Labor honors Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald’s passing

Democratic Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald fought for working people almost to the moment she died of cancer April 22. Her support for working families should be no surprise—she was a working mother who, with her husband James McDonald, raised five children. She also had five grandchildren.

As a very private person, she kept her illness to herself until she asked for a leave of absence April 18. “She was known in Washington as a tough, serious legislator with expertise on transportation issues,” ILWU Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin said. “As a powerful member of the House Transportation Committee, she pushed through legislation authorizing the Alameda Corridor, a twenty mile railway expressway connecting the Ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach to the transcontinental railroads.”

She spoke at several ILWU legislative conferences in Washington, D.C., discussing and promoting policies affecting the nation’s transportation system. She founded the “Goods Movement” caucus in the House, which promoted using highway funds specifically to address the growing congestion at the ports. In 2005, Millender-McDonald introduced the Secure Container Partnership Act to mandate seals on empty containers. She introduced the “empty container” legislation after hearing from longshore workers regarding the threat of un-inspected and unsealed empties.

She was born Sept. 7, 1938 in Birmingham, Ala. After her children grew up she returned to school, earning a bachelor’s degree from the Univ. of Redlands in 1981. She earned a master’s from California State, Los Angeles in 1988 and attended USC. While working for the school district, she edited a textbook designed to enhance the self-esteem of young women.

Her local voters elected her to the Carson City city council in 1990 and mayor pro tempore from...
Tacoma Local Honored for Community Service

By John Snowalter

The United Way of Pierce County, Wash., honored longshore Local 23 with its Community Partner of the Year Award in the “labor union” category. Local 23 President Conrad Spell accepted the inaugural award at an April 17 ceremony at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center. Tacoma Mayor Bill Baarsma, Pierce County Council Vice Chair Calvin Goings, and Tacoma City Council members, among others, also attended.

The award recognizes the local’s “...outstanding community partnership with United Way, whose efforts have changed reality for residents of Pierce County in dynamic, sustainable ways.” The Award Review Committee—comprised of elected officials, business and labor leaders—considered applicants’ contribution to the United Way’s three major goals: housing availability, children and youth needs, and health care access.

Local 23 received high marks in all three areas. According to Emma Faidley, Director of Labor Participation and APL-CIO Community Services Liaison for United Way of Pierce County, the local impressed the committee with charitable activities that touched every area of the organization’s goals.

“That’s phenomenal, unheard of in our experience,” said Faidley. “Community leaders were amazed that the longshore union is out there doing this work. I’ve never known a union local of only 900 members doing so much in their community.”

Faidley referred to Local 23’s work with the Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital Trauma Center, with the Tacoma and Fife public schools, with local soup kitchens, and with community activities such as the Paint Tacoma Beautiful program. Todd Mary, a spokesman for Mary Bridge, said Local 23 recently donated $50,000 towards building 30 new units to house the families of children in emergency care at the hospital. The hospital serves as the regional acute pediatric referral center for acute pediatric care in Southwestern Washington.

Construction of the units will begin in 2009. The hospital dates back many years. Nick Engels, a deceased Local 23 member, helped finance construction of the hospital’s original 12 parent units. In 1993, Engels proposed to the trade unions, Local 23 with its Community Partner of Need Program, to help public school children. The local’s Family of Need Program has given $200 checks to the parents of academically achieving, economically disadvantaged families in 38 grade schools in Tacoma since 2000. In 2006 alone, the local handed out approximately $10,000 in checks to Tacoma students’ families, and $1,200 to Fife students, as well as more than 50 individual family requests. Families receive this money during the December Holiday season with a card from the members wishing them well and reminding the children that “knowledge is power.”

In addition to their donations, Local 23 members have given time and energy to their community for many years. Members volunteer monthly at St. Leo’s Church’s Hospitality Kitchen in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood, giving blood monthly at their hall, and raising money while walking against cancer and other diseases. George Ginnis, a deceased Local 23 member, initiated fundraising efforts for the Hospitality Kitchen more than 20 years ago. The local still works closely with the Emergency Food Network of Pierce County to distribute food to regional food banks. Between five and 10 members volunteer monthly to feed 400-500 people at the center, led by member Byron Baydo. Mike Jagielaski leads the monthly blood drive and bone marrow screening in the local’s parking lot.

