

IN RECOGNITION OF IRENE RIOS  
DE PÉREZ

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the extraordinary life of Ms. Irene Rios de Pérez, a woman who exhibited great strength and determination over the years to overcome obstacles and achieve success for herself and her family.

Born April 22, 1911 in the village of Santa Rosa, Dorado, Puerto Rico, Irene persevered to overcome the challenges of an early orphaned childhood. She later married Don Francisco Pérez Ramos, and emigrated to New York City with her husband and seven children—Patricia, Elizabeth, Iris, Manuel, Samuel, David, and Francisco.

Working to make a home for her family in New York City, Irene faced many difficulties—including those associated with discrimination, alienation, low income housing, and cultural adaptation. Yet, she never allowed her family to succumb to the challenges they encountered. While continuously caring for her family and loved ones, Irene pushed herself to attend night school and, in the late 1960's, was awarded a high school diploma for her efforts from the New York City Board of Education.

Throughout her long and full life, Irene has always had an enduring faith in God—which has enabled her to live a life that epitomizes respect for herself and others. She is also a capable singer who has used her talent to serve the spiritual needs of the close knit church community.

After 95 years, Irene represents the very best of the human spirit, and continues to exude love, warmth, optimism, compassion, and forgiveness to all those around her. She remains committed to her family—which includes 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren—friends, and community around her. Her children are fortunate enough to share many of these same qualities and interests, as evidenced in their pursuits in fields such as human services, government, trade, military services, and finance.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Irene Rios de Pérez, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize her many outstanding achievements.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
RICHARD DISTELHORST

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my friend, Richard Distelhorst, upon his induction into the Des Moines County Democrats Hall of Fame. Mr. Distelhorst's unwavering, sense of civic activism and volunteerism on behalf of vital social issues continues to make a positive difference within our democratic system of government—in Des Moines, Iowa and across the country.

Mr. Distelhorst's life is framed by family, community and service to others. His quick

wit, friendly personality and passion for social justice frames his character and inspires others. His devotion and compassion for all of humanity originates with family, where he took loving care of his wife Virginia, until her recent passing. Mr. Distelhorst continues to be a guiding source of support and wisdom for his children, grandchildren and many friends.

A political activist and staunch Democrat, Mr. Distelhorst has volunteered countless hours that focused on creating positive change across the grassroots landscape of politics, both locally in his Des Moines community and nationwide. He is a long-time member of the Des Moines County Democratic Party, having served as the treasurer and Congressional liaison. He worked tirelessly on behalf of the 2004 Kucinich for President Campaign, serving as the local chairperson. Additionally, Mr. Distelhorst has organized and led rallies for peace, and continues to educate the people of Des Moines on significant legislative issues of concern, including the Monetary Act, by writing and distributing periodic newsletters.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Richard Distelhorst, as we celebrate his induction into the Des Moines County Hall of Fame. Mr. Distelhorst's passionate activism, unwavering vision and expansive heart continues to raise up the community of Des Moines into the light of hope and possibility as he continues to lead, challenge and inspire us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE SESQUICENTEN-  
NIAL OF THE CITY OF WIS-  
CONSIN DELLS, WISCONSIN

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the sesquicentennial celebration of the city of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. I am indeed fortunate to represent such a great city.

The impact the city of Wisconsin Dells has had on the history of the state of Wisconsin is indescribable. Located along a breathtaking 7-mile stretch of the Wisconsin River, it has been a tourist destination for over 150 years, and has now grown to be the largest recreation center for families in the state of Wisconsin and the Midwest, hosting over 2.5 million people annually.

In 1856, when the city was not even 1 year old, an editor of a Wisconsin paper wrote, "We conclude that the wild, romantic scenery of the Dells will always make them a place of resort for seekers of pleasure." The natural beauty which originally attracted early settlers and tourists 150 years ago has still been maintained for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Since its beginning, the industrial nature and forward thinking maintained by the community have brought numerous changes and growth. The Dells are widely recognized for diverse entertainment and recreation options. With attractions such as Tommy Bartlett's water ski show, amusement parks, Duck rides on Lake Delton, the oldest family-owned photographic studio in the Nation, and two state parks, Wisconsin Dells is sure to enchant everyone who visits.

