

and gift for words has left an indelible mark on the New Haven Register and its readers. After a career that has spanned seven decades, Bob announced his retirement and published his last column Saturday, April 21, 2007—just a month before his 91st birthday. His quick wit and unique perspectives will be missed by colleagues and readers alike. As so aptly put by colleague and current Register editorial page editor Charles Kochakian, Bob Leeney is indeed irreplaceable.

Bob's distinguished career in journalism began as a freelance writer in 1939 and he was soon brought on staff as a reporter, Sunday feature writer, and book critic at the New Haven Register. His only absence from the Register was due to his 2 years of service with the 3rd Air Commando Group, 5th Air Force during World War II. Bob became an editorial writer and served as the editor for the editorial page from 1947 until 1961, becoming executive editor in 1962 and finally editor from 1972–1981. During his tenure as editor, Bob was responsible for the technological modernization of the paper, introducing letters to the editor as well as the creation of the Sunday Arts & Leisure Section—literally changing the face of the New Haven Register. It is fair to say that the New Haven Register will not be the same without him.

After more than 40 years with the paper, Bob did step down as editor; however, some of his most invaluable contributions were still yet to come. His column, "Editor's Note," described as a fusion of literate prose and revealing insights, became a Saturday fixture—a must read for all Register subscribers. In fact, Bob did not miss 1 week writing his column in its 33 year run. "Editor's Note" was more than a weekly column—it chronicled New Haven's history and affairs with the unique perspective of its Irish-American author, creating a unique connection between the readers of the Register and our community's rich history.

Bob's contributions to journalism expand far beyond his work with the Register. He was a charter member of the Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists chapter, where he is now honored as a member of the Connecticut Journalism Hall of Fame. He served as the Commissioner of the Freedom of Information Commission for 5 years and has been recognized with a variety of accolades and awards throughout his career. The Yankee Quill Award for distinguished service to journalism, the Seal of the City Award from the New Haven Colony Historical Society in recognition of his contributions to New Haven's civic life, and the plaque that hangs in the heart of New Haven's Audubon arts district are but a few examples but serve as a reflection of all that this New Haven native has brought to our community.

As a respected journalist, community member, mentor, and friend, Robert J. Leeney has left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of journalists to come. I am proud to stand today to recognize his outstanding contributions and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation for all of his good work.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT  
CHARLES EDWIN EATON

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Edwin "Cotton" Eaton. On December 26, 2007, Cotton Eaton's family, the community of Athens, Texas and this country lost another hero in America's greatest generation. Born and raised in Navarro County in Texas, Cotton Eaton went on to serve his country proudly in the United States Army during World War II in the South Pacific. In peacetime, Cotton Eaton put his entrepreneurial spirit to work for this country as he owned and operated the Eaton Motor Company in Athens, Texas before retiring in 1988. Cotton Eaton's wit and spirited nature, anchored by a commitment to his family and community, earned him the respect of so many. Despite his own extraordinary contributions, Cotton Eaton always celebrated the gratitude of God's goodness in life.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this true American hero and offer my condolences to Cotton Eaton's wife of 67 years, Dorothy, their two children, Janice and John, and their grandchildren and great-grand children.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Charles Edwin "Cotton" Eaton.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF JOHN W. CUNNINGHAM

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and outstanding leader in the labor movement, John W. Cunningham. His passing marks the end of an era at the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local Union 210 and the loss of a dear friend to many across Connecticut.

John was a carpenter. He worked hard all of his life and his commitment to the labor movement as well as his membership is unequalled. Joining Local 210 in 1956, just 10 years later he became a business representative and would serve the next 30 years as the General Agent of Carpenters Local Union 210. He was active both locally and nationally—fighting for policies and protections for his membership and working men and women across the country. In addition to his service with Local 210, John also served as the Vice-President of the Connecticut State AFL-CIO, President of the Stamford Labor Council, and President of the New England Regional Council of Carpenters. There was no stronger advocate or determined voice than that of John Cunningham.