Fifteen years ago, Gail Ross, then a ‘B’-registrant, got together with the local’s baseball team and volunteer casual longshore workers to paint the homes of underserved people in Tacoma. This spontaneous action grew into the annual Paint Tacoma Beautiful event, where volunteers break out their brushes and give old homes a fresh coat that brightens up the city.

Holly Hulscher and Mandy Peterson, who are sisters, organize fellow members for the annual Multiple Sclerosis Walk. In 2006 and 2007, the local gave $1,500 to the cause. Eighty-five members raised more than $7,000 in 2006, and in 2007, more than 120 walkers are expected to participate. Another medical fundraiser, the Relay of Life, started in Tacoma in 1984. It brings out dozens of members to walk for 24 hours raising funds to fight cancer.

In addition, Local 23 contributes food and barbeques approximately 5,000 hamburgers each year for Tacoma’s Rainbow Festival and its Rainier School Picnic, area-wide parties for developmentally disabled people.

The United Way has honored the local in 2006 with its Working Together Award, which the local received for its community work with terminal operator Totem Ocean Trailer Express (TOTE) and its CEO Robert Magee, a prominent philanthropist.

“The membership of Local 23 is honored to receive this award from United Way,” Conrad Spell said. “Our local has a long history of giving back something positive to our community. We as longshore workers are so blessed to have a lifestyle that few working Americans enjoy.”

Local 23 member Matt Michael Jr.; Brittinni Michael; Local 23 member Holly Hulscher, Local 98 member Marty Hulscher; and Local 23 member Mandy Peterson
**Gangway! Local 26 wins eight arbitrations and appeals**

by Tom Price

Warehouse Local 26 members stand guard duty on ships’ gangways in Los Angeles and Long Beach. In rain or shine, hot or cold, they have to stand at the gangway making sure the ship is secure and only the people properly allowed on the ship get aboard. These days they have to have the same kind of vigilance—and their contract’s grievance machinery—to stand watch over their own jurisdiction and working conditions. The union held fast against the employer’s attempts to cut back on longshore work. They won a contract that allows them to persist and fight for their jobs against the employers, and they wanted to see the money first.”

French dockers save jobs from privatization

Dockers at the southern French port of Marseille continued their long tradition of militancy and beat back recent attempts to privatize their jobs. They went on strike March 14 when the government-owned company Gaz de France would not come to terms on staffing issues. Their union, the Confédération Générale du Travail, demanded that union workers would get the jobs at a new natural gas terminal at the port. Gaz de France, which will soon be privatized, wanted to use its own workers to discharge liquefied natural gas at the terminal, which along with Marine Terminals is its alter-ego. TTI further specified that the ship owners had to hire the workers for maintenance and security to another alter-ego.

The company argued that the ship hires the gangway watch, even though the contract says it’s Local 26 work. Hanjin blatantly refused. They made no excuses, they just said “we’re not going to hire your people, we’re not required to hire your people, it doesn’t matter what your contract says. “Hanjin’s case was a loser, but this was the game they tried to play.”

“Initially Hanjin had agreed to pay at the LRC level, but there was still an argument between alter egos,” said Hanjin’s lawyer, “so we lost. “Our appeal was denied. Hanjin, our grievance was against Hanjin, not their alter egos. Local 26 work at the area arbitrator level. Area Arbitrator Art Almeida ruled any employer in violation of the contract was liable for the work opportunities that were denied by these violations.”

The employers appealed to Coast Arbitrator John Kigel, who sustained the union’s grievance based on contract language, and ordered the case back to the area arbitrator for implementation. When PMA wanted to pay the time in lieu at the straight time rate the union once again arbitrated this violation. Coast Arbitrator John Kigel had then ruled that the employers had to pay the contract rate for overtime, holiday and straight time wage rates when they made their time in lieu payments, which were from April 20, 2005 through Oct. 2006 until compliance.

