

In 1993, she was elected secretary-treasurer of the Illinois AFL-CIO. At the time, there were only a handful of female officers in State labor federations, and Margaret stood out as the only female officer from an industrialized State. In 2000, she was elected president of the Illinois AFL-CIO—the first woman to serve as president in the State federation's 102-year history.

Under Margaret Blackshere's leadership, the Illinois AFL-CIO helped lead the fight to raise Illinois' minimum wage—not once but twice.

Margaret also led passionate efforts to guarantee women equal pay for equal work, to expand health care, and to improve Illinois' workers' compensation system.

She has a gift for uniting people from diverse backgrounds, with very different viewpoints, under a common goal. This is no easy task, and one that many politicians regularly attempt but often fail.

Margaret recognized the importance of forming an alliance with the Illinois Manufacturers Association and helped to save and create Illinois manufacturing jobs.

She also helped to establish the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, which included groups as diverse as the Illinois Automobile Asphalt and Pavement Association and the Chicago Transit Authority, to speak with a unified voice for Illinois' transportation funding needs.

As Margaret fought for Illinois' working families, she raised her own family and has two sons and four grandchildren.

She also devotes a great deal of time to charitable organizations. She has served on the boards of a wide variety of institutions, including the Illinois branches of United Way and American Red Cross, Alliance for Retired Americans, Voices for Illinois Children, Unemployment Insurance Advisory Board, and the Federal Reserve Board of Chicago. She also is a board member of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership, which helps prepare women with progressive values run for political office.

Over the years, Margaret has received many accolades and awards. In 2000, the Labor Council for Latin Advancement honored her with the Labor Leader Award, and the State of Israel presented her with the Israel Peace Medal. Margaret also received the Protector of Working People Award in 2002 from the Illinois State Crime Commission. Always proud of her Irish heritage, Margaret was delighted to be the Guest of Honor for Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2003.

Margaret says that she doesn't really intend to retire—she will still be fighting the same fights but will do so as a volunteer. She believes her future efforts will involve reaching out to workers in countries across the globe.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Margaret Blackshere on her retirement and thank her for her ef-

forts to protect working families in Illinois and across the country. I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF WES WILKINS

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Wes Wilkins, of Middleton, DE, who will on May 2, 2007, receive the Dr. Gary Burch Memorial Award, given annually to the railroad worker who has done the most to improve the safety of railroad passengers. For more than 30 years, Wes has worked on our Nation's railroads. As one of Amtrak's most talented and innovative maintenance of way employees, he helped design the Switch Exchange System and provided input on every operational procedure involved with this new system of switching. The result of his talent helped to ensure reliable and safe train travel on virtually every mile of track between here and Boston, as well as across the Nation. Wes also formed the Production and Construction Safety Committee, whose purpose is to help ensure safe practices throughout Amtrak's Production Unit, which oversees installations. He is known for his countless hours of double- and triple-checking, of traveling to trouble spots, and of helping teach others about safety. His ability to operate almost every piece of maintenance equipment Amtrak uses and his success in instilling safety in the minds of his coworkers make him quite worthy of this award. As someone who rides Amtrak to work, I can testify to the importance rail transportation plays in providing affordable, reliable, safe transportation and I feel safer knowing someone like Wes is working on the front lines. Delaware is home to two of Amtrak's most important maintenance shops, and I congratulate all of the Amtrak employees of Delaware who helped Wes earn this award. Wes should be proud of all he has done to make this possible and I wish him the best as he continues a distinguished career of public service.●

CELEBRATING PURDUE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' CENTENNIAL

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join my fellow Hoosiers in commemorating Purdue University Libraries' centennial as a Federal Depository Library. Since 1907, the staff of the Purdue University Libraries has worked diligently to provide Hoosiers with access to contemporary and historical information about our Nation and the workings of our Federal Government.

I am hopeful that this signal milestone will serve as a reminder to all Hoosiers of the remarkable resources available at the Purdue University Libraries through the Federal Depository Loan Program. As the Federal Depository

Loan Program makes these resources available free of charge, I would encourage Hoosiers to utilize them as they learn and work together.

I am grateful for the important service of the staff at the Purdue University Libraries, and I wish them congratulations on this auspicious occasion.●

HELEN ROBSON WALTON

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I today I honor the late Helen Robson Walton. Helen touched countless lives within her community, across Arkansas and throughout the world.

Born on December 3, 1919, in Claremore, OK, Helen graduated college in 1941 with a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Oklahoma School of Business. Two years later she married Sam Walton and they formed a lasting relationship of love, friendship and as business partners. Helen and Sam Walton opened their first retail store, a Ben Franklin "five and dime" in Newport, AR, in 1945.

The daughter of a successful lawyer, banker and rancher, Helen had a natural instinct for good management and played an active role in the family business. She firmly believed in the concept of family partnerships and insisted that their four children—Rob, John, Jim and Alice—were partners of Walton Enterprises. At the time, they were all under the age of 10.

Helen was also admired for her graceful, down-to-earth demeanor. She was active in the First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville and the first woman ever elected to vice chairwoman of the board of trustees for the Presbyterian Church, USA, Foundation.

