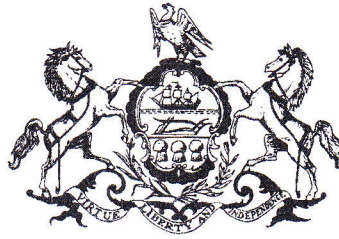


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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Thaddeus Kirkland

DATE: January 18, 2012

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Resolution: James N. Harper

In the near future, I plan to introduce a condolence resolution honoring the life and achievements of Mr. James N. "Jim" Harper, a native of Chester, Pennsylvania, who was a positive influence in his community, a decorated military veteran, and a dedicated Labor Leader.

James N. "Jim" Harper, the son of Clementine and Wilson Harper, Sr., was born September 28, 1941 in Chester, Pennsylvania, one of four brothers. He attended the Chester School District until the eleventh grade and graduated from Upper Darby High School. Jim first joined Laborers' International Union of North America Local 413 in June 1960, and used the union dollars he earned to attend West Virginia State University. He was active in extracurricular activities, including teaching neighborhood children how to improve their reading and writing skills.

While at West Virginia State University, he participated in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program, and developed a program to bring children, parents, and school administrators to the college for open-house activities that continues today. After graduating in 1965, Jim attended graduate school at Penn State University. During this time, he served as a graduate assistant to several professors, and his contributions in research were noted in a textbook and various social psychology journals. In addition, Jim continued to mentor the youth, and worked to reduce street gang tensions while teaching and writing papers on Black History.

After leaving graduate school, Jim served in the Vietnam War, leaving stateside two children, Terria and James Jr. Jim attained the rank of Captain and earned several decorations before returning to Penn State to a teaching position. He also rejoined the Laborers' Local 413 in 1974, and in 1977, James was elected Business Manager of Local 413. He stood solidly behind the union's commitment to Unity, Education, Safety, and Community. Jim gave exemplary service to his country, to his community, and to his family. He made not just an impression, but an impact upon the world in which he lived.

If you would like to join me in this important condolence resolution, please contact Stanley J. P. Mitchell at 717-705-1907 or sjpmitchell@pahouse.net.