

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER JUAN ROBERTO RAMIREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of United Independent School District Board Member Juan Roberto Ramirez in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Juan Roberto Ramirez is the Secretary on the United I.S.D. Board of Trustees. Even though Ramirez is the District 6 representative, he says his goal is to serve the District as a whole and give the students the best education programs possible. "Let's not forget that we work united for what is best for our children," Ramirez said.

Ramirez is a retired U.S. Customs Agent. He is a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, serving his country in the U.S. Army. After graduating from high school, Ramirez attended Laredo Community College and earned a degree in Business Administration. He is also a graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Academy. Presently, Ramirez works full-time as a Career Advisor for the Laredo Job Corps, is a self-employed businessman, and a notary public. Ramirez served as Vice-Chairman of the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors from May of 2002 to July of 2004.

Ramirez is grateful for being elected and he feels honored by the confidence the voters have in him. He promises to work hard for his constituents. "I have an open door to hear everyone's concerns," Ramirez said. "It's an extraordinary experience to be able to work for the kids in the district, to be part of a team that makes decisions for kids and staff." Ramirez says it's a thrill to be part of the Board, "it's a great honor to work for my District."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of United Independent School District Board Member Juan R. Ramirez.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY FINK AND MARCY MARXER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend two of my constituents, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer. For the second year in a row Fink and Marxer, residents of Kensington, Maryland, won a GRAMMY® for Best Musical Album for Children. Their winning album is entitled "cELLAbration: A Tribute to Ella Jenkins."

The album celebrates the music of Ella Jenkins, "The First Lady of Children's Music" and the winner of the 2004 GRAMMY® Lifetime Achievement Award. The project was a gift to Ella Jenkins in honor of her 80th birthday.

Fink and Marxer won their first GRAMMY® last year for "Bon Appetit! Musical Food Fun," and every album they have released since 1997 has been nominated for this prestigious honor.

As a Member of Congress, I have worked to address the need for broad support for music education and to assure that every child has access to the benefits of active participation in music. I believe that music education is imperative to our children's growth and well-being. During their 21-year musical career, Fink and Marxer have inspired children with their gift of music.

I applaud Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer and wish them continued success in the years ahead.

MARCH IS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Kidney Caucus, I want to make everyone aware that March is National Kidney Month. A growing epidemic, diabetes has a significant impact on kidney disease. Diabetes is the single leading cause of kidney failure in the U.S. today.

Approximately 17 million people living in America, or more than 6 percent of the population, have diabetes. Because a cure for diabetic kidney disease has not yet been found, treatment involves controlling the disorder and slowing its progression to kidney failure. Recent research has shown that the presence of high blood pressure may be the most important predictor of which diabetics will develop chronic kidney disease.

Therefore, the detection and control of high blood pressure are very important in diabetic patients. March is National Kidney Month and the Kidney Caucus in partnership with the National Kidney Foundation is urging all those at risk for kidney disease, including diabetics, to get checked out by their doctor.

Treatment to prevent diabetic kidney disease should begin early, even before kidney damage develops. To accomplish this, experts must make diabetic patients aware of the severity of this disease and its symptoms, and must educate diabetics on ways to control the disease.

IN HONOR OF TILLIE FOWLER, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American, Tillie Fowler, who served this House with honor and with passion for eight years.

She was not only a colleague and friend to many of us but she was an unquestioned expert on national security. Her highest priority was always taking care of our men and women who serve in uniform. She established such a strong reputation as a tireless worker for her district, our state, and our nation that she quickly rose to one of the most important leadership posts in our conference.

Even after she left this House, she continued to serve when called upon, taking on a

number of difficult assignments given to her by the President and Secretary of Defense.

As much as Tillie Fowler will be remembered for her dedication to this House, I will always remember her for the respect and compassion with which she served. At a time when we talk about civility in the House, it would do us all some good to reflect on the way in which she treated all the members and staff in this body with grace and respect.

Our prayers go out on this day to Buck, Tillie's husband of 34 years, and their two daughters Tillie and Elizabeth. The news of her sudden hospitalization and quick passing was a shock to them and all of us as well.

The family can take great solace, though, as they reflect on a woman who dedicated her life to public service and who will long be remembered not only for what she accomplished but for the way in which she set about to serve others. Today indeed is a tragic day for the people of Florida, our nation and this House. We have lost a great American, a great colleague, and a great friend.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT JORGE LUIS RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Laredo Independent School District Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Jose Luis Rodriguez has always been interested in education, and has been a member of the Laredo ISD School Board since May 2000. He is the School Board Trustee for District 2 which oversees Dovalina Elementary school, Macdonell Elementary School and Daiches Elementary School.

LISD Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez is a credit and an inspiration to his community and a tremendous resource to his county. He believes in helping the children of his community strive to be the best individuals they can be, by giving them a quality education. He instills in the children the value of hard work and determination, and has been able to implicate many positive changes for students, parents, and LISD faculty.

Rodriguez is grateful for being elected and thanks his constituents by working hard and earning their confidence. He is currently employed in construction management and automotive sales.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Laredo Independent School District Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez.

INTRODUCTION OF HATE CRIMES STATISTICS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues, Representatives WEINER,

CUMMINGS, BARBARA LEE, GUTIERREZ, GEORGE MILLER, WOOLSEY, LOFGREN, GONZALES, SANDERS, and LINDA SÁNCHEZ in introducing the Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act will ensure that hate crimes motivated by gender are accounted for by the FBI and local law enforcement agencies. With accurate data, local communities can identify gender-based hate crimes in their area and chart their progress toward eliminating them. Moreover, the inclusion of gender will send a strong message that gender-based hate crimes will not be tolerated.

