

aisle to wish him every success as well as fair winds and following seas always.

TRIBUTE TO MARCO ANTONIO MUÑIZ, "THE MOST BELOVED VOICE OF AMERICA"

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Marco Antonio Muñiz, one of the most loved and cherished singers among Hispanics in all of the Americas. This weekend Marco Antonio Muñiz will be given two special performances at Hostos Community College in my congressional district of the South Bronx.

Marco Antonio Muñiz was born in 1933 in Guadalajara, Mexico. His passion for music started at a very early age, and even as a child he would take every opportunity to sing at events in Guadalajara.

As a young man, Marco Antonio joined the musical group "Veracuz" and later on became a member of "Los Tres Ases," a trio which brought him international fame. "Los Tres Ases" held performances in all of Latin America and recorded eight LPs, copies of which are still available in music stores. Among the many hits the group achieved include: "Mi último fracaso" ("My last failure"), "100 Mujeres" ("100 Women"), "Que Seas Feliz" ("I Wish You Happiness"), and "El Reloj" ("The Clock").

While still at the summit of success, Marco Antonio decided to leave the trio and seek a new challenge as a soloist. He struggled in the beginning, but soon won the admiration of many in Mexico and the rest of the Americas.

Although his repertoire ranges from traditional Mariachi music to romantic ballads, Marco Antonio Muñiz is internationally acclaimed as one of the greatest singers of romantic music. He is commonly called "The Most Beloved Voice of America," "The Romantic Singer of America," "The Luxury of Mexico," and "The Uncontainable."

His music has won the hearts of many Puerto Ricans. Marco Antonio has performed in Puerto Rico for the past 34 Christmas holiday seasons without a break. His simplicity of character and undeniable passion in his singing have gained him recognition as one of the most talented singers of the Americas.

I have a collection of 50 LPs by Marco Antonio Muñiz. His exceptional career has featured numerous hits and record sales. And among his recordings is a collection of albums dedicated to Puerto Rican composers Rafael Hernández, Sylvia Rexach, and Pedro Flores. I am proud to say that my first son, José Marco, was named after him.

The Hispanic community of the South Bronx is honored to receive this giant of Latin American music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Marco Antonio Muñiz, the most beloved singer of the Americas, for giving to the Hispanic community the gift of beautiful music.

HONORING THE KITTRELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Kitterell Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

ROLLING MEADOWS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize some outstanding business leaders in my district who have risen to the top in their respective fields. Tonight they will be recognized by the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce for their efforts and achievements. I would like to take a moment to recognize each for their accomplishments in the hopes that their achievements will inspire others to follow their lead.

Kristine M. Stabler, the vice president and head of sales for the Arlington International Racecourse, has been named the Business Leader of the Year. She has worked in the business community at Arlington International Racecourse for 14 years and was given the added responsibility to serve as a liaison between the racetrack and the business community. The Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce adds that "she is also the coordinator of the International Festival of Racing, highlighted by the Arlington Million and oversees the retail operations, guest relations and special events." Her interaction with businesses and the community is extensive and her accomplishments impressive.

The Platinum Home Mortgage Corp., which is a family-owned business, has been award-

ed the Small Business of the Year Award. Although the company is only 2½ years old, it has grown both physically and financially. It has brought on staff 88 employees and has opened offices in Chicago, IL, River Grove, IL, and Denver, CO. It is now the fourth largest government residential loan provider in my State. The Platinum Home Mortgage Corp. is truly representative of success as they continue to grow.

Kevin T. Kendrigan, the director of the Northwest Special Recreation Association [NSRA] has been recognized as the Community Leader of the Year. His resume offers an extensive list of memberships to associations and community groups. Even more impressive are his accomplishments at the NSRA, which now serves over 2,500 people monthly and conducts 250 programs for both children and adults.

The Community Consolidated School District 15 has been awarded the Exceptional Business/Educational Environment Award. District 15 has blended traditional educational classes with interaction between various business and community leaders to offer students a more worldly education. Through innovative new programs at the local level, sponsored by private industries, our education system will be more effective in turning out students who will have the skills and knowledge that companies need as they enter the next century.

One award, the Business Beautification Award, was shared this year between two impressive edifices. The first is Michaels Glass and Mirror, Inc., which offers a wide variety of glass work, including auto glass, commercial and residential glazing, store fronts, table tops, shower doors, and mirrors. The second is the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center, owned by Baird and Warner. Both businesses have undergone substantial renovations to attract new customers and support businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all of the winners of the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce awards. But more importantly, I thank all of them for their contributions to the community in which they live. I and the residents of the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois are proud of them.

CONDEMNING THE KKK AND EVERYTHING FOR WHICH IT STANDS

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Constitution establishes the fundamental rights we enjoy as Americans. It embodies what is good and right in America. The first amendment to our Constitution provides for the right to peacefully assemble, and it enshrines free speech as being a basic tenet upon which the democracy of our great Nation rests.

As history has taught us, the Constitution, which represents so much of what is good in our country, also protects those who promote evil. I am sad to say that the Ku Klux Klan [KKK], which embraces bigotry, hatred, and intolerance, will exercise its first amendment rights and rally in Portage, IN this Saturday, May 11. I join the overwhelming majority of Portage residents—and others in Northwest

Indiana—in condemning the KKK and everything for which it stands.

The Ku Klux Klan is reviled around the world for its association with terror and violence. Through violence and intimidation, the KKK has historically punished opposing persons or groups, traditionally persons of color and religious minorities. Since its inception, the KKK has engaged in despicable acts of violence and hate, characterized by lynchings in the rural South, cross burnings, and other forms of hate crime. There is no place in our diverse society for this divisiveness. We must do everything within our power to stop the KKK and other perpetrators of hate crime.

