Congress and representatives from various government offices as well as professionals at non-government agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express how remarkable the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program is and how critical it is to strengthening ties with America's allies. Participating in this special exchange is a memorable experience that will stay with Liz, her peers and my staff for the rest of their lives. I extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Federing for developing and organizing this program, to my fellow Members of Congress and their dedicated staff for hosting, to Liz for grasping this opportunity with an open heart and a curious mind and to all participants for engaging in public service. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program and, again, thank Elizabeth Noble for her admirable participation and diligent work.

ALEX WALKER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alex Walker IV, of Salida, Colorado. The Colorado District Attorneys Council named him Investigator of the Year for his outstanding track record and tenacious work ethic.

A native of Salida, Alex has progressively worked his way up through the law enforcement field. He served as a corrections officer at the Buena Vista prison for two years before becoming a detective at the Salida Police Department. After four years of detective work, Alex went to work for the 11th Judicial District Attorney's office as an investigator. Superiors and coworkers quickly recognized Alex's high level of integrity and determined approach to tackling tough cases. One murder case required Alex to document 60 miles of disjointed and rambling crime scene to prep a case for trial, a task few others wanted to take on. Another case looked hopeless after three failed searches for a missing murder weapon. After other members of his team thought it was a lost cause, Alex was able to turn up with the weapon and close the case for good.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Alex Walker's committed approach to law enforcement. I would like to thank him for his service.

HONORING ELDER BERRESFORD
"BERRY" BINGHAM

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Elder Berresford "Berry" Bingham, the political director of Service Employees International Union, SEIU, Local 1021. A devoted community member and the first African American elected to the Alameda School Board, Mr. Bingham was a beloved father, grandfather, friend and colleague. Berry Bingham was taken from us too soon, on January 25, 2011 at the age of 64. Today, let us find comfort in the joy his life inspired. He was a talented, kind and spiritual man who touched countless lives throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Berry Bingham was born in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and moved with his family to the United States at the age of 12. After high school and a brief stint in college, Mr. Bingham enlisted in the U.S. Navy and began a two-decade naval career. After retirement from the service in 1994, Mr. Bingham became increasingly interested in local schools in Alameda. That very same year, he became the first African American ever elected to the Alameda School Board. During his tenure from 1994 to 2002 he was known as a patient and steadfast advocate for children from all walks of life.

He was passionate about ensuring equal education opportunities for underserved children, and he was a candid proponent for diversity in schools throughout the west and east ends of Alameda. Even after he joined Local 616, which became SEIU Local 1021, Mr. Bingham kept children's interests as a priority, often traveling to Stockton to develop a Head Start campaign. For over 17 years, Mr. Bingham utilized his skill as a professional worker's advocate to fortify the union's ties with community organizations. In his role as Community Strength Coordinator, Mr. Bingham worked to represent public workers, including those in the city of Oakland, Alameda County, and employees of BART. He was also passionate about advocating for home care workers.

In addition to being a delegate of the Central Labor Council and a stalwart leader in the labor community, Mr. Bingham served as a Deacon and Elder of his church. Often called the "neighborhood dad," Mr. Bingham was immensely proud of the accomplishments of his three adult children, Kenya, Jovon and Brian, from his union with former wife, Kathy Bingham. The amicably divorced couple had recently become proud grandparents.

On a personal level, I was proud to call Berry not only my friend and colleague, but my brother. I met him in the early 90s. Berry was a consistent supporter and worker in my political efforts, and he was also a confidant who always "watched my back." For that, I am deeply grateful.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding human being, Elder Berresford "Berry" Bingham. The contributions he made to others throughout his life are countless and precious. Mr. Bingham was a dear friend and he will be deeply missed by an extended group of loved ones.

Although these days are difficult, I pray that our fond memories of Berry will bring us comfort and strength as we celebrate his life and legacy. May his soul rest in peace.

THE JOBLESS RATE: A
STATISTICAL FAKE-OUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, recent headlines have celebrated the most recent unemployment statistics from January, which showed the number of unemployed Americans to 9 percent. The rate is down from 9.8 percent in November, at its lowest level since April 2009. This is the biggest two-month decline in the unemployment rate since 1958. This news was celebrated along with news of the stock market breaking high levels not seen in years.

But the upbeat headlines celebrating these figures are little comfort to the nearly 15 million unemployed Americans. Pull back the headlines and you discover a grim reality. More than 40 million Americans are in poverty, and that number is actually closer to 50 million, once health care, transportation, child care and other costs are included. The labor force participation rate, a measure of the number of working-age Americans who are employed, are willing to work or are actively looking for work, is the lowest it has been in over a generation. The job situation has been so grim for so long, that of the more than 6 million Americans who have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, many have given up hope of ever finding a job, and are no longer being counted. So before we start patting ourselves on the back for climbing out of the Great Recession, let's remember that for too many Americans, behavioral economics and celebratory newspaper headlines are not something you can eat.

TRIBUTE TO SUE ANSCHUTZ-
RODGERS

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and privilege of mine to rise and pay tribute to a lady who represents dignity, relentless perseverance and the pioneer spirit. Mrs. Sue Anschutz-Rodgers is an inspirational woman who can lay claim to being many different things at once. Most importantly she is the loving mother and grandmother of three wonderful daughters and many grandchildren. Aside from being the matriarch of her family, she is also a passionate philanthropist, a talented business woman and a dedicated rancher.

Mrs. Anschutz-Rodgers was born on the Kansas countryside, and those rural roots have never left her sense of being. She went on to graduate from the University of Kansas. She then moved to Arkansas before putting permanent roots in Denver with the rest of her family. It was not long before Anschutz-Rodgers results driven attitude began making