

turned a beautiful building into something much more, the heart of a community. I want to congratulate the congregation of Saint Hyacinth; the good works they have done serve as an example of all that a community can and should be.

TRIBUTE TO ELBERT GARCIA, RECIPIENT OF THE LATINO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S TRAILBLAZER AWARD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elbert Garcia, an extraordinary gentleman to whom I was first introduced when he was an American Political Science Association fellow in my congressional office, and who is now a media and policy analyst currently employed at my New York District Congressional office.

I commend the Latino Alumni Association of Columbia University on their decision to bestow their first annual Trailblazer Award on a group of exceptional individuals that included Elbert Garcia.

I was very pleased to find that this unique and very first annual Trailblazer award was presented April 1st during a celebration of the diversity and achievements of Columbia's Latino alumni appropriately called "El Regreso." The Columbia University alumni honorees consist of Marcel Agueros, Rafael Collazo, Jennifer Duran, Michael Maldonado, Vivian Santiago, and last but certainly not least, Elbert Garcia. The group was cited because "their dedication, vision, and representation of a wider movement were instrumental to the creation of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race."

In 1995, this group of Latin American students at Columbia were frustrated that the initiatives to bring the history of ethnic studies to their campus continued to result in failure. They were determined to draw attention to their plight by staging a non-violent hunger strike. The strike ended in the arrest of 22 students and the resulting media coverage of the arrest finally propelled Columbia and its lack of ethnic studies into the national spotlight. This publicity served as a wake-up call to the powers that be and ultimately led to change which resulted in the creation of Columbia's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. That Elbert was a leader of a group who had the strategic vision, self-discipline, determination and persistence to succeed is not a surprise to me because these are qualities which Elbert exhibits in his professional and personal life.

I know Elbert to be a dedicated family man with great conviction.

A Washington Heights-born freelance writer, Elbert has written about politics, music and culture for such publications as *The Source*, *Urbanlatino Magazine*, *The New York Post* and the *Manhattan Times*. The 31-year old son of Dominican immigrants has also worked as Web producer at MSNBC, the *New York Times*, and Philadelphia-based Latino news Web site, *LATNN.com*.

Elbert earned a B.A. in Urban Studies with a specialization in Political Science while

being an active student leader at Columbia University. In addition to helping to establish the school's Latino Studies program and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, he served as one of founders of Columbia University's undergraduate Dominican organization, *El Grupo Quisqueño* and managing editor of the multicultural magazine *Roots & Culture*.

Prior to entering the field of journalism, Garcia worked several years as alumni counselor and supervisor at the Prep for Prep program, a New York City leadership development organization that works with students of color from fifth grade through college. He was also one of the early organizers of the New York International Latino Film Festival.

Elbert spent a year working on Capitol Hill as a 2002-2003 American Political Science Association Congressional (APSA) Fellow, the oldest and most prestigious Capitol Hill fellowship program. Elbert rejoined my New York staff on a part-time basis in January, 2006. A product of the Ethical Cultural Fieldston School and the community's gifted and talented magnet school, Mott Hall, Elbert currently resides in the Upper Manhattan neighborhood of Inwood with his wife, Grissel.

Elbert's background in media relations and journalism has proven to be an invaluable asset as he assists me in communicating and implementing the role of government in the lives of the constituents of the 15th congressional District. Elbert is a non-assuming, focused and savvy analyst who genuinely cares about people. He is dedicated to ensuring that the needs of our constituency are met. I am particularly proud of the great strides Elbert Garcia has made not only at Columbia University but also in his service to the residents of the 15th District of New York City.

I salute and congratulate Elbert Garcia along with the five other honored Columbia alumni for the fortitude and bravery displayed in 1995 that brought about positive change that continues to benefit Columbia University to this day. I also salute Elbert for his continued work for the public in his chosen field.

At a time of sharp difference between us on the question of immigration policy, we all should keep in mind these words of Elbert Garcia. To quote Elbert, "A nation steeped in ethnic studies would not be in such a hurry to punish its immigrants."

TESTIMONY OF STEVE GRANDSTAFF

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, my constituent Steve Grandstaff is shop chairman of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 651, which represents hourly workers at Delphi East in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

For the record I would like to read an excerpt of the electronic testimony that Steve wrote for the Education and the Workforce Committee e-hearing on the impact of the Delphi bankruptcy filing:

I am the Shop Chairperson of UAW Local 651 in Flint, servicing Delphi Flint East and representing 2,800 hard working people. Early on in this whole saga I had a realization what the whole issue boils down to.

