

create a viable and reasonable economic environment for them to maintain their businesses and grow.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY RECTOR

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise on the House floor to mourn the passing of one of my past colleagues and personal friends. Although we all feel great loss with her passing and it is difficult to express grief for her family and all those who knew her, I would like to offer this tribute as a celebration of her many accomplishments.

Representative Shirley J. Rector was a woman of spirit and principle. As one of the first women to work at Kaiser Aluminum, she took the bull by the horns and was elected as Steelworkers Union Local 338 legislative education chair and recording secretary. Even at that time, her dedication to making the world a better place was clear.

Shirley was committed to public service. She was vice chair of the Democratic Central Committee. I am honored to have been her colleague when she served as a member of the State of Washington House of Representatives where she was instrumental in passing legislation for both the Shared and Family Leave Acts. She was also on the SIRT Higher Education Board and was co-founder of the Women Helping Women Fund. No one who was there will ever forget her speech which electrified the House concerning family and medical care.

I am humbled by these accomplishments and I am assured that her legacy of strong involvement in government and community has touched the lives of many.

FREEDOM FOR LUIS MILÁN FERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Luis Milán Fernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Milán Fernández is a medical doctor by profession. He chose to dedicate his life to healing people; but, Dr. Milán Fernández realized that the people of Cuba are in need of freedom as well as medicine. In June, 2001 he signed the Manifesto 2001, a document that protested the lack of basic freedoms in Cuba.

Dr. Milán Fernández continued to advocate for freedom for every Cuban when he joined the Independent Medical Association of Santiago. According to Amnesty International, he also joined fellow health professionals in a one-day hunger strike to call attention to the medical situation and other issues pertaining to the lack of freedom in totalitarian Cuba.

Because of his commitment to freedom for Cuba, Dr. Milán Fernández was a victim of the dictator's brutal March 2003 crackdown on

pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, Dr. Milán Fernández was sentenced to 13 years in the totalitarian gulag.

The U.S. State Department's 2003 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices describes conditions in the totalitarian gulag as . . . harsh and life threatening. . . . police and prison officials often . . . beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views . . . Detainees and prisoners, both common and political, often were subjected to repeated, vigorous interrogations designed to coerce them into signing incriminating statements, to force collaboration with authorities, or to intimidate victims. Some endured physical and sexual abuse, typically by other inmates with the acquiescence of guards, or long periods in punitive isolation cells.

Dr. Milán Fernández is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how fierce the repression, no matter how brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for freedom, the prisons of Cuba are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation. Thousands languish in the gulag because they refuse to accept the current reality of nightmarish oppression in Cuba today.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Milán Fernández is languishing in the horror of the totalitarian gulag because he believes in freedom for the people of Cuba. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Luis Milán Fernández and every prisoner of conscience suffering in the indescribable gulags of the nightmare called the Castro regime.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LULAC ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of United Latin American Citizens as it celebrates its 75th year of advancing the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanics in the United States.

LULAC's founding 75 years ago signaled the end of one era and the beginning of another. For decades, the Hispanic community had been engulfed in an environment of inequality, discrimination and injustice. The creation of an institution like LULAC initiated a positive change in the future direction of the Hispanic community as it embodied the will of a people to overcome these barriers to social inclusion and civic participation and claim their rights as U.S. citizens, to access the American dream.

Today, LULAC represents Hispanics in most parts of the United States, as well as Puerto Rico and Guam. It also serves as a cornerstone for some of the most successful Hispanic national organizations. For example, LULAC formed the American GI Forum to address the rights of Hispanic veterans. LULAC also helped to create the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund to function as the legal arm of the Hispanic community.

LULAC's record of activism, whether fighting for voting rights and full access to the political

process, equal educational opportunities for Hispanic children, or the rights of women and full inclusion in American society, is a testimony that it is an organization that will forever address those issues that impact the lives and future of all Hispanic Americans. I commend LULAC on its 75 years of service and the innumerable contributions it has made to our Hispanic community and our country as a whole.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for three votes on Tuesday, March 9, 2004 due to a family illness. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows: Rollcall No. 42 (H. Res. 519), "aye"; Rollcall No. 43 (H. Res. 392), "aye"; Rollcall No. 44 (H. Res. 475), "aye."

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING CARR-BAILEY AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 519

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Carr-Bailey American Legion Post No. 519 of Mineral City is recognized for supporting American forces in Iraq; and

Whereas, Carr-Bailey Post No. 519 has upheld their Congressional mandate to support veterans and active-duty members of the United States armed forces by providing care packages to the brave men and women serving in Iraq; and

Whereas, Carr-Bailey Post No. 519 has demonstrated patriotic and faithful dedication to those fighting for liberty and freedom at home and around the world;

Therefore, I join with the residents of Tuscarawas County and the entire 18th Congressional District in commending Carr-Bailey American Legion Post No. 519 for continued support of our American troops overseas.

CONGRATULATING LAKE HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Lake Highlands High School in Dallas, TX, on the occasion of their 40th anniversary.

Education is one of the most important issues facing the future of our great Nation. If America is to continue to be the leader of the modern world, we must offer a solid educational foundation for our citizens. To succeed in school and life, every student needs a basic set of skills. They need to listen attentively, speak persuasively, read with understanding, and write with command.

Over the past 40 years, Lake Highlands High School has maintained a commitment to academic, athletic and artistic excellence and community service. Lake Highlands High School has produced 17 National Merit Finalists in the last 2 years alone, along with district championships in nearly every athletic competition offered.

