

Remarks of Jackie Coleburn, Guild Membership Chair, at the July 16 event sponsored by LC unions and LC-BIG in honor of Willie Price. Ms. Price worked in the Library food service for 28 years and was the shop steward for her union, Local 25 (HERE, AFL-CIO). She stood up for workplace justice during her six month effort to regain her job in the cafeteria. Willie Price returned to work at the Library of Congress on July 20, 2009.

Welcome back Willie!

I've waited a long time to say that, and you've waited a long time to hear it. Your LC colleagues are very happy to have you back.

Willie, I haven't marched for a cause, or carried a sign for a cause in more than 20 years.

But for you Willie, I marched. I marched right past the door of the LC cafeteria and did not go in to spend my money. I did not carry a sign, but I did carry my lunch.

They say boycotts don't work. But at least in one sense it worked for us. Every time I and my fellow boycotters walked past the snack bar and did not go in to spend our money we thought of you and your struggle.

Your struggle went on for longer than I thought it would. Around March we started thinking that maybe you might need a little help. We set up the Willie Price Emergency Fund. People who don't even work here sent money! LC staff would stop me in the hall and hand me 20 dollar bills to put in the fund to help you get by until you got your job back. I started to feel like Jimmy Stewart at the end of *It's a wonderful life*.

3,944.65 dollars later, we had raised enough to offer you what I hope was significant assistance to you and your family.

Willie, congratulations. You won. It has been an honor to stand with you, and we are thrilled to have you back.