



## Remembering our friends and co-workers

**O**n March 5, I had the privilege of participating in the ceremony to rename the Westgate Station in San Jose, CA, the Tony Cortese Building. Tony was the president of San Jose Branch 193 for more than 25 years. He was a true union activist and his spirit carried over to his care of the community that his letter carriers served. Tony and his management counterparts paved the way for what later grew into the national NALC food drive.

The renaming ceremony also was attended by Reps. Zoe Lofgren (CA-16) and Mike Honda (CA-15), who made the ceremony possible. They spoke of their personal experiences with Tony and his drive to represent letter carriers and care for the members of our community who are in need. (Photos from the event can be seen at left and below.)

The following words from a USPS press release are attributed to Bay Valley District Manager Kim Fernandez and I thank him for these kind words:

The dedication of a Post Office building in the memory of a former postal employee is particularly fitting because a Post Office, much like Tony Cortese who unified people for a common cause, also unifies and binds this nation together through the mail. A Post Office has a simple and functional purpose...one that sends a message of strength and unity throughout our community and across our nation and serves as a cornerstone of every town and city across America. The very character of Tony Cortese is as strong as the cornerstone of the Westgate Post Office.

**Next month is the NALC national food drive. Get involved in your community and contribute!**

**April 28 is Workers' Memorial Day. On this day, we recognize our fellow workers who were injured or lost their lives on the job during the previous year. The following website from the AFL-CIO contains a number of Workers' Memorial Day poems and tributes and we encourage you to go to this site and reflect on the thoughts that have been shared by so many: [aflcio.org/issues/safety/memorial/wmd\\_poem.cfm](http://aflcio.org/issues/safety/memorial/wmd_poem.cfm).**

**As I write this tonight, I have been thinking about the madness that is around us. Since the elections last November, it is clear that the right side of the aisle and big business are after any benefits that were bargained for by employ-**

ees. Their media spin blames the struggling economy on unions and the benefits we fight for. They own the radio waves, they make us out to be the bad guys and they brainwash you into believing that.

The truth of the matter is that they speak no truth. Don't let them take anything away from you. Don't sit on the sidelines and watch! Get involved. Make your union presence known. Work on your family and your friends and show them that unions are not the cause of the economic problems in the country right now. If unions had their way, manufacturing would be brought back to this country. That would start an economic recovery. Bring back all our work!

If your friends refuse to listen to you, make it clear to them that unions are the only barrier against stripping all benefits from working men and women in this country.

On Feb. 26, a few of us from the sixth floor of the NALC building drove about 300 miles round-trip to Williamsburg, VA, to attend a rally to show our support for our brothers and sisters in Wisconsin. I want to thank Region 9 RAA Jeff Siciunas; Sue Wellhausen, Eugene, OR Branch 916; John Collins, Zanesville, OH Branch 63; Gerard Henke, Florissant, MO Branch 4839; and Robert Williams, Washington, DC Branch 142, for allowing me to enjoy the day with them. ☒



The Westgate Station in San Jose was recently renamed in honor of former Branch 193 President Anthony J. Cortese. Pictured (center front, from l) are Rep. Mike Honda, Barbara Cortese and Rep. Zoe Lofgren.