

GUEST EDITOR

Guest Commentary

Robert Flynn, Local 17 Member

Union Brothers and Sisters,

I have been a volunteer for Tammy Duckworth since early January of 2006. She is running for U.S Congress – 6TH District on the Democratic ticket this November. She embodies what this government needs; new blood with a new outlook for working men and women in Illinois and our nation as a whole.

I know that talking about politics is a sore subject for some and about as exciting as watching grass grow for others. I have felt the same way for a long time myself. All I wanted to do is go to work and go home to my family and enjoy my life. But, out of curiosity, I visited the Duckworth campaign office and said, “What can I do to help?”

I learned that most families wanted to see changes in the direction of our government. People didn’t like the road we, as a nation, have gone down the last six years. People were struggling just to make ends meet, while fat cats were getting raises in pay, because they made their companies an extra two cents a share at the cost of layoffs, reducing or discounting pensions, and shipping work overseas for cheap labor. I learned that 45 million Americans have little or no medical coverage, yet pharmaceutical companies are making billions. The list goes on and on.

I became more and more involved with Tammy’s campaign, and soon after, Local #17 joined in support of the Duckworth candidacy. Other unions came aboard and I learned something else. Local 17, as well as other Labor groups, play an important role for leadership in our government. Tammy Duckworth’s platform demonstrates a commitment to Labor, and preserving the middle class. She wants to be a voice for working men and women our district.

Labor has been under attack for a long time now. There is clear evidence of the effects as seen by the declining numbers of union workers in the country. We, in Labor, have the government, big business, and ourselves to blame. It seems change is necessary and inevitable. We must become proactive. Let’s be assured that change works for us. Vote for the candidates that best represent our views and interests in your district, similar to those demonstrated in the Duckworth campaign. We must invest the time and energy to educate ourselves on the best candidates to represent us. Information is power. We have a responsibility to our families and our fellow members (active and retired).

We, as voters, need to take advantage of every opportunity to have our voices heard and concerns addressed. This, being an election year, provides that opportunity. Let's make informed voting decisions that ultimately dictate our way of life.

BE SURE TO REGISTER AND GET YOUR VOTES HEARD IN NOVEMBER

DECEASED MEMBERS

These members have served Local 17 well. Our Local will remember them for eternity.

John Conlon	R# 18407	06-26-06
Richard O'Heir, Sr.	R# 25917	07-21-06

RETIREEES

Local 17 would like to honor these recent retirees. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Shed Cooper	R# 65473	06-01-06
Thomas McManus	R# 37555	06-01-06
Fred Farias	R# 45070	07-01-06
William Gutierrez	R# 43836	09-01-06
James Walsh	R# 37297	10-01-06

We also want to remind our retirees of the upcoming Retiree Luncheon. **The date has been changed to Monday, October 16, 2006.** A reminder postcard has been mailed out that also mentions a special pension presentation at 10:30 A.M. Please call the union office to confirm your attendance at this very important meeting. Lunch will be served at noon.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The next **OSHA 10 Class will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2006, at 7:00 A.M.** Please call Sue to confirm your attendance if you have not taken this class.

Our **19th Annual Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2006 at Park Place of Countryside, 6240 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525.** At this dinner, we will be conducting a "split the pot" raffle with the proceeds being donated to the Don Hubert Fund.

Editors,
B. Glynn, J. Crinion, J. Caddick, D. Byrne, Donna