John was responsible for the creation of the Carpenter's Legislative Improvement Committee which was the first federal political action committee established by a local union—providing a voice for carpenters' issues at the national level. And in the early 1990s John

formed the President's Committee with other union leaders which strengthened the Brotherhood nationally by providing new leadership and making it more responsive to the needs of its members. John was also instrumental in opening the doors of opportunity to women and minorities by implanting outreach programs which brought them into the trade.

John's efforts on behalf of working families extended far beyond his work to shape public policy. During his tenure, he created the Connecticut Carpenters' Health and Pension Fund and established Local 210's Scholarship fund which assisted members' children in pursuing higher education. He launched an apprenticeship and training program and began a program of inviting union members and the public to forums where they would hear from speakers that included Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prize authors, economists, and elected leaders. Perhaps most telling of his civic minded nature was his leadership during the National Building Trade Council's efforts to help the families of the 28 construction workers killed at the L'Ambiance construction disaster in 1987.

John understood the importance of serving one's community. He was an active member of the Weston community where he served on a number of boards and commissions, including the School Building Committee, the Town Building Committee, Planning & Zoning, Little League Baseball, and was a founding member of the Weston Booster Club. He was an extraordinary man who dedicated countless hours to making all the difference in the lives of thousands.

I join all of his friends and colleagues in extending my deepest sympathies to John's wife, Virginia, his six children; Kimberly, Devon, Bill, John, Caroline, and Diana, as well as his seven grandchildren; Chalan, Maevereen, Conor, Brennen, Makena, Samuel, and Geneva. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of John W. Cunningham. His is a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5724, UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTIONS AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1092, a rule to suspend fast track procedures for the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). U.S. trade policy should promote democracy based on the protection of fundamental human rights. However, by sending the Colombia FTA to Congress, President Bush has disregarded the rights of workers in Colombia and the needs of working families in the U.S.

Since the 1980s, more than 2,500 workers have been assassinated in Colombia for joining, forming, or leading labor unions. More unionists are killed in Colombia each year than the rest of the world combined. We should not be engaging in free trade policies with a nation whose human rights record is so abysmal.

Our Nation's economy is struggling. The United States lost a record of 80,000 jobs in the month of March alone. The cities in the 32nd Congressional District that I represent have seen unemployment rates soar to more than 7 percent. In this time of economic turmoil, Congress must work to restore the economic security of working- and middle-class Americans.

This rule prioritizes the needs of American workers by removing the timeline for House action on this trade agreement. I strongly support this rule and urge my colleagues to vote for final passage.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD M. SMITH,  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNION  
LABOR LIFE INSURANCE COM-  
PANY

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Edward M. Smith, as he accepts his new position as President of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, ULLICO, and retires as Vice President, Assistant to the General President, and Midwest Regional Manager of the Laborers' International Union of North America, LIUNA.

Ed Smith was born into a union family. His father was the business manager of Local 773, and would continue in that position until his retirement. His mother was also a 15-year member of the union. So it seemed natural that, at the age of 13, Ed Smith would join Laborers' Local 773, in Cairo, Illinois, and work his way through school as a construction craft laborer.

At the age of 21, when many young men are yet to chart their career course, Ed was elected as business manager of the local union. While serving as business manager, Ed continued to expand his role within the Laborers' Union. In 1981, he was appointed International Representative for the International Union and was later appointed LIUNA legislative director for the State of Illinois. Ed was elected President of the Southern Illinois Laborers' District Council in 1986 and Business Manager in 1990.

Ed has served on a number of Union entities, including the Laborers' National Pension Fund, as Chairman of the Central Laborers' Pension Fund, Laborers' Home Development Corporation, Laborers' International Federal Employees Credit Union, Southern Illinois Laborers' Fringe Benefit Funds, Railroad Maintenance Health & Welfare Fund, and the Illinois Laborers' & Contractors Joint Apprenticeship & Training Fund.

Ed does not limit his involvement to the Laborers' Union. He was Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Investment, serves as a member of the Illinois Department of Labor Advisory Board, the Democratic National Committee, and is chairman of the National Alliance for Fair Contracting. Ed has also been a major benefactor to the Therapy Center in Carterville, Illinois, an organization that assists physically disabled children, and he serves as a board member of the "I Can Read Program" which helps children with reading and learning disabilities.

