

Orgullo Latino" celebration, Our Latin Pride, which honors Hispanics in the western New York area that have achieved professional success in the passing year.

This year the event will recognize 16 individuals that have achieved various accomplishments. The honorees include an international author, legal professionals, educators, municipal employees and private business owners.

This year's honorees are: Cesar Cabrera, Tamara Pozantides, Lorraine Clemente, David Rodriguez, Nestor Hernandez, Eugenio Russi, Lourdes T. Iglesias, Melissa Sanchez, Olga Karman, Denise Gomez-Santos, Elizabeth Martinez-Fildes, Betty Calvo Torres, David Mauricio, Maria Cruz Torres, Doris Carbonell-Medina, and Roddy Torres.

This event is presented by Hispanics United of Buffalo, an organization that provides services to thousands a year in Buffalo's west side. The event is also organized by the Hispanic Alliance of Western New York, a civic association that is committed to community affairs for Buffalo's Latino community.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today joining many others in commending the honorees of this year's event for their accomplishments and wishing them a continually prosperous and successful future.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, over 90% of people with Medicare, that's 38 million Americans, get their prescription drugs through Medicare Part D. These seniors are satisfied with their coverage and are finally receiving the drugs they need at costs they can afford.

Consistently, 80% of beneficiaries report they are satisfied with their current coverage and drug plans. Those include seniors known as dual-eligibles, the poorest seniors eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, because they are seeing more choices and paying less money for quality care.

My constituent, Nancy Santheson of Roswell, New Mexico, was spending almost \$800/month on one drug to treat osteoporosis. She had zero coverage the first year her doctor prescribed it. Once she signed up for her Medicare Part D plan, it went down to only \$60/month. This drug is not listed on the Veterans' Administration's national formulary. Had Nancy been dependent on the price negotiations the VA administers and the Democrats have proposed, she would not have had coverage of this drug, a new treatment that has shown great promise in reversing bone loss.

Democrats say they will fill in the donut-hole, a cost estimated to be \$450 billion over 10 years, with the savings they claim will incur through government interference in price negotiations. Yet the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have stated that they predict government involvement in price negotiations will not lead to lower costs for taxpayers or seniors.

Seniors want choice, not government controlled access to their vital prescriptions. The

leverage needed to negotiate low prices is volume buying and the ability to walk away from a deal the government decides is too expensive. This means the government will have to walk away from a deal with a drug company, and seniors would not have access to those drugs. Negotiating low prices will take priority over getting the most quality, effective drugs in our seniors' medicine cabinets.

But seniors are already getting negotiated discounts. Private insurance plans already have a strong incentive to negotiate low prices for seniors: they want to control their own costs and compete for new enrollees to choose their plan. Premiums for the drug basic benefit are offered at an average of \$22/month for seniors in 2007, down from \$23 in 2006. This is \$15 less than the \$37/month coverage premiums were originally projected to cost. In fact, Democrats wanted to set premiums on seniors at a static \$35/month, \$13 more than average beneficiaries will pay next year. This proves that competition is working and our seniors are receiving benefits cheaper than ever imagined.

Democrats point to the Veterans' Administration as a model for this government price controlled plan. But the latest information from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services suggests that almost 40% of veterans eligible for both VA and Medicare benefits choose to get their prescriptions through Medicare Part D, the plan with more choices.

Time and again, veterans in my district have been frustrated that in order to receive the best benefits, they must get their drugs through an impersonal mail order program. In fact, 76% of veterans' prescriptions are distributed through mail order. And year after year efforts are made to encourage more veterans to get their prescriptions through mail order. Why put seniors in this position when we do not have to? Our seniors will face threats to their ability to purchase drugs from local pharmacies, just as veterans face, and may have to retrieve their drugs through an impersonal mail-order program, not their trusted pharmacist.

Mr. Speaker, our seniors deserve to have access to the drugs they need at the lowest costs possible. They are getting both now, and Democrats want to take that away. We must