RECOGNITION OF ARCHIE GREEN
HON. NANCY PELOSI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Archie Green, a distinguished San Franciscoan and recipient of the Library of Congress’ Living Legend Award.

Dr. Green has devoted most of his 90 years to the study and celebration of people, and to the texture and meaning of their lives as expressed in song, story, custom, belief, ritual, and craft. He became a shipwright’s apprentice in the Bay Area in the 1930s. After serving as a carpenter’s mate in the Navy during World War II, he returned to San Francisco to become involved in veterans’ affairs and to work in the building trades for another 15 years. Along the way he listened and observed and talked with people he met about their working lives and traditions. His passionate interest in workers and their traditions sparked an interest in research and writing that eventually earned him a Ph.D. in folklore. He became a university professor, and wrote seminal books and articles about grassroots culture and the folk traditions of work.

Archie Green’s work has stimulated younger generations of scholars to become interested in “laborlore”—a term he coined. In the union movement, the study of the folkways and oral traditions of ordinary citizens has defined the cultural life and economy of labor for generations of scholars to become interested in grassroots culture and the folk traditions of work.

Decades ago, believing that the Federal Government had a vital role to play in documenting, supporting, revitalizing, and disseminating America’s grassroots knowledge and arts, Dr. Green envisioned a national center that would preserve and present American folklife. He then spent 10 years walking the halls of Congress, explaining to every Senator and every Representative, and to their staffs, why the folk traditions in their States and districts mattered, and why the ordinary citizens who carry them on deserved our recognition.

On January 2, 1976, President Gerald R. Ford signed into law the American Folklife Preservation Act, PL 94–201, which had passed unanimously by both houses of Congress, and established an American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Thirty-one years later, the American Folklife Center is going strong. It carries out projects and initiatives that document, preserve, and share information about the diverse cultural traditions of the American people. Its archive, now with more than 4 million items, is one of the largest in the world. Its Veterans History Project—launched in 2000 by an act of Congress—is the largest oral history project in the Nation’s history.

On August 16 and 17, the American Folklife Center is sponsoring a symposium on laborlore, and Archie Green—the father of laborlore in the United States—will take part. It is highly fitting that, during the symposium, he will be given the Living Legend Award in recognition of his work that has raised our awareness of how our traditions contribute to a larger history.

I join Dr. James H. Billington and the Library of Congress in commending Dr. Green for his contribution to our Nation’s history.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH LIGHTHOUSE IN MICHIGAN
HON. FRED UPTON
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the proud maritime heritage of the twin cities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, MI. This month several special events will be held commemorating the 100th anniversary of our historic landmark, the St. Joseph Lighthouse.

St. Joseph and Benton Harbor’s very beginnings were tied to Lake Michigan and the St. Joseph River. The intersection of these waterways provided for the founding of Fort Miami in 1679—the first European settlement in Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. At one time, the trade and waterfront activity rivaled that of Chicago.

St. Joseph’s lighthouse legacy has included five historic structures, including most recently, the North Pier lighthouses, which were completed as a range light system in 1907. When lined up together, they direct mariners to the mouth of the river. These architectural icons, along with their original Fresnel lenses and restored catwalk, survive as one of only two such systems in the Great Lakes today. This year we celebrate 100 proud years of the lighthouses guiding fleets of freighters, passenger liners, fish tugs, and recreational watercraft safely to our harbor.

Few shoreline communities in the Great Lakes region can offer such a rich blend of past traditions, surviving historical structures, and living maritime history as St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. The lighthouse and the commercial shipping industry it was built to serve remain vital to our understanding of the past, present, and future. The St. Joseph lighthouse’s working waterfront and maritime tradition have defined the cultural life and economy of our community, and I look forward to another century of the lighthouse serving as a loyal beacon for our magnificent shores.

IN COMMEMORATION OF RICHARD CASWELL, FATHER OF NORTH CAROLINA: PATRIOT, SOLDIER, STATESMAN
HON. WALTER B. JONES
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of North Carolina’s first Governor, Richard Caswell.

As a sign of honor and respect for his service to North Carolina in many significant and progressive leadership roles, I join in strong support of the State of North Carolina’s designation of the month of August 2007 as Gov. Richard Caswell Month to honor this important patriot and the first Governor of North Carolina.

Richard Caswell was born on August 3, 1729, in Harford County, MD. At the age of 16, Richard and his brother, William, came to North Carolina on horseback with letters of introduction and recommendation from the Governor of Maryland to North Carolina’s royal governor, Gabriel Johnston.

Richard Caswell was an early and effective leader of the patriot cause in the American Revolution. He represented North Carolina at both Continental Congresses and served in all five Provincial Congresses.

He commanded the patriot forces in the important early victory over the loyalists at the Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge in February 1776, thus becoming one of North Carolina’s first heroes. He served throughout the Revolution as commander of the North Carolina Cavalry, and ultimately served as major general of the North Carolina Militia during the Revolution.

He chaired the committee that drafted the first North Carolina Constitution.

Richard Caswell served as the first Governor of North Carolina and still holds the distinction of having served more terms than any other Governor of our State.

He passed away on November 10, 1789, in Fayetteville, NC.

In recognition of the outstanding statesmanship Richard Caswell provided for North Carolina, and the leadership he exhibited in his military and public career as well as family life, a celebration will take place in his honor the week of August 12 through August 19, 2007. Included in the celebration will be a grand reopening of the Richard Caswell Memorial State Historic Site in Kinston, NC, as well as concerts, lectures and living histories.

I am pleased to join the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, the Lenoir County Colonial Commission and the people of North Carolina in honoring Richard Caswell—patriot, soldier and statesman.  

*This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.*  

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.