

TRIBUTE TO MR. ERNEST C.
WITHERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to legendary photojournalist Mr. Ernest C. Withers. Born in Memphis, TN in 1922, Mr. Withers is renowned for his distinguished photographic record of the Civil Rights Movement in the South during the 1950's and 1960's. No other photographer created as complete a document of this movement as Withers did.

An important catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement, Withers helped to mobilize interest in the cause across the United States through his powerful images and writings. Withers often traveled with and photographed such legendary figures as Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Ralph Abernathy, and James Meredith. His unflinching visual records of these important individuals and critical events like the Montgomery bus boycott of 1955 and the assassination of King provide an insightful portrait of these landmark moments in American history.

During the struggle for civil rights, Mr. Withers photographed meetings, marches, sit-ins, and police crackdowns all across the South. As the movement erupted, Withers became fully engaged in capturing images which would appear in newspapers and magazines like Time and Newsweek, often uncredited. He noted, "I had a single sense of having to record what was going on. I look for things of time and value. None of my images deal in violence—they deal in time." Though he generally photographed without incident, at the funeral of Medgar Evers, highway patrolmen knocked his camera from his hands, destroying the film.

Because of his familiarity with the people and the geography of the segregated South, Mr. Withers was often the first or only photographer to capture momentous events as they unfolded long before the national press became interested.

Mr. Withers has photographed every major civil rights activist since the 1950's and said he could do an entire book of his photographs of Dr. King. The Massachusetts College of Art mounted an exhibition of Mr. Withers' civil rights photographs entitled "Let Us March On" that has toured the United States since 1992. He has photographed Memphis soul figures like Al Green, Isaac Hayes and Elvis Presley. He has photographed nearly every president from John F. Kennedy to Bill Clinton. He has also captured the innocence of Sunday school teachers, Little Leaguers, and waitresses in his photographs.

Furthermore, Mr. Withers has served his country and his community as an Army photographer in World War II and as one of the first nine African American police officers in Memphis.

Ernest Withers once said, "I was trained as a high school student in history, but I didn't know I would be recording the high multitude of imagery and history that I did record."

In 1998, Mr. Withers was inducted into the Black Press Hall of Fame. Please join me in honoring Mr. Withers as one of truly important and influential figures in our history.

IN TRIBUTE TO OUR FALLEN
HERO: SHERIFF SAM CATRON OF
PULASKI COUNTY, KENTUCKY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, a dedicated public servant and a soldier on the front lines of the fight against evil has been struck down—taken from us in a senseless but premeditated act of political assassination in my home county this past weekend.

Sheriff Sam Catron of Pulaski County, Kentucky, was shot and killed Saturday, April 13, by a cowardly assassin who fired a high-powered rifle from a camouflaged vantagepoint estimated to be some 100 yards away. He was killed instantly and fell just steps from friends, family and his elderly mother, Jennie Rachel Catron, who had accompanied him to an outdoor candidates-night gathering and fish fry at a rural volunteer fire station.

By Monday, very efficient and capable state and local investigators had arrested the alleged assassin and two alleged conspirators, including one of the sheriff's opponents in his race for reelection.

A particularly cruel irony is that the Sheriff's father was gunned down by an assassin in similar fashion as Somerset (county seat of Pulaski County) Chief of Police 38 years ago. Both shootings were in the presence of the Sheriff's mother and the Chief's wife.

Pulaski County Sheriff Sam Catron won election on his first attempt for the office in 1984. He had previously served as chief of police in Ferguson, Kentucky, and as a deputy sheriff in Pulaski County. He was a member of the City of Somerset-Pulaski County Rescue Squad, an Eagle Scout and a Kentucky Colonel. Ray Stoess, the former executive director of the Kentucky Sheriff's Association, says Sheriff Catron was perhaps the best Kentucky sheriff of the last 30 years. A former Sheriff of the Year in Kentucky, he was considered one of the hardest-working law officers in the state, often staying on the road until the early morning hours answering calls from citizens and investigating crimes.

A licensed pilot, Sheriff Catron performed his own helicopter searches for marijuana, helped other departments track suspects with the use of his police dog and he was even known to keep firefighting equipment in his vehicle so he could lend a hand in any kind of emergency. Sheriff Catron had recently cooperated with John Walsh of the TV program America's Most Wanted in an effort to track down a man wanted by police in Eastern Kentucky. Ironically, that episode of the program premiered on national television this past Saturday night, less than two hours after Sheriff Catron was gunned down.