I refer to it as the promise; the promise was part of the deal. The deal was that you came to work and did your job for 30 years and at the end of that time you could have the opportunity to go on your way with a somewhat comfortable pension to see you through your later years.

The workers' end of the promise was that they worked the off shifts for the first decade of employment. This meant working the hot days in the summer and the cold ones in the winter. That in itself meant that you were at work when your family and your friends were working normal hours and enjoying life.

The promise meant that you worked in the grimy, dangerous conditions. You did boring, monotonous jobs. You suffered the labeling by society because you worked in a factory.

You would work the extra hours so that you could get the nice things that life offered. The things that seemed to come easier to other people but in your case you had to do a little extra to get them. . . .

Over the years many of us had the opportunity to make a decision, should I stay or should I move on to something else. Many, many people stayed on because of the promise.

They made decisions not to go to a new career because they were many years into the equation of which the promise weighed oh so heavily.

The promise was always out there.

The company always reminded anyone that would listen about how they were funding our pensions and used that as a bargaining chip when our wages or benefits were on the table.

It was always figured in as a benefit cost even though now some wonder if the company ever really intended to fulfill the promise.

Now here we are near the end of our careers, not as young as we used to be, many of us broken. When so many of us are so close to being able to cash in on the promise, the company is attempting to take it away from us. . . .

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has failed to protect American workers while focusing on protecting the privileged few.

It is time for these workers' stories to be heard and I am pleased to have this opportunity to share one of these stories.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL AND SMALL BUSINESS TELEWORK PROMOTION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal and Small Business Telework Promotion Act" to assist our Nation's small businesses in establishing successful telework programs for their employees and to secure energy saving opportunities, like teleworking for our Nation's Federal employees.

Across America, numerous employers are responding to the needs of their employees and establishing telework programs. In 2000, there were an estimated 16.5 million teleworkers. By the end of 2004, there will be an estimated 30 million teleworkers, representing an increase of almost 100 percent.

Unfortunately, the majority of growth in new teleworkers comes from organizations employing over 1,500 people, while just a few years

ago, most teleworkers worked for small to medium-sized organizations.

By not taking advantage of modern technology and establishing successful telework programs, small businesses are losing out on a host of benefits that will save them money, and make them more competitive. By establishing successful telework programs, small business owners would be able to retain these valuable employees by allowing them to work from a remote location, such as their home or a telework center.

In addition to the cost savings realized by businesses that employ teleworkers, there are a number of related benefits to society and the employee. For example, telecommuters help reduce traffic and cut down on air pollution by staying off the roads during rush hour. Fully 80 percent of home-only teleworkers commute to work on days they are not teleworking. This also gives employees more time to spend with their families and reduces stress levels by eliminating the pressure of a long commute.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation seeks to conserve the energy consumption of the Federal workforce and to extend the benefits of a successful telework program to our Nation's small businesses.

Specifically, each agency shall take such actions as are necessary to reduce the level of fuel consumed by vehicles of employees of the agency. Due to the needs to reduce our dependence on imported oil, the bill directs all Federal agencies to find ways to reduce energy consumption by 10 percent in the year following the bill's passage. Agencies can achieve this reduction through telework, carpooling, bicycling and walking to work, fuel-efficient trip planning, public transportation use, and limiting travel.

Further the bill establishes a pilot program in the Small Business Administration (SBA) to raise awareness about telework among small business employers and to encourage those small businesses to establish telework programs for their employees.

Additionally, an important provision in our bill directs the SBA Administrator to undertake special efforts for businesses owned by, or employing, persons with disabilities and disabled American veterans. At the end of the day, telework can provide more than just environmental benefits and improved quality of life. It can open the door to people who have been precluded from working in a traditional office setting due to physical disabilities.

The legislation is also limited in cost and scope. It establishes the pilot program in a maximum of five SBA regions and caps the total cost to five million dollars over two years. It also restricts the SBA to activities specifically proscribed in the legislation: Developing educational materials; conducting outreach to small business; and acquiring equipment for demonstration purposes. Finally, it requires the SBA to prepare and submit a report to Congress evaluating the pilot program.

Several hurdles to establishing successful telework programs could be cleared by enacting our legislation. The bill will go a long way towards educating small business owners on how they can draft guidelines to make a telework program an affordable, manageable reality and demonstrating the willingness of the Federal Government to expand their own telework policies.

Here is a brief outline of the bill's provisions—

Section One—provides a short title, namely "Federal and Small Business Telework Promotion Act."