Ed graduated from Shawnee College with an Associate of Arts degree and, in 1992, he received Shawnee College's first Outstanding Alumni Award. Ed was the first member of the Laborers' International Union to graduate from the National Labor College with a bachelor's degree and, in 1978, he graduated from the Harvard University Trade Union Program.

Ed and his wife, Betty, reside in Olive Branch, Illinois. Ed has two children, a daughter, Jordan, and a son, Matt.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Mr. Edward M. Smith, a true champion of organized labor, and to wish him our best as he embarks on his new position as President of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company.

HONORING EDWARD H. LEWIS AS  
HE IS HONORED BY THE GREAT-  
ER NEW HAVEN NAACP

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Greater New Haven NAACP and the New Haven community in extending my sincere congratulations to my dear friend, Edward H. Lewis, as he is honored at this year's Freedom Fund Awards dinner with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Freedom Fund Awards dinner is a time not only to honor those who have made an impact on our community, but to renew our commitment to those ideals upon which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded. For nearly nine decades, the Greater New Haven NAACP has been the voice of our African-American community and has improved countless lives. Their fight for justice has been tireless, and their efforts have gone a long way toward making sure that everyone will enjoy equal opportunity. Those honored with the annual Freedom Fund Awards are a reflection of this organization's good work—of the NAACP's commitment to ensuring a promising future for our families, our children, and our communities.

Edward H. Lewis, known to family and friends as "Teo," is a native of my hometown, New Haven, Connecticut and we could not be more proud of all that he has accomplished. I have been fortunate to know him for many years and consider myself blessed to call him my friend. We worked as community organizers together at the Community Action Institute and later, served together in the National Urban Fellow Program. Teo went to Washington as a legislative assistant to then Senator Henry Jackson and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. Small Business Administration as Associate Administrator for Procurement. After leaving Washington, he brought his wealth of government experience to the emerging cable industry. He has worked in several capacities but is perhaps best known for his work with BET networks where his work in marketing and event promotion for both BET and BET on Jazz redefined the title of Director of Marketing. Today, Teo is Vice President of Government Relations for the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats

where he is utilizing his multitude of talents to develop both local and state government relationships as well as build a positive relationship with the business community. He is a remarkable individual whose professional life has always enriched the surrounding community.

In addition to his innumerable professional contributions, Teo has also devoted countless hours to a number of civic and social organizations. He currently serves on the board of the Freedom Theater in Philadelphia, the advisory committee for the International Association of Jazz Educators, on the Board of Trustees at Discovery Place Charlotte North Carolina, as well as on the Board of Directors at Theater Charlotte, WTVI Public Television, and the Bobby Phills Foundation. He is also a member of the Charlotte Rotary, 100 Black Men of Charlotte, the Business Committee on Higher Education for the Institute for Emerging Issues and the advisory board for the Mint Museum and the Mint Museum of Craft and Design. There are few like Teo who give so much of themselves back to their communities—he is a community treasure.

To be awarded with the Greater NAACP's Lifetime Achievement Award is a reflection of all that Teo has accomplished as a community member, advocate, professional, volunteer, mentor and friend. For his many invaluable contributions to the community and to those ideals at the very heart of the NAACP, I am proud to join his children Todd, Kimberly, Derek, and Barry, as well as all of those gathered this evening in extending my deepest thanks and appreciation to Edward H. Lewis as he is bestowed with this very special honor by the Greater New Haven NAACP. His is a legacy that is sure to inspire many generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the RECORD my position on the following votes I missed on April 8 and 9, 2008.

On Tuesday, April 8, and Wednesday, April 9, 2008, I was unable to be present in the Capitol due to a family illness and thus missed rollcall vote Nos. 161 through 172. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 161, on H.J. Res. 70, a resolution congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 162, on H.R. 2464, the Wakefield Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 163, on S. 793, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote Nos. 164 and 165, which were procedural votes that provided for consideration of the bill H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 166, on H. Res. 1077, which called on the Government of the Peoples Republic of China to end its crackdown in