Sheriff Catron loved being the chief law enforcement official of our county. He was a very capable lawman. But he also performed thousands of kindnesses to the people he dearly loved. As such, Sheriff Sam Catron is an example of a law officer who lived to serve the people he represented. He worked tirelessly for the citizens of Pulaski County, who today have a heavy heart, yet they are now relying on their deep wellspring of faith, their abiding sense of community, their loving families and their inner strength.

The people are trying to heal in many ways, including the spontaneous display of brown and yellow ribbons—colors worn by the members of the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office who put their lives on the line each and every day.

But among the outpouring of heartfelt tributes, memorials and flowers, perhaps a hand lettered, red-white-and-blue sign spotted in the Pulaski County town of Ferguson said it best:

"Goodbye Sammy. We will miss you, our friend."

IN HONOR OF MYRON McKINNEY

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Myron McKinney on his 33 years of service to Empire District Electric Company. His exceptional career with Empire began on June 5, 1967 as a sales consultant and will end on April 30, 2002, as President and Chief Executive Officer of Empire.

Myron McKinney was the recipient of numerous awards, including Outstanding Citizen for 1999 by the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. He was also the Outstanding Alumnus in 1997 for Bolivar High School, and in 2000, was voted Outstanding Alumnus for Missouri Southern State College.

Myron McKinney has served the Joplin area for many years by volunteering countless hours for local service clubs and community boards. He is a former president and board member for the Joplin United Way and the Jasper County Association for Social Services. Mr. McKinney is a Missouri State Chamber of Commerce Board Member and a former president and board member for the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. He also served on the Joplin Business and Industrial Development as their chairman and board member. He is on the Freeman Hospital Board and served as chairman of the board for the Ozarks Public Telecommunications board. Mr. McKinney served as the chairman and board member for the Joplin Southern board and is a former board member of the Joplin Family Y.

Myron McKinney was born on September 9, 1944 in Santa Paula, California, to O.S. and Hazel McKinney. He grew up in Bolivar, Missouri, graduating from Bolivar High School in 1962 as the vice-president of his class. He attended Joplin Junior College and served as the president of the Student Senate and was the captain of the football team. He graduated from Southwest Missouri State University in 1967 with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. In 1964, he married Janet Manard. They have 2 daughters and one grandson.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Empire District Electric Company will miss the exemplary leadership that Myron McKinney has provided. I would like to personally wish him well in this new stage of his life. I know that he'll continue his service to Southwestern Missouri and am certain that my colleagues will join me in honoring this remarkable man.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER
CONGRESSMAN PHILIP RUPPE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Congressman Mr. Philip Ruppe. I would also like to thank my colleague from Michigan for offering this resolution to pay tribute to a great man.

Philip Ruppe is a prime example of the outcome of hard-work and determination. Before serving his constituents for twelve years as their Representative to Congress, he was a successful banker. Before that, he defended our great nation and served in the Navy during the Korean War.

I have known Philip Ruppe for over twenty years and was active in supporting his campaign for the U.S. Senate in 1982. His passion for politics was only trumped by his loyalty to his constituents. He was the first Congressman representing the district to have district offices, no easy task considering the size of his district.

Because of his dedication and hard work, I wish to congratulate Phil on his lifelong achievements and wish nothing but the best in his future endeavors.

UNITED STATES TEXTILE
INDUSTRY

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced four measures which will help the United States textile industry in its efforts to compete on the global playing field.

Many American textile companies are fighting for their survival due to unfairly undervalued imports produced by low-wage foreign manufacturers. One competitive advantage that the U.S. industry still has is its productivity. The American textile industry is one of the most productive in the world, but American companies must constantly modernize to retain that edge.

Unfortunately, much of the machinery the American textile industry needs to compete is no longer produced here in the United States, so the industry must seek such equipment from foreign sources. However, they must still pay duties on those machines. At a time when our domestic industry is suffering its most severe economic crisis since the Great Depression, with hundreds of closed mills and nearly 70,000 jobs lost in the past year, it makes no sense to require companies to pay duties on equipment that is not produced domestically.

Some of our leading American textile companies have entered Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, others are experiencing substantial losses, and even some of those who are profitable are barely so. For these companies, if we suspend the duties, the money they could save when purchasing new equipment can be put to better use, and we could save more American textile jobs from being lost.