Since I was elected to Congress, I have visited Lake Highlands High School many times. Clearly, Lake Highlands High School is an institution dedicated to offering students a well-rounded education and an opportunity to become genuine leaders.

As the Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I am very proud to represent Lake Highlands High School, it's teachers and it's students. I would like to offer my congratulations to their administrators, alumni, coaches, students, and parents on this momentous occasion and best wishes for their continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable group of young athletes. The University of Illinois Fighting Illini Men's Basketball Team has had a memorable 2003–2004 season ending March 7 with the winning of their first outright Big Ten Conference title in 52 years.

Having won regular season Big Ten championships in 3 of the last 4 years, the pressure was on this young team and first year coach Bruce Weber to continue this championship success. After starting the Big Ten Conference season with a record of 3–3 and losing its first two road games, some began to doubt that this success would continue. However, credit must be given to Coach Weber and his staff and the unbelievable determination put forth by a team with only one senior, as the Illini concluded their season by winning ten straight conference games, of which six were on the road. I look forward to more Illini victories this weekend in the Big Ten Conference Tournament and later in the NCAA Basketball Championship Tournament and wish them continued success.

Coach Bruce Weber, his staff, and the entire University of Illinois men's basketball team are a great source of pride for their University, the Champaign-Urbana community and the 15th District of Illinois. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Weber and the entire 2003–04 Fighting Illini Men's Basketball team.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND B. WINGERD, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Raymond B. Wingerd, who is retiring after 36 years of public service in the San Bernardino County Probation Department, helping those who have paid their debt to society return to a normal life.

Just months after his graduation from Up-land College, Raymond Wingerd joined the county probation department as a Probation Officer I, and with the exception of an 18-month stint as a teacher in Zimbabwe, has been with the department ever since.

Showing promise as a manager of others, Wingerd moved up to a supervising probation officer in 1972, and 5 years later to assistant director of the juvenile division, managing the intake, investigations and transportation sections. He was named a year later as Director of Special Services, overseeing the department's community resources, training, victim advocacy and work sentencing programs. One year after that he became director of the department's Verdmont Boys Ranch, a long-term program that focused on family counseling to help troubled youths turn their lives around.

In 1982, Wingerd was promoted to be the Division Director in charge of Juvenile Hall, three residential treatment institutions, clinical services and food services for 400 delinquent youth. By this time, he was managing 300 employees and handling an \$11.7 million budget. He became the Central Services Division Director in 1988, overseeing adult and juvenile court investigations and field supervision of 4,000 offenders.

Raymond Wingerd was named Chief Probation Officer for the county in 1994, overseeing a staff of 1,200 and a \$98 million annual budget, and has served in that position until his retirement. During his tenure, Chief Wingerd has led the planning and construction of new juvenile facilities in the county's West Valley and the High Desert—decentralizing and modernizing the department's approach to juvenile detention.

During his years in top management in the department, Chief Wingerd has helped create a series of youthful offender programs that have seen many innovative programs put in place in San Bernardino County. The department partners with county schools and the U.S. Forest Service to provide a 90-day intensive outdoor work program as an early intervention resource. The Youth Justice Center brings together schools, probation, public, and mental health and community-based organizations to provide a day-reporting program for youths on probation—a model used by the state legislature to create a statewide program. There are now 12 Youth Accountability Boards made up of citizens who help make dispositional decisions for first-time offenders.

The National Association of Counties gave national recognition to two projects created by Wingerd in the 1980s: A Regional Youth Education Facility with 40 beds, and a wilderness

diversion program designed to keep troubled youth out of the justice system.

Throughout his career, Chief Wingerd has been active in probation officer groups, serving as president of the Chief Probation Offices of California in 1998 and 1999, and most recently as a Probation Committee Member of the American Correctional Association. He is a board member of Everest College and San Bernardino Communities Against Drugs.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication of Chief Raymond Wingerd continues to this day, as he has agreed to continue his service as interim chief until a new head of the department can be recruited. Please join me in thanking him for his many years of public service and wishing he and his wife Linda well in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF K&A CRYLICS INC.

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of K&A Crylics Inc. The company will honor its customers, vendors and employees at a March 18 luncheon when it will also donate \$25,000 to five community organizations in Wartrace, Tennessee.

Brothers Kevin and Allen Wright founded K&A in their hometown of Wartrace in 1980. The company, a leading national supplier of acrylic and plastic store fixtures and displays, has grown from a two-man operation working out of an old store front to a larger, modern facility with 65 employees.

In addition to being a major employer in Wartrace, K&A improves the lives of those in the community in many ways. At the luncheon, for example, K&A will donate \$5,000 to each of the following organizations: Cascade schools, the Wartrace Volunteer Fire Department, the Wartrace Chamber of Commerce, the Wartrace Parks and Recreation Department and the town of Wartrace. The funds will be used for education, fire equipment upgrades, permanent historical building markers, upgrades to the Wartrace gym and renovation of the historic Wartrace rock jail.

I congratulate K&A for reaching this milestone. The company should be proud of its service to both its national customer base and the local community. May K&A's next 25 years be as prosperous and successful as its first 25 years.

REPUBLICANS HAVE FOCUSED ON RESULTS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to Congress, I have heard endless rhetoric from those on the other side of the aisle about the economy, tax cuts and the deficit. Unfortunately, when the political fog clears, it appears that our Democratic friends are more concerned with rhetoric than they are with results.