In states with gender-based hate crimes laws, prosecutors typically must present concrete evidence that the criminal act was committed due to gender bias. Obviously, not all crimes against women are gender-based crimes, and prosecutors should have discretion in identifying what constitutes a gender-based hate crime. The process of discussing these differences will improve the understanding of all hate crimes by law enforcement personnel and will improve reporting of these tragic crimes.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation that will help reduce hate crimes against women.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 53, 54 and 55, question before the House on March 8, 2005 I did not cast votes due to inclement weather wherein my flight to Washington, D.C. was cancelled. My alternate transportation did not convey me here in a timely manner. Had I been present I would have vote "aye" on rollcalls 53, 54 and 55.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN FIELDS STOVALL

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of a distinguished constituent and good friend, John Fields Stovall. John has worked as General Counsel for the Kern County Water Agency in my district for more than sixteen years, earning the respect of his peers for his thoughtful, effective work on behalf of California water interests.

John has lived most of his life in Bakersfield, California, beginning at the age of ten. He graduated from Bakersfield High School and subsequently Bakersfield College, where he studied pre-pharmacy. John moved to the University of California at Los Angeles, where he graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

Before beginning his career in water issues, John first worked for the Food and Drug Administration as an Investigator and received his J.D. degree, with honors, from Loyola Law School. John worked for several law firms, in-

cluding the respected Lebeau, Thelen and Lampe. While working at Lebeau, Thelen and Lampe, John met his wife, the former Jan Blocher, and began legal work on water rights issues. He took that experience with him to the Kern County Water Agency in 1989, when he joined the Agency as General Counsel.

John has successfully shepherded the Agency through many legal challenges and opportunities, including the organization of the Kern Water Bank. His work to ensure continued favorable operation of the State Water Project has helped to provide consistent water supplies for thousands of Kern County residents and farmers. It was a pleasure to work closely with John in our efforts to reauthorize the federal portion of the California Bay-Delta Program. In recent years, he studied for and successfully received his Doctorate from the highly-respected Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of Management at Claremont Graduate University.

In his personal life, John is active in the local community. He participates in the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce's Government Review Council and the Bakersfield Breakfast Rotary Club. He supports local students as a competition judge for high school mock trial competitions, and is an active member of the Kern County Republican Party.

While John's full-time career at Kern County Water Agency is coming to an end, I am sure that he and Jan will continue to be valuable and active members of our community in Bakersfield. On behalf of Kern County residents who recognize the necessity and value of reliable water supplies, I thank John for his service and wish him and Jan the best as they begin the next stage of their lives.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ROBERTO SANTOS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United Independence School District Superintendent Roberto Santos for his many contributions to education in the City of Laredo.

Roberto Santos has been a longtime advocate for education in the State of Texas. He received his BA from St. Edward's University in Austin, and completed his Masters in Education at the University of Texas—Pan American campus.

Beginning in 1966 as a teacher at Laredo Independent School District, he worked his way up through successive positions in the educational system. He worked as Director of Human Resources, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, and finally Superintendent of the entire United Independent School District, serving the students of Laredo.

Roberto Santos has also enriched the community through his work as a businessman. He began as an auto salesman in 1975, and has been owner or part owner of two businesses, Santos Auto Sales and Homeland Mobile Homes.

On top of all this, he has given his time and energy to a multitude of volunteer organiza-

tions. He served as President of the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators and the Kiwanis Club, and served on the boards of the United Way, Laredo Community College, the Laredo South Girls Little League, and the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation. At each step, Roberto Santos has given of himself to make Laredo stronger, and to ensure a quality education for its children.

Mr. Speaker, United Independent School District Superintendent Robert J. Santos life is a model of community involvement, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly thank him.

CONGRATULATING BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM TERPELUK

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brigadier General William Terpeluk who completes his term as Deputy Commander for the 77th Regional Readiness Command this month and thank him for his service to our nation. General Terpeluk served in this position from 31 March 2001–30 March 2005. He was Deputy Commander during 9–11 and through the War on Terror. He moves on in his military career later this month.

The 77th Regional Readiness Command is located in Fort Totten, New York. It is headquartered in Bayside, Queens, New York at historic Fort Totten, where the Reserve Command has been since 1968.

Brigadier General Terpeluk is an Infantry Officer who received his commission as a Second Lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in 1974 from the Virginia Military Institute. After completing the Infantry Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, he served on Active Duty as the Executive Officer, Company E, 3d Battalion, 3d Basic Combat Training Brigade, Fort Dix, NJ.

His next assignment was as the Assistant Brigade S-1, 3d Basic Combat Training Brigade, Fort Dix, NJ. Brigadier General Terpeluk was then assigned to Korea where he functioned as the Executive Officer, HHC, 1st Battalion (M), 31st Infantry and Rifle Platoon Leader, Company B, 1st Battalion (M), 31st Infantry, Camp Casey, as well as Support Platoon Leader, 1st Battalion (M), 31st Infantry, Camp Howze, Korea.

In October of 1978, Brigadier General Terpeluk transitioned to the United States Army Reserve as the Executive Officer, and later as the Commander, of Company B, 1st Battalion (M), 315th Infantry, 157th Separate Infantry Brigade (M), Bristol, PA. Between February 1982 to May 86 he served as the Aide-de-Camp and Headquarters Commandant, Hqs, 79th United States Army Reserve Command, Willow Grove, PA. From May 86 to January 1993, Brigadier General Terpeluk served as the Executive Officer and Commander, 4074th Reception Battalion, 76th Division (Training), Willow Grove, PA. From January 1993 to July 94, he served as the Chief of Staff, 157th Separate Infantry Brigade (M), Horsham, PA.

After a year on Active Duty to complete the United States Army War College, Brigadier General Terpeluk returned to the Army Reserve as the Commander of the 1079th Garrison Support Unit from 1995 to 1997. Between