As a natural leader who recognized the importance of putting others before self, Helen devoted a large portion of her time to the Walton Family Foundation. Under her leadership, the foundation has given generously to numerous Arkansas organizations, including the University of Arkansas, the Walton Arts Center in Fayetteville and Crystal Bridges. Her commitment to education has also touched hundreds of lives in Central America. Since 1985, she personally supervised a \$3.6 million scholarship program for Central American students to study at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, University of the Ozarks and Harding University in Searcy. Knowing the vast majority of these students would return home, Helen wanted to provide them with higher educational opportunities so they could later contribute to the well-being and economic development of their local communities.

Her generosity of time, energy and goodwill towards others is an example we all can follow. I join Arkansans in offering my prayers and condolences for the Robson and Walton families during this difficult time.●

HONORING RACHEL R. KLAY

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor a distinguished law enforcement officer for her service and dedication to our Nation. After nearly 24 years, Ms. Rachel R. Klay recently retired as a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service.

Agent Klay was born in Orange City, IA, which, I might add, is just across the border from my home State of South Dakota. After graduating from Northwestern College in Orange City, she then went on to graduate school at Sangamon State University in Springfield, IL.

On September 6, 1983, Rachel was sworn in as a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service and assigned to the Chicago Field Office, where she served with distinction for 4 years. During the course of her career, Agent Klay also served at the Secret Service's Western Protective Division, the Washington Field Office, the Presidential Protective Division, the Liaison Division, and the Investigative Support Division.

From 1999 to 2002, she worked as a Resident Agent in Sioux Falls, SD. She then served in the Secret Service's Liaison Division before retiring earlier this year to take employment at the Federal Reserve Board as a Senior Special Agent.

Over the past decade, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Agent Klay and have had the opportunity to see her in action, both in South Dakota and here in Washington, DC. While always quick with a smile and a friendly demeanor, she also exuded the professionalism, confidence, and courage associated with the tremendous responsibilities she bore as a Special Agent with the Secret Service. Simply put, our country is better, stronger, and safer because of her service.

It is important and fitting that we as Americans recognize the invaluable contribution made every day by law enforcement officers such as Agent Klay. These dedicated professionals put their lives on the line to investigate crimes and protect us and our families. Law enforcement officers such as Agent Klay are the ones who stand guard and preserve our safety. Their tireless efforts, personal sacrifices, and dedication to the rule of law are an example of what is right and good about our country and those who serve it.

It is therefore my honor and privilege to pay tribute today to the distinguished career and record of accomplishment provided by Special Agent Rachel Klay. Through her service, she has added to the reputation of integrity and valor of the United States Secret Service, and in doing so has provided an invaluable service to our Nation. On behalf of South Dakota and a grateful nation, I thank Agent Klay for her service and wish her all the best in this new chapter in her life and career.●

HONORING REV. DR. MARVIN McMICKLE

• Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I wish to honor and congratulate an outstanding spiritual and community leader from my hometown of Cleveland, OH. This year, the Reverend Dr. Marvin A. McMickle is celebrating 20 years of service as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, located in the heart of Cleveland's Fairfax neighborhood.

Founded in 1893, Antioch was the second African-American Baptist church established in Cleveland, and for more than a century it has sought to fulfill its mission "to teach the word, provide outreach ministries, worship God, evangelize, and build strong church relationships."

Since its inception, this historical landmark has nurtured leaders who have championed civil rights and equality for the poor, and it has worked to increase awareness on issues of poverty, health care, employment, education, and human rights. Today, under McMickle's leadership, Antioch offers over 70 programs and services to the community, including the Loaves and Fish Program, which serves 220 hot meals weekly, the Fellowship Fund, which provides emergency financial aid for rent, utilities, and food, the Antioch Credit Union, which has assets in excess of \$2.5 million, and a Head Start program, which offers early childhood preschool.

In 2002, McMickle and Antioch established the Antioch Development Corporation to expand community outreach. The corporation now operates two signature programs to help expand community outreach, through programs like Agape, which offers HIV/AIDS counseling and testing services, and Project RESPECT, a job training and placement program.

Reverend McMickle is an accomplished author and orator. He has written and delivered countless sermons and has applied his gift for speaking as a professor of homiletics at the Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. McMickle has also been a visiting instructor at universities in New York, New Jersey, and Ohio, including Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, OH, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and Cleveland State University. He has authored nine books and dozens of articles that regularly appear in professional journals and magazines. He is a contributing editor for *The Living Pulpit* and a featured writer for the *National Baptist Voice*, the quarterly journal of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. His sermons and essays regularly appear in *Preaching* magazine and *The African American Pulpit*.

As a leader in the civil rights movement, Reverend McMickle has served as president of both the Cleveland NAACP and Urban League. And McMickle has also been a leader of numerous government and civic organizations, including the Shaker Heights Board of Education and the Karamu Performing Arts Center.

Over the years, I have worked with Reverend McMickle on various initiatives and issues of concern to our community. He has been particularly instrumental in supporting my efforts as Mayor, Governor, and U.S. Senator to prevent casino gambling from taking root in Ohio, and I thank him for his support on this issue.

Throughout all of his accomplishments, his loving and supportive wife Peggy, has stood by his side. And everyone who knows them would agree that their union is a loving partnership to be admired. Reverend McMickle and Peggy have been married for 31 years and have one son, Aaron, who is a middle school teacher in New York City.

Mr. President. I want to take this opportunity to thank Reverend McMickle for his exceptional community and spiritual leadership. He has done God's work, and our lives are better as a result of having been touched by him. I extend my congratulations to him on 20 years as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church. May God continue to bless him and his family.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 493. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1495. An act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1332. An act to improve the access to capital programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 30, 2007, she had