

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING REMARKABLE AND
COMMENDABLE COMMUNITY AC-
TIVIST ROBERTO MENDEZ

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Roberto Mendez, a longtime resident of South San Francisco, which is in my congressional district, for being honored with the 25th annual COPE Unity Award by the San Mateo County Central Labor Council. The COPE award is presented annually by the Labor Council's Committee on Political Education (COPE) to honor an individual for his or her outstanding service.

A native of Guatemala City, Guatemala, Roberto moved to the United States in 1968, after graduating from military school. From the moment of his arrival to America, Roberto exhibited a dedicated work ethic as he spent his days learning English while working in a New Jersey textile factory at night. After working long hours with no benefits, no overtime pay and minimal safety protection, Roberto eventually left the textile industry to work in the restaurant business where he worked his way up from busboy to assistant manager.

Looking for more challenging work, Roberto joined United Air Lines in 1984 working in the flight kitchen, where he was responsible for the upkeep and stocking of the plane's kitchen. He joined the Machinists Local 1781 and immediately became an active member. Within ten years, Roberto was elected Shop Steward. His rise at United was as equally meteoric as it was within the union, and Roberto quickly advanced from working in the flight kitchen to performing critical maintenance and mechanical work. Additionally, Roberto was recently selected to be the West Coast Employee Assistance Program Coordinator, where he is responsible for assisting the more than 3,500 United Airlines local employees deal with a wide variety of problems including substance abuse treatment, stress, harassment, and other personnel matters.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, in the wake of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, countless Bay Area workers were displaced from their jobs. Roberto's enthusiasm and devotion to his union colleagues lead him to be an instrumental component in the efforts to assist the airline, hospitality, construction and other workers whose jobs were lost in the post 9-11 economic downturn. He coordinated with the San Mateo County PeninsulaWorks program to make available re-employment and retraining services.

Roberto Mendez's compassion for his fellow workers led him to organize monthly food distribution and coordinate re-employment and re-training services for displaced workers and their families. Serving over 350,000 pounds of food to hundreds of families, these monthly distributions continue to serve over 175 families per month. In addition, Roberto assisted in

more than 80 Rapid Response sessions, which informed displaced workers about services and resources available to assist them during those difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, along with his wife Maria, and their two children, Roberto's family has made its mark in South San Francisco and the Bay Area with their strong will and dedicated sense of justice. I urge all of my colleagues to please join me in recognizing an extraordinarily devoted community activist on his 20 years of outstanding service and his recognition by the San Mateo Central Labor Committee with the 25th Annual COPE Unity Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 359, 360, 361, and 362 on Monday July 12, 2004, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather and delayed air service at Columbia Metropolitan Airport, and unable to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Rollcall 359, the Holt amendment to H.R. 4755, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall 360, the Hefley amendment to H.R. 4755, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall 361, the motion to recommit H.R. 4755, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall 362, final passage of H.R. 4755, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN DONNELLY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a longtime public servant, Carolyn Crawford Donnelly, who is retiring from government service after 25 years.

She began her career in government service with Representative (now Senator) BARBARA BOXER in January 1983 as a Computer Operator. In 1991, she joined the Committee on Government Operations as a Clerk for the Subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation. In 1993, she moved to the Full Committee as a Clerk for the Management Team. In 1995, she provided investigative support to staff and served as backup to the division secretary of the Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General Office of Departmental Inquiries. In 1999, she joined the Committee on the Judiciary as a staff assistant. In 2002, her title changed to professional staff.

Carolyn has served under one Democratic Chairman, two Republican Chairmen and one

Democratic Ranking Member. She has always handled all aspects of her job in an exemplary fashion. No matter what her title has been, Carolyn's role has remained constant. She has been one of the pillars of the Committee, ensuring that the office runs smoothly. She has always been calm and professional in the eye of the storm. No matter how frenetic, no matter how pressured, no matter how stressful the situation, Carolyn has maintained a sense of humor and cheer that has proved contagious and helped to get the job done. Moreover, there have been many occasions on which she brought a needed human touch to the sometimes intense work of the Congress and its committees.

Throughout her tenure, Carolyn has exhibited an extraordinary personal commitment to the Committee. Carolyn has always been there for the Members and staff, whether it's problems with supplies or guidance on where to turn for special requests. Whenever a major project needed additional volunteers, Carolyn was always the first to sign up and work long hours whenever needed. She has always been willing to listen, to share her professional and personal opinions, and to lift spirits during an especially long or difficult day.

In addition to her work on the Hill, Carolyn has been active in the community, volunteering for numerous organizations over the years. She currently feeds the homeless with SOME (So Others Might Eat) on Sunday mornings, several times each month, and works with the Washington Animal Rescue league. She is also a member of the altar guild at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. Our loss is the gain of these organizations, as I am confident that Carolyn will lend her talents to the pursuit of their important missions.

Mr. Speaker, Members and staff, please join me in thanking Carolyn for her service and wishing her all the best as she leaves the Hill. The Committee on the Judiciary was indeed fortunate to have her on board for these years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to business in my district last Friday, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall Votes. Had I been present I would have voted: No. 355, "yes"; No. 356, "yes"; No. 357, "yes"; No. 358, "yes."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.