The celebration for this landmark achievement will be marked over the days of June 10 and June 11, 2006 through events such as the Taste of the Dells Festival, musical performances, and other community activities. The people of Wisconsin Dells deserve recognition for their great contributions to the state of Wisconsin, and I congratulate them on reaching this historical benchmark.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CHIEF  
MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT  
VAN OSS

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the retirement of Chief Master Sergeant Robert Van Oss, who will be retiring from the United States Air Force after more than 30 years of service to his country. Chief Van Oss has led an exceptional military career specializing in healthcare. His proficiency in the medical field has proved to be an invaluable service in numerous ways during his years of service.

Robert J. Van Oss was born on June 20, 1958 in Denver, Colorado. Upon finishing high school at John S. Greenway High School in Phoenix, Arizona in 1976, he enlisted in the Air Force. Upon completion of his training as a Medical Service Specialist, he applied his skills to numerous and important tasks.

Chief Van Oss has performed a variety of assignments at bases in Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina, the Philippines, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea. Recently he was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he played a key role in the task of reconstructing an Iraqi healthcare system. He has also made vital contributions to the process of obtaining equipment for the purpose of medical evacuations in both the Air Force's aeromedical evacuation system and the Army medical evacuation system.

Chief Van Oss will be retiring as Chief of Medical Enlisted Issues for Air Mobility Command where he provides professional advice to the AMC Command Surgeon on issues pertaining to the 3,900 enlisted medical personnel who provide healthcare services throughout the command and at Scott Air Force Base. In addition, he is currently the AMC Aerospace Medical Service Technician Functional Manager and is responsible for technicians located at 15 bases throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating CMSgt Robert Van Oss on his long and distinguished military career and thanking him for his service in the United States Air Force and to his country.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Ambassador Andrew Young, as the City Club of Cleveland honors him with the Citadel of Free Speech Award.

Ambassador Young was born and raised in New Orleans to parents who instilled within him and his brother the value of hard work, education and the significance of giving back to others. Following his graduation from Howard University, Ambassador Young's unwavering social conscience directed him to a life of social activism, leadership and the Christian ministry. He studied the writings and ideology of Gandhi, and became drawn to the methods of non-violent resistance as a catalyst for change within the civil rights movement, including organizing civil rights demonstrations and drives to register African Americans to vote. Ambassador Young formed a close bond with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and chose to stay in Atlanta to work as one of Dr. King's lead commanders on the front lines of the civil rights movement. Ambassador Young was named the executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Like other civil rights heroes who dared to challenge the status quo, Ambassador Young remained committed to the cause, despite death threats and being jailed for his participation in the movement.

In 1972, Ambassador Young was elected as the first African American Congressman from Georgia. He was re-elected in 1974 and 1976. Following his third term in Congress, President Jimmy Carter appointed him as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, where he served with courage, conviction and integrity. In 1981, President Carter awarded him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Later that year, Ambassador Young was elected as Mayor of Atlanta. He was reelected in 1985. During his tenure, he raised Atlanta onto a platform of economic strength and international investment, which set a course for Atlanta as a vibrant, thriving city that continues today.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ambassador Andrew Young, whose vision, commitment, activism and wisdom continue to raise America into the light and promise of social justice for all. As recipient of the Citadel of Free Speech Award, presented by the City Club of Cleveland, Ambassador Young continues to personify the words—grace, courage, and devotion to our freedoms and commitment to people here in America and around the world. Ambassador Young's life continues to be a journey of inspiration for every American, and his goodwill and activism continues to extend from across our Nation to places around the world, lending us all hope for the promise of a better day.