In repudiation of the KKK, a wide variety of people and organizations in Indiana's First Congressional District will convene a prodiversity counter-rally to show America that the KKK's attempt to spread hatred in our community will not prevail. This Saturday, while the KKK exercises its right to assemble, an immense group of civic, business, religious, and student leaders will gather at Woodland Park in Portage, IN, to emphasize their message of unity and brotherhood.

The prodiversity rally is the brainchild of Eric Mason and Michael Krueger, two Portage High School seniors. As a result of their commitment to embrace and commemorate ethnic, racial, and religious diversity, the prodiversity rally, has grown into an enormous celebration. Participants at the prodiversity rally will include: Portage Mayor Sammie Maletta; a keynote speech by Jack Parton, director of the United Steelworkers of America [USWA] district 7; and the Reverend David Kehert, Dean of the chapel at Valparaiso University.

Several other organizations have passed resolutions or offered support for the prodiversity rally and its laudable ideals. Jack Parton, director of the USWA, district 7, has urged all steelworkers to attend the rally, while USWA Local 1014, United Steel Group's Gary Works, and an association of retired steelworkers, have also expressed their support for the counter rally. Alice Bush, spokesperson for the Healthcare Workers of America, district 1199, stated that her organization and Whispering Pines Health Care Center in Valparaiso, IN, are donating medical supplies for a first-aid tent at Woodland Park. This fine labor group serves all of Northwest Indiana. In addition, the Calumet project, a Hammond-based coalition of religious, labor, and community groups covering all of Northwest Indiana, has offered its support at the prodiversity rally.

Meanwhile, 29 pastors representing all faiths and almost all Portage churches, have united under the Pastors United for Racial Equality [P.U.R.E.] banner. P.U.R.E. has approved a resolution stating that, even though the KKK often uses Christian symbolism, it unequivocally and wholeheartedly condemns the ideals of the KKK and those of any such proclaimers of hate in our society. In addition, there will be a candlelight vigil to counter the KKK rally, sponsored by the Valparaiso Ministerial Association. The ministerial association is encouraging church members and others to make pledges to charitable causes which benefit minority groups or combat racism and bigotry.

Businesses are rallying together to oppose the KKK rally. In an effort to keep residents away from the KKK rally and promote security, Portage city officials have asked that Portage businesses near the site band together and

close on Saturday afternoon. In support of this plea, many businesses have agreed to close early.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the founders of the prodiversity rally, Eric Mason and Michael Krueger, for having the wisdom to bring the community of Northwest Indiana together to promote peace and harmony. May the actions of these distinguished young men, the participants in the prodiversity rally, as well as all of the organizations and community leaders who have pulled together to condemn the white supremacists' message—and, instead, promote diversity—be emulated by other towns and cities. The prodiversity rally is a powerful example of how to overcome hatred and pull together to promote unity. I join these dignified members of Indiana's First Congressional District in their commitment to ethnic, racial, and religious diversity. These ideals are truly what continues to make America the greatest country in the world.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM E. COLBY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and times, the trials and tribulations, and the heroism that is so closely associated with the late William E. Colby. I also would like to express my heartfelt condolences to his surviving family.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, Bill Colby was a dedicated public servant who spent 30 years in the U.S. intelligence service, including a 2-year stint as CIA Director during one of the more turbulent periods in its history. Mr. Colby began his most remarkable career as an officer with the U.S. Office of Strategic Services—the predecessor of the CIA. During World War II, Mr. Colby parachuted behind enemy lines into France and Norway where he helped organize resistance forces and ran sabotage operations against Nazi strongholds. His heroism earned him the Silver Star Medal.

As a seasoned intelligence officer, Mr. Colby served in South Vietnam from 1959 to 1962 and again in 1968 where he was responsible for managing the pacification program and where he played a key role in America's recruitment of Laotian Hmong fighters. Mr. Colby took a personal interest in the Hmong's valiant battle against the North Vietnamese who, in violation of the 1962 Geneva agreements calling for Laos's neutrality, kept their troops in Laos. Following the war, many Hmong fighters were resettled in the United States and Mr. Colby, as an act of loyalty, kept in touch with them during their period of assimilation.

Under Mr. Colby's astute leadership as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, from 1973 to 1975, he was almost singlehandedly responsible for raising and addressing the numerous operational abuses that had become manifest within the Agency. As a professional intelligence officer Mr. Colby was, both emotionally and intellectually, able and willing to confront the not so pleasant ambiguities that are often characteristic of the natural world of espionage. In the end, he succeeded in protecting the mission of intelligence (so abso-

lutely vital to our national security) while at the same time ensuring that the Agency was held accountable to the highest standards of professionalism and as an integral part of our democratic heritage.

I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the contributions and achievements of an American hero, William E. Colby.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL P. JERGER

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an exceptional young man from my district who has recently accepted his appointment as a member of the class of 2000 at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The son of Denise Jerger, Joel P. Jerger will graduate from Montpelier High School later this month. While in high school, Joel distinguished himself as a leader among his peers. He has earned a 3.93 grade point average while earning varsity letters in football and baseball. In addition, he was the freshman class president, participated in Buckeye Boys State, and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is an outstanding citizen and patriot.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important responsibilities of Members of Congress is to identify outstanding young men and women and to nominate them for admission to the U.S. service academies. While at the academy, they will be the beneficiaries of one of the finest educations available, so that in the future, they might be entrusted with the very security of our Nation.

I am confident that Joel Jerger has both the ability and the desire to meet this challenge. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for his accomplishments to date and to wish him the best of luck as he begins his career in service to our country.

MICHAEL BUSH, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership, and community service, that I am proud to salute Michael Bush, winner of the 1996 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Michael is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, MI.

Michael Bush is an exceptional student at Columbia Central High School and possesses an impressive high school record. A member