The employers then said the grievance did not explicitly name Long Beach Container Terminal, though the union had used language saying “all other employers who were not in compliance.” Another arbitration ensued, and Local 26 won that too. The union initially estimated the calculations regarding how much in lieu wages the companies owed. The arbitrator ruled they would have to pay “until compliance.” Then Hanjin and SSB said they would only pay when longshore workers actually worked the ship. The arbitrator disagreed and ruled in favor of the contract.

“On April 12 we finally resolved how many shifts, we have a signed agreement on the shifts, and we have to get agreement on their payment.”

French dockers march through the streets of Marseille.

Soon 60 ships anchored in the harbor or cruised off the coast. The French Business daily Les Echos reported government officials had met with the company and union to mediate a settlement. Meanwhile refineries in France, Switzerland and Germany were running out of oil. Far richer than Jean-Claude Le Pen criticized the government as “powerless” to stop the strike at the Marseille port, saying the strike “illegal and illegitimate.”

Another newspaper editorial speculated that the French government, which owns 70 percent of Gaz de France, did not want to go into an election April 22 with the issues of privatization, union busting and a gas shortage all over the media. The government and Local 26 completed and submitted to the arbitrator for resolution. The employers then said the grievance did not explicitly name Long Beach Container Terminal, though the union had used language saying “all other employers who were not in compliance.” Another arbitration ensued, and Local 26 won that too. The union initially estimated the calculations regarding how much in lieu wages the companies owed. The arbitrator ruled they would have to pay “until compliance.” Then Hanjin and SSB said they would only pay when longshore workers actually worked the ship. The arbitrator disagreed and ruled in favor of the contract.

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Important notice from longshore benefits office:

**MAY IS MEDICAL, DENTAL CHOICE MONTH**

Active and retired longshore families in the ports where members have a choice can change medical dental plans during the open enrollment period May 1 to May 31, 2007. The change will be effective July 1, 2007. In addition to the May open enrollment period, members may change their health dental coverage once at any time during the Plan Year (July 1-June 30).

The July 1, 2002 Memorandum of Understanding between the ILWU and PMA provides that new registrants in the ports where members have a choice of dental plans shall be assigned Kaiser HMO Plan or Group Health Cooperative HMO Plan for the first 12 months of registration. After 12 months, those registrants who have qualified for continued eligibility under Mid-Year/Annual Review hours requirement will have a choice of medical plans. New registrants in San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, Los Angeles, Portland/Vancouver and Washington will have a choice of dental plans on the first of the month following registration, and may change dental plans during the Open Enrollment period and one additional time during the Plan Year.

**MEDICAL CHOICE:** The medical plan choice is between Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan for Southern California Locals 13, 26, 29, 63 and 94; Northern California Locals 10, 18, 34 (San Francisco), 34 (Stockton), 54, 75 and 91; and Oregon-Columbia River Locals 6, 8, 34 (Stockton), 54, 75, 91, 23, 32, 47, 52 and 98; and Washington State areas, the choices for Locals 19, 23, 32, 47, 52 and 98 are Coastwise, Kaiser Dental Plan and the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan.

**DENTAL PLANS:** For Los Angeles Locals dental choice is between Delta Dental and the Harbor Dental Cooperative. For Delta Dental and Delta Dental Health Services, and Gentle Dental San Francisco group plan. For Sacramento and Stockton Locals dental choice is between Delta Dental and Dental Health Services. For Portland/Vancouver Locals dental choice is between Blue Cross of Oregon Dentacare, Oregon Kaiser Dental Plan and Oregon/ Washington Dental Service. For Washington Local Locals dental choice is between Washington Dental Service and Dental Health Services.

Information on the dental plans, and Coastwise Indemnity Plan, Kaiser Group Health Cooperative medical plans, and forms to change plans can be obtained at the Locals and the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office.

All enrollment cards must be completed and submitted to the Benefit Plans office by May 31 for the change to be effective July 1.
Members of the International Executive Board (IEB) converged on the Harry Bridges Building in San Francisco April 12 and 13 to review policies, debate issues, pass resolutions and set the course of the International Union. The IEB acts as the second highest decision making body in the union, topped only by the triennial International Convention.