IN HONOR OF SANTA CRUZ  
FOUNDATION FOR THE DREAM

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of all fundraising efforts for the MLK Memorial and in particular the "Santa Cruz Foundation For The Dream." As you know, Congress has approved the design and building of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington D.C. Congress has vowed to financially assist as much as they can for the construction of the memo-

rial, but substantial monetary donations by American people are still necessary to commence construction of this Memorial.

The MLK Memorial has drawn the attention and efforts of Americans nationwide. Celebrities, such as Morgan Freeman and Halle Berry have volunteered their time and services in fundraising efforts by participating in Public-Service Announcements that intend to educate and initiate the public's involvement in the Memorial's construction. Furthermore, such corporations as Toyota and Tommy Hilfiger Inc. have become highly involved in fundraising by special endorsements and hosting a celebrity golf tournament raising \$1.5 million for the memorial. In addition to these celebrity and, corporate efforts, our local efforts should be recognized too as key contributors to the MLK Memorial.

Led by the "Santa Cruz Foundation For The Dream", the people of Santa Cruz County have embarked on a tireless effort to raise consciousness of Martin Luther King, Jr. teachings. Additionally, they have been working extensively on obtaining funds for the Memorial. This foundation has initiated a movement to incorporate a conscience-awareness program in area schools "Kids for King." Building from these efforts, the foundation hopes that local governments, businesses, families, and individuals will participate in the collective effort of raising funds and awareness for the Memorial.

In recognition of Santa Cruz County's efforts, I support including on the Founding Members Wall on the Memorial, an acknowledgement for "the People of Santa Cruz, California". With Santa Cruz County's continuing efforts in the memorial effort, I am hopeful this founding members acknowledgement will occur.

COMMEMORATING SOPHRONIA M.  
TOMPKINS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS  
OF 1966

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commemorate the Sophronia M. Tompkins High School Class of 1966 on celebrating their 40th class reunion.

Sophronia M. Tompkins High School was built in 1955 where a dedicated group of educators shaped the lives of hundreds of forthright men and women. Although the school as it was once known is no longer standing, the students that gained life-changing lessons in this learning institution have not forgotten the ideals taught.

This institution has brought forth playwrights, educators, entrepreneurs, nurses, civil servants, ministers, and public servants who credit their tenure at Sophronia M. Tompkins High School to launching their futures.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
CHIEF ANTHONY H. JACKSON

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Chief Anthony H. Jackson, whose recent retirement as the chief of police with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Police Department, CMHAPD, reflects 33 years of excellence in law enforcement, framed by leadership, accomplishment, integrity and an unwavering commitment on behalf of the security and safety of the public housing residents of our community.

Chief Jackson's illustrious career in law enforcement began in 1973 when he became a police officer with the city of Cleveland Police Department, CPD. He quickly rose through the ranks, serving as detective, sergeant, district lieutenant and commander for the CPD. He accepted the appointment of police chief with the CMHAPD in 1994. For the past 12 years, Chief Jackson's leadership, vision and expertise has transformed the CMHAPD into a nationally recognized and respected department that serves as a model of efficiency and security for numerous public housing police departments.

Because of his guidance, the CMHAPD is one of only six State certified public housing police departments in the entire Nation to attain national accreditation, bestowed in 1998. Additionally, the CMHAPD was the first police department of its kind to achieve 100 percent compliance in its initial assessment for accreditation in 1998, and for every subsequent re-accreditation since. Though busy with family and his profession, Chief Jackson also found time to volunteer on behalf of numerous civic and community endeavors, including his long-time commitment to the Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Chief Anthony H. Jackson. His highly regarded, admired and emulated tenure as a police officer with the city of Cleveland and as chief with the CMHAPD has uplifted the organization onto a platform of efficiency and accomplishment, and most significantly, has strengthened the foundation of safety and security for every resident, thereby uplifting our entire community. I wish Chief Jackson, his wife Michele, their five daughters and one granddaughter, an abundance of health, peace and happiness as he journeys onward from here.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL A. MAIER  
HONORING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO OREGON ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to one of Oregon's most dedicated and accomplished public servants. After 27 years, Mr. Michael A. Maier is retiring from the position of Deschutes