Section Two—sets forth findings regarding the potential benefits of increasing the extent to which employees have the option of teleworking.

Section Three—amends the National Energy Conservation Policy Act by adding a new subsection requiring Federal agencies to act so far as possible to reduce the amount of fuel used by its employees by at least 10 percent during the year after enactment. Military use of fuel would not be affected. An agency could seek to achieve this reduction through increased telework opportunities; more carpooling; more people bicycling or walking to work; fuel-efficient trip planning; greater use of public transportation; or by limiting use of vehicles for business travel.

Section Four—directs the Small Business Administration to carry out a pilot program to raise awareness of telework among small businesses and to encourage them to offer telework options to their employees. This program is to include special outreach to businesses owned by or employing people with disabilities, including disabled veterans. Priority for locating the pilot program will be given to regions where Federal agencies and small businesses have demonstrated a strong commitment to telework. The pilot program will terminate after 2 years. This section also authorizes appropriation of \$5 million for implementation by SBA.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM A. BECKER

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Major General (Retired) William A. Becker, a distinguished veteran of World War II and Vietnam.

A Kaufman County native, William Becker was born on his family homestead in 1919. He graduated from Kaufman High School in 1936. He later attended Texas A&M College, where served as cadet corps commander during his senior year. Upon graduation in 1941, he was given a diploma, a commission as 2nd Lieutenant of field artillery, and orders to report within eight days to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Maj. Gen. Becker was sent to fight in the Southwest Pacific Theater during WWII, and in four years, he advanced from the rank of 2nd Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel.

Maj. Gen. Becker also served in Vietnam. Over his 30-year career he had a variety of other commands and assignments. His last active duty assignment was to the Pentagon with the Office of the Secretary of the Army, as Chief of Legislative Liaison, working with the United States Congress from 1968–1971.

During his years of service he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal twice with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Air Medal with 10 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Upon retirement from the Army, Gen. Becker returned to his home community with his

wife, Fran, and their four children. In the early 1970's he established a real estate brokerage and is still active with that business. He also served as President of the Kaufman-Van Zandt Board of Realtors and Director of the Texas Association of Realtors.

President Calvin Coolidge once said, "The Nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." As a veteran, Gen. Becker understands that better than most Americans. On behalf of the grateful citizens of the Fifth District of Texas, it is my pleasure to honor Maj. Gen. Becker today in the United States House of Representatives. It is because of his service, we are able to enjoy freedom, peace, prosperity, and the many other blessings that God has bestowed upon this great land, the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARJORIE S. ANTHONY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay great honor to a dear friend and colleague of mine, Marjorie S. Anthony of South Windsor, Connecticut, who passed away on March 27, 2006. Marge was wonderfully unique in the way she pursued politics and community service. She did it with enthusiasm and love, candor and spirit.

Marge was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. My heart goes out to her family, her loving husband of 48 years, Peter T. Anthony, Sr. Marjorie will be greatly missed by her four children and their spouses: Katherine Kennison and her husband, Ed, of South Windsor; Marybeth D'Onofrio and her husband, Tom, of Ellington; Patty Antonaras and her husband, Sam, of Ellington. Marjorie will also be deeply missed by her 12 grandchildren, Ashley Kennison, Shannon and Trevor Anthony, Matt, Rachel and Vinny Metacarpa, Katie, Tommy, and Christopher D'Onofrio, John, Brittany and Mikala Antonaras. Marjorie leaves behind five exceptional brothers, Charles J. Sullivan and sister-in-law, Maureen, of Riverton, NJ; Michael Sullivan and sister-in-law, Tina, of Atlanta, GA; Thomas Sullivan and sister-in-law, Carole, of South Bend, IN; Patrick Sullivan and Chris Domenick of Marlborough; and Kevin Sullivan of Hartford; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Thomas and Jane Anthony of Rocky Hill. Marjorie will also be deeply missed by her many nieces, nephews and cousins who were all a close knit family.

Marge led a tremendous life and was an active member of her community. Marge lived in South Windsor for 48 years of her life and graduated from Bulkeley High School. For 30 years of her life, Marjorie was a private business owner, Justice of the Peace, member of St. Francis of Assisi Church and Ladies Society, and State Central Connecticut Woman. Marge served as Past President of the South Windsor Democratic Women's Club, Past Vice-Chair and Secretary of the Democratic Town Committee, Past Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Chairperson of the Economic Development Commission, Chairperson of the South Windsor Committee for St. Patrick's Day Parade, Past Corresponding Secretary of the South Windsor Historical Society,