ILWU members elect IEB representatives by geographical region. Members also elect one board member each from the autonomous ILWU Canada, the Mining Division and the Inlandboatmen’s Union, the ILWU’s Marine Division. The International titled officers preside over the meeting and report on their activities in performance of their duties. Board members report on their areas and receive support from the other areas in times of distress.

**Political action report**

With California’s presidential primary election coming up next February, ILWU workers will finally have a say in selecting presidential candidates. The state actually has been gaining in union density, that is, the portion of workers with union representation. That means union voters will be a large portion of the electorate.

Local 63 Secretary-Treasurer Peter Peyton led off with a slide show on the state of federal policy under the Republicans. The images juxtaposed Republican tax cuts for the rich and spending cuts for everyone else. One example: abolishing the estate tax will save the Walton family, owners of Wal-Mart, $32.7 billion over 10 years. At the same time Medicaid will be slashed $28 billion, if the Republicans have their way.

Peyton discussed the “AFL-CIO Presidential Endorsement Process,” a document from the federation’s Executive Council, explaining the AFL-CIO’s endorsement process.

The board enthusiastically greeted Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-CA), who came from behind in last November’s election to beat Republican Richard Pombo. The ILWU was one of the very first unions to support him.

“We need to have our friends in Congress,” McNerney said. “Now we have a choice—and a voice—and we need to build a strong position in Congress.”

**ORGANIZING REPORT**

International Vice President Joe Radunich drafted the organizing report outlining an action agenda for 2007. In Southern Calif., the Rite Aid organizing campaign gathers momentum. The union has filed more than 200 unfair labor practices charges and put teeth into penalties against employers that violate organizing rights.

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**STATED POLICY IN SUPPORT OF ILWU CANADA LONGSHORE NEGOTIATIONS**

WHEREAS: The International Executive Board of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union sends this letter of support for ILWU Canada longshore workers who have been in negotiations with their employer, the British Columbia Maritime Employers’ Association, since December 2006 and;

WHEREAS: The entire ILWU recognizes and supports ILWU Canada’s struggle against the BCMEA’s attempts to impose fundamental changes on Canada’s West Coast waterfront that would alter basic conditions of production and employment. ILWU Canada has represented waterfront workers since 1944 and has provided the employers with efficient, highly skilled labor while it provides workers with living wages, safety and benefits. Canadian waterfront workers have struggled for nearly a century for union rights, fair bargaining and safe conditions and these will not be abolished by the employer group’s shortsighted pursuit of profits at the expense of workers’ living standards and;

WHEREAS: The International Executive Board condemns the BCMEA’s efforts at throwing out a long-standing productive relationship and replacing it with chaos in the name of profits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the ILWU International Union, representing dockers in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii, pledges its support to our brothers and sisters in ILWU Canada in their drive for a fair contract that benefits all in the Canadian maritime industry.

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*By Tom Price, photos by Frank Wilder*

*Ibuprofen*
strategy, policy and action

because of global warming. This will increase the importance of Dutch Harbor as a possible major container shipping center.

HAWAII VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Wesley Furtado, International Vice President Hawaii, reported on activities in the Islands. Local 142 has an active organizing program and has victories at the Kahaluu Golf Course, Molokai Ranch and Lodge and Mauna Lani Spa. First contract negotiations affecting 450 workers at the Pacific Beach Hotel on Oahu are continuing. Princeville Resort on Kauai, with 300 workers, is also still in the organizing stage.

Furtado has also worked on port security issues, the state AFL-CIO, and jurisdictional issues with UFCW. Local 142’s political action campaign also supported the Employee Free Choice Act.

ILWU CANADA REPORT

ILWU Canada President Tom Dufresne reported on longshore negotiations, which began Jan. 8. The contract expired March 31, and the employers have made 100 proposals, many of them representing seriously unacceptable changes in union rights and in the traditional longshore work processes. Many of the employers have been bought out by financial corporations who have no relation to the maritime industry.

The IEB passed the resolution printed below in support of Canadian workers, and the IEB will meet in Canada in September.

