

advocate, a mentor for his fellow veterans, and a leader in our community.

Tino Adame was born in French Camp, California, and graduated from Franklin High School in 1965. After two years of study at San Joaquin Delta College, he joined the U.S. Marines at the age of 19 and has proudly worn the honorable title of Marine ever since that day. Tino was stationed with the "2/9 Hell in a Helmet" unit in Vietnam, and as a result of his service, earned a Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Rifle Marksman Badge, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Tino completed his service in Vietnam in 1967 and came home to work at the Tracy Defense Depot. He married Mary Hope Lopez in 1970 and continued to work at the Depot until he retired after 33 years.

Tino Adame has dedicated himself to serving his fellow veterans. In 1998, Tino became the first Latino Commander of the American Legion Karl Ross Post 16. One of his first initiatives was a successful petition of the Stockton City Council to sponsor an Independence Day parade honoring veterans—the first such parade to take place in 10 years. Tino then went on to chair both the Independence Day and Veterans Day parades.

Tino has also taken part in many community initiatives involving our community's young people. He has taught students correct flag etiquette, including the proper way to retire old flags and dedicate new ones. He has recognized JROTC cadets at his alma mater, Franklin High School, with plaques of achievement. He has also worked with young students to write Valentine's Day cards to veterans at the VA facility in Livermore.

Following the attacks on 9/11, Tino requested and obtained a piece of limestone from the part of the Pentagon that was damaged during the attack. That limestone is now enclosed in front of the Karl Ross Post and serves as an important reminder to our community about the 9/11 attacks and the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform.

Tino also played an important role in convincing the Department of Veterans Affairs to select San Joaquin County as the home for a new veterans' medical facility and nursing home. Thanks to his hard work and the efforts of many in the community, the Valley's veterans will be able to get medical care close to home.

Tino Adame's steadfast commitment to his country, community and fellow veterans is an example to us all. I know his work to improve the lives of our heroes will make a lasting impact for years to come. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tino Adame for his exceptional service to our country and our veterans.

HONORING NEA JAZZ MASTER
RANDY WESTON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, legendary jazz artist Randy Weston will be honored this year by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation at the Jazz Issue Forum and Concert that

will take place during the 40th Annual Legislative Conference. Mr. Weston will also perform at the concert, which will take place on Thursday, September 22, 2011, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, DC.

Randy Weston is an internationally renowned pianist, composer, bandleader and cultural ambassador, whose compositions encompass the vast rhythmic heritage of both America and Africa. After six decades of active work, he is widely recognized as a true innovator and visionary who continues to inform and inspire. Mr. Weston has had an outstanding career that deserves the recognition of this body. Let me share some of the highlights from his biography.

Randy Weston was born on April 6, 1926 and raised in Brooklyn, New York, son of parents from Jamaica and Virginia. New York City has long been a Mecca for jazz giants and Weston cites Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Art Tatum as his piano heroes. It was Thelonius Monk, however, who made the greatest impact. "He was the most original I ever heard," Mr. Weston remembers. "He played like they must have played in Egypt 5000 years ago."

Much of Mr. Weston's connection to African music stems from his father, Frank Edward Weston, who told his son he was "an African born in America. . . . He told me I had to learn about myself, about him and about my grandparents," stated Weston, "and the only way to do it was I'd have to go back to the motherland one day." Inspired by Nigeria's newly won independence from the United Kingdom, Weston started to incorporate tribal music with a type of West African pop music known as High Life. This blend culminated in Mr. Weston's 1960 album *Uhuru Afrika*, which featured traditional African percussion and rhythms in the form of a jazz suite.

In the late 1960's, Mr. Weston took his father's advice and left the United States for Morocco, travelling throughout Africa to experience each country's musical diversity. One of the highlights of his travels was the 1977 Nigerian Festival, which drew artists from 60 cultures. "At the end," Weston says, "we all realized that our music was different but the same, because if you take out the African elements of bossa nova, samba, jazz, blues, you have nothing. . . . To me, it's Mother Africa's way of surviving in the New World." He had the honor of playing at the Kamigamo Shrine in Kyoto, Japan in 2008 and commemorated the 50th Anniversary of his *Uhuru Afrika* album in 2010. With his strong connection to African music, Weston has enjoyed success with the dozens of albums he released over the past 50 years.

Randy Weston has received awards and acclaim at home and abroad, including the prestigious Jazz Masters Award from the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA, in 2001. He has also received an honorary Doctor of Music degree from Brooklyn College, City University of New York, in June 2006. In 2009 he was added to the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Jazz Wall of Fame. On May 11, 2011 Weston received the award of Royal Wissam of National Merit of the Order of Officer by command of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI of Morocco, for his lifelong commitment to Morocco. His memoirs, *African Rhythms: The Autobiography of Randy Weston*, composed by Randy Weston

and arranged by Willard Jenkins, was published in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, Randy Weston is a living jazz treasure and I urge all members to join me in commending him for his magnificent contribution to jazz fans around the world.

RETIREMENT OF MICHAEL
SULLIVAN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I stand before you today to congratulate Mr. Michael J. Sullivan on his retirement from his position as General President of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, SMWIA. For 46 years, Mike has devoted his life to serving, protecting, and improving the lives of all Americans who want to earn a living wage for their labor. This is particularly true for the members of the Sheet Metal Workers. Michael Sullivan will be honored for his many years of dedicated service at a retirement celebration on September 20, 2011, at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

Michael Sullivan's leadership over the years has been indispensable for the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association. During his tenure, Mike has held numerous positions. I'm proud that his career began in my home state, in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he completed his apprenticeship. In 1973, Mike was elected business representative. He later became the business manager and financial secretary of Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 20. While residing in Indiana, he served as president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) for the state of Indiana. Later, he was appointed by the Governor to serve as a member for the Indiana Workers' Compensation Commission and Hoosier Alliance Against Drugs. Mike was vice president of the SMWIA General Executive Council for 10 years and then served as the General Secretary-Treasurer of the SMWIA. In 1999, Michael became President of the SMWIA, a position that includes supervising and directing 157 Sheet Metal Workers' Local Unions throughout the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. This vital group provides skilled services to various industries including sheet metal, air conditioning, kitchen equipment, transportation and other metal related manufacturing. Mike has also served as the vice president of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, while also participating in several AFL-CIO executive committees. In addition to the prestigious positions held by Mike, he has served as the labor co-chairman of the Democratic Governors' Association and also currently serves as president of the Eugene Debs Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Sullivan represents the very best values of his home state of Indiana: hard work, perseverance in the face of setbacks, and a selfless nature of wanting to serve others before being served. He is a gentleman in the truest sense of the word: strong, decisive, but governed by compassion and kindness.

Michael's dedication to his fellow members throughout his outstanding career is exceeded