Congress has acted previously to suspend the duties on these particular machines, but

that suspension has now expired. Accordingly, I am introducing legislation to temporarily suspend the collection of duties on these four types of machines that are no longer produced in the U.S.

The machines in question include certain ink jet and other textile printing machines, certain shuttle type power looms, and certain shuttleless power looms. The detailed description of these machines, including their Harmonized Tariff Schedule numbers, are found in the bills themselves. All four types of equipment are essential to various textile producers, large and small, throughout the United States.

I urge the Ways and Means Committee to act swiftly to approve these bills.

THE AMERICAN DREAM
DOWNPAYMENT ACT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, turning the key in the door of your very own home for the first time is a thrill that few families ever forget. For generations, the ability to purchase your own home has symbolized the hard work, thrift and personal responsibility that embodies the American Dream.

For some, the idea of owning their own home is but a dream, an unattainable dream. Across our nation, families get up, go to work every day, and play by the rules; but, they find that the downpayment on a home is a hurdle that keeps them from making that important investment in themselves and their community. These are families who, after paying the rent, buying groceries, and meeting their children's needs, have a tough time saving enough money to get past the first step of home ownership—the downpayment and closing costs.

To help first-time, low-income families overcome those highest barriers to home ownership, I am introducing the American Dream Downpayment Act. This legislation will give effect to President Bush's proposal to help 200,000 low-income families achieve the dream of home ownership over five years.

The President's Fiscal Year 2003 budget request included \$200 million in grants to assist first-time, low-income home buyers. As part of his call to expand home ownership opportunity, the Fiscal Year 2003 budget quadruples the President's Down Payment Assistance Initiative from its 2002 level.

In announcing the funds provided in the budget, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martinez said it best: "Opening the doors to home ownership to more and more Americans is one of this Administration's goals. The American Dream Downpayment fund will accomplish much more than that. By giving as many Americans as possible an opportunity to become stakeholders in their communities, we believe it will help to stabilize some neighborhoods and completely revitalize others."

When I reviewed the President's budget, I knew this would be important for all Americans, especially families in Michigan's metropolitan areas such as Lansing, Flint and Detroit. In giving the President's proposal legislative effect, the American Dream Downpayment

Act will provide communities throughout America with \$200 million in annual grants in Fiscal Year 2003 thru Fiscal Year 2006 to help home buyers with the downpayment and closing costs, the biggest hurdles to home ownership.

Upon enactment, the American Dream Downpayment Act will be administered as part of HUD's existing HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). HOME is a successful program that helps communities expand the supply of standard, affordable housing for low-income and very low income families by providing grants to states and local governments.

The flexible program will enable more than 400 local and state governments to help communities provide low-income families with rate reductions, closings costs and downpayment assistance. Specifically, the focus of the proposal is on low-income families who are also first-time home buyers. To participate, recipients must have annual incomes that do not exceed 80% of the area median income.

I believe that the American Dream Downpayment Act will help increase the overall home ownership rate in the United States, especially among minority groups who have lower rates of home ownership compared to the national average. For example, more than two-thirds of all Americans own their own home, while fewer than half of African-Americans and Hispanic families are homeowners.

I look forward to working with my House colleagues on a simple, but powerful, proposal to move more American families into their own homes—and making their American Dream a reality.

EQUAL PAY DAY—APRIL 16, 2002

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I don't need to tell you how far women have come in the workplace. Women now make up roughly half of all workers. They're breaking into traditionally male fields, from medicine to law enforcement. Women are attending professional and graduate schools at ever increasing rates. Yet, one thing holds women back—unequal pay.

Despite the fact that women's earnings have been growing faster than men's since 1975, women still make only 74 cents for every dollar men earn. More women than ever are participating in the workforce, yet minority women earn only 64% of what men earn. Despite all of these accomplishments, studies show that the pay gap in management positions is actually increasing. It is long past time to stop this wage discrimination.

Unequal pay hurts not just women, but entire families. Tragically, single mothers and their families have a poverty rate of roughly 28%. The number is as high as 40% for African-American single mothers and their families. We cannot sit idly by while families such as these fall deeper and deeper into poverty. These women and children all deserve an equal chance to be financially secure.

Income lost to the pay gap represents lost opportunities for these families. If women in my home state of Michigan earned as much as men, each family would see an income increase of \$5000 per year—income that could