IBU REPORT

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MOTION ADOPTED ON CIRCUIT CITY LABOR POLICIES

BE IT RESOLVED that the ILWU go on record that it protests the recent action by Circuit City in firing its higher paid workers and replacing them with lower paid ones, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ILWU urge its members to boycott Circuit City until it reverses this anti-worker and inhumane policy.

The employer, Hornblower Yachts, has its sights on other ferry services in ILWU waters, with intent to privatize and de-unionize the operations.

AREA REPORTS

In northern Calif. IEB member Fred Pecker reported on opening master contract bargaining. The Port of West Sacramento is leaving warehousing and instead contracting out to SSA. Member Richard Cavalli reported that little information is available on the TWIC cards and Member Lawrence Thibeaux reported on efforts to gentrify the Port of Richmond, Calif.

IEB Member Pete Hendrickson gave the Alaska report. The union supported the Teamsters in a fuel docks beef and is concerned about possible non-union competition moving in. Work on fishing and oil transport will increase, Hendrickson said.

IEB Member George O’Neill reported on the Oregon-Columbia River area. Local 4 is booming with windmill imports and adding new “B” workers. Local 5 will enter negotiations with Powell’s Books in July. Coos Bay might see a new Maersk terminal in its future. Member Jerry Ylonen reported the Columbia River will soon be dredged to 43 feet, thanks to an additional $30 million in funding.

IEB Member Max Vekich Jr. reported on the Puget Sound area. The area will see increased grain shipments, as grain has become far less seasonal than in the past. Longshore Local 19 reports more registrations and an increase in cruise ship work, especially when a new cruise terminal opens in 2009.

IEB Member Luisa Gratz reported on the Southern California area. Local 26 has seen the loss of some jobs and the victory in winning guards’ gateway arbitrations [see story, p. 3]. Member John Toussau reported on increased container work and registration in marine clerks’ Local 63.

IEB Member Mike Davenport reported on the successful participation of the International Union in stews training for Local 30.

IEB Member and Local 142 President Fred Galdones reported on increases in production of Maui Brand Sugar, the company will produce 20,000 tons of sugar this year. On March 21, the Hawaii Labor Relations Board ruled that Del Monte had garnered in bad faith and ordered them to pay severance up to Dec. 2008 and extend medical coverage for a year beyond the closing date of their pineapple production facilities.
Many years ago, before there was an ILWU, workers across America organized themselves into the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Most people called them the “Wobblies.” They were spirited and revolutionary, and traveling among them for a time was Harry Chaplin, who we don’t know for sure, chances are that he, like most Wobblies, carried a “Little Red Book.”

Now, a century later, the “Little Red Songbook” is back as the “Big Red Songbook—250 IWW Songs.” Archie Green, at age 89, co-edited the book. The book is filled with songs, drawings, poems and photographs—all produced by workers.

“The Wobblies have been singing for a century,” Green said. “They didn’t give a damn if these songs became popular or not. They wanted to educate workers about their revolutionary vision.”

Green, a one-time shipwright and carpenter, has spent the last forty years writing books about labor history, often backed up by the state militia and the local police. Vigilantes did some of the dirty work—beaten, tarred and feathered, and sometimes, burned, their union halls were ransacked. The union never died out completely. Labor historians often recall the IWW, nodding to a movement that was unbending in its principles. The IWW in “The Big Red Songbook” shows a robust chorus:

“Solidarity Forever.

There is power, there is power

In 1917, Harry Chaplin was handcuffed to his desk when federal agents stormed the IWW building in Chicago. They arrested the leaders and most of the staff. Agents ranrapped the building, seizing letters and destroying equipment. The original manuscript of “Solidarity Forever” was grabbed up with a stack of poems and never seen again.

