

Statement on Representative Edward L. Pastor's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

February 27, 2014

The first in his family to graduate from college and the first Hispanic Congressman ever elected from Arizona, Ed Pastor has spent his life fighting to give every American the same chance to work hard and get ahead that this country gave him. Ed has devoted his 23 years in Congress to helping hard-working families, fighting to fix our broken immigration system, and guaranteeing access to quality, affordable

health care for all. As one of the most senior members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Ed also has served as a mentor and role model to young Latinos and Latinas throughout Arizona and our country, and his leadership will be missed. Michelle and I thank Congressman Pastor for his service, and we wish him, his wife Verma, and their children and grandchildren the very best in the future.

Remarks at the White House Student Film Festival

February 28, 2014

The President. Hello. My name is Shelly Ortiz and—oh, wrong page. [Laughter] All right, then, I was just teasing. I knew I wasn't Shelly Ortiz. [Laughter] Everybody, give Shelly a big round of applause for the great work. Thank you so much. Thanks for not only the introduction, but for the beautiful video that you made about your dad.

Shelly Ortiz. Thank you.

The President. Us dads, we get pretty touched by stuff like that. [Laughter]

And I am thrilled that all of you are with us for our first-ever White House Student Film Festival. And I know we're running a little bit late. It's not because the projector was not working. It was because of me. But I appreciate all of you guys being here and your patience.

The Academy Awards are not until Sunday, but as you can see, we've brought the Oscars to the White House a little bit early. And I want to thank our partners: Fox, National Geographic, and the American Film Institute. We've got the red carpet, we've got the big screens, the opening monologue. The only difference is nobody asks what you're wearing. [Laughter]

And we've got Bill Nye the Science Guy and Neil deGrasse Tyson from the Hayden Planetarium, who might even give you a sneak peak of his new show, "Cosmos," if everybody behaves themselves. And I saw the original ver-

sion—I'm a little older than all of you—and it was spectacular and wonderful, and I know this is going to be not just as good, but even better. And so we're thrilled with that. And we're putting on a big show here because we're honoring some remarkable filmmakers.

I've said before, I believe, and I hope all of us believe, that every child in America deserves a world-class education, especially in science and technology and engineering and math, because it's skills like these that made us an economic superpower and built our middle class. We also need folks who are studying the arts because our film industry is a huge generator of jobs and economic power here in the United States, and it tells us our story and helps us to find what's—our common humanity.

And it's skills like these that allowed NASA to announce the other day that we've discovered more than 700 new planets. [Applause] That's cool. I mean, we didn't make the planets, but we—[laughter]—we found out that they were there. And one of the ways that we deliver the best education in the world is by empowering our students with the best technology in the world.

To help inspire us, we invited students from across the country to send their videos about how their schools use technology today, how they might use it in the future. So kids got to—got their cameras out and went to work. And