In Archie Green’s front room, Samantha Levens fingered the pages of “The Big Red Song Book”. At 27, Levens has been an IWW member for several years. As a political activist, she has been arrested in street demonstrations. Following a Wobbly tradition, in jail, she sang with other prisoners. Wobblies weren’t glum people or pessimistic. They showed a sense humor. They liked to lampoon their employers. One caregiver who worked at a mental institution, in street demonstrations. Following a Wobbly tradition, in jail, she sang with other prisoners. Wobblies weren’t glum people or pessimistic. They showed a sense humor. They liked to lampoon their employers. One caregiver who worked at a mental institution, in street demonstrations. Following a Wobbly tradition, in jail, she sang with other prisoners. Wobblies weren’t glum people or pessimistic. They showed a sense humor. They liked to lampoon their employers. One caregiver who worked at a mental institution, in street demonstrations. Following a Wobbly tradition, in jail, she sang with other prisoners. Wobblies weren’t glum people or pessimistic. They showed a sense humor. They liked to lampoon their employers. One caregiver who worked at a mental institution, in street demonstrations. Following a Wobbly tradition, in jail, she sang with other prisoners.
Piper Cameron's family had worked in the maritime industry since her grandfather's day, and she would have it no other way. But at the age of 26, the IslandHeater's Union member's life was cut short by an accident on the tug Emma Foss in southern California.

She was working as a deckhand on the stern of the boat off Marina del Rey when a Kevlar line made fast to the barge Emma was towing swept across the deck, hitting her and ending her life. She was only a few days from getting her masters' license and a mate's position on another boat. Her shipmate Scott Dekraai was also seriously injured when the line hit him.

Cameron, originally from Catalina Island (Local 6), and her shipmate, Mark Woods (Local 98), had worked for the company since 2003.

"More than 400 mourners listened to eloquent and sometimes tearful eulogies from her father, mother, sister, coworkers and friends," IBU President Alan Coté said of the memorial he attended. "We heard amazing accounts of Piper's uniqueness and talent for making hard and fast friends, intermingled with heartfelt sorrow of her untimely passing. All who worked with her recounted her unerring thirst for knowledge about her job and her ability to work and out think most of her male peers."

Also attending was her shipmate, Scott Dekraai, who left critical care to be with his friend. "Scott tried to save Piper without regard to his own safety," Coté said.

"I asked him to volunteer on the phone banks in the last election, and we really had some successes in the election," Paul Pemberton, a Local 19 Executive Board member said. "He was willing to work the trenches for the local candidates and he really knew how important that was." The accident is under investigation by the Washington State Labor and Industries Dept. Joe is survived by his partner Kym and his sons Ryan and Hawken Dows. Kym and Joe also had a son Aydin, who is six years old. He is also survived by his mother Janet and father Joseph Sr., and his grand mother Mildred Johnson and his sister Laura. Joe's union brothers and sisters have set up a fund in their honor at the Waterfront Federal Credit Union at 2414 SW Andover St. E-100, Seattle, WA 98106. Pay to "Memorial Fund for Joseph Aliseo."

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald passed away in 2003. She was not known to avoid controversy. In 1996, she took then-CIA director John Deutch to Watts to address the community following a newspaper report alleging that profits from domestic sales of crack-cocaine were being funneled to the CIA-backed Contras in Nicaragua. That incident, according to the Los Angeles Times, led Glamour magazine to declare Juanita as "one of 11 women who will change the world." Juanita Millender-McDonald speaking to striking and locked out grocery workers in front of a hotel housing scabs, Dec. 2003.

She was known for her ready laugh and quick wit, which earned him the respect of his Male peers. "Scott tried to save Piper without regard to his own safety," Coté said.

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Local 19 worker killed at APL intermodal yard

Joe Aliseo was the victim of a tragic accident at the APL Intermodal yard in Seattle on April 19. He was locking and unlocking chassis as they pulled up for loading when he was run over by a top loader and killed. The accident happened at 7:45 p.m.

Joe Aliseo was born Sept. 15, 1964 and grew up in Philadelphia, where many in his family still reside. Despite the distance, Joe stayed in touch and was known for his support for labor traditions. His adventurous nature led him to many jobs and activities, from paintball games to bartending, even to Microsoft Corp. He was known for his ready laugh and quick wit, which earned him the respect of his Male peers.

He had a stellar work record, according to longshore Local 19 President Gerald Ugles, which began in 2002. He got his 'B' registration in May 2005.

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More than 400 mourners listened to eloquent and sometimes tearful eulogies from her father, mother, sister, coworkers and friends," IBU President Alan Coté said of the memorial he attended. "We heard amazing accounts of Piper's uniqueness and talent for making hard and fast friends, intermingled with heartfelt sorrow of her untimely passing. All who worked with her recounted her unerring thirst for knowledge about her job and her ability to work and out think most of her male peers."

Also attending was her shipmate, Scott Dekraai, who left critical care to be with his friend. "Scott tried to save Piper without regard to his own safety," Coté said.

We, members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, are writing in response to an article by ILWU International Secretary Treasurer, Willie Adams, in the January issue of The Dispatcher. His article ignores the suffering of the Palestinian people, driven in their homes in 1948 and again in 1967. It also ignores the Israeli-sponsored massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Sahra and Shatila refugee camps in 1982 in Lebanon. Many Palestinians have lived under military occupation in the Gaza Strip since 1967. A huge "apartheid wall" is carving up the West Bank in violation of international law. And three weeks before Adams' visit in 1988, 18 Palestinian citizens were killed in their sleep by Israeli shells as the Zionist military siege escalated in Gaza.

Adams article is at variance with the official position of our union passed at Conventions in 1988 and 1991. These resolutions characterize the Israeli oppression of Palestinians as "state-sponsored terrorism" and criticize the Israeli trade union federation, Histadrut, for discriminating against Palestinian workers. They condemn the "inimical" nature of basic freedoms of speech and assembly of Palestinians, while calling for "the right of self determination for the Palestinian people." None of this is mentioned in Adams' Dispatcher article, nor was it explained that his trip to Israel was organized by the Israeli government. We are concerned that this article represents a distortion and a disservice to our members and to the cause of Palestinian freedom and justice.

We join the ILWU members and other unionists. Long Beach, South Central LA, Carson and Compton. We have the support of ILWU members and other unionists. Juanita was considered a front-runner for the post of Commerce Secretary in John Kerry's administration if he had won in 2004.

Jack Heyman #8780 (Local 10), Larry Wright #8534 (Local 91), Al Engle, retired, Past President Local 400, Deborah Stringfellow #20301 (Local 34), Steve Wood #8406 (Local 52), Steve Ongerth #3781 (IBU), McKay Cater #9677 (Local 10), Gabriel Pratt #57304 (Local 19), Robert Irvinning (IBU), Ken Herbet #38848 (Local 500), Nate Thornton #13317 (Local 34 retired), Conte Thornton, SF Bay Area ILWU Pensioners, Richard Harte, widow of John Harte #2458 (Local 10 & 34), (614 & 66 Steel Corp.) & SF Bay Area ILWU Pensioners, Peter Parks #52068 (Local 8), Ast Hauser #33781 (Local 500), Jack Mulcully #21031 (Local 8), Howard Kayne #20447 (Local 10 retired), Clarence Thomas #5718 (Local 10), Leo Robinson #5681 (Local 10 retired), Mike Vawter #8145 (Local 10), Mario Seguera #5324 (Local 34), Stan Woods #42873 (Local 19), Terry Hadson #61780 (Local 8), Jerry Lawrence #41678 (Local 8), Debbie Newton #75344 (Local 8), Gary Stylis #52565 (Local 8), Charlie Pom #25566 (Local 8), James Lee #50816 (Local 8), Ronald Woods #55777 (Local 8), Roderick Demming #57581 (Local 19), Afik Richie #58254 (Local 8), Johnny Lee #28583 (Local 8), Glen Ramiskay #62526 (Local 34), Stas Dow #44988 (Local 10 retired), Rosemanne Wiegman #20953 (Local 98), Bob Gregg (IBU), Mark Downs #51118 (Local 19 retired).

The ILWU has a proud history of solidarity with the oppressed, most notably our 1980’s anti-apartheid boycott actions against ships from South Africa. And South African workers today are in the forefront of the struggle to defend Palestinian rights against Israeli apartheid. A Dispatcher article supporting Israel just after the recent Zionist attack on civilians in Lebanon and Gaza undermines and causes confusion as to ILWU’s position, a change which can only be made by the Convention, the highest elected body of our union. In the meantime an article clarifying ILWU’s official position is warranted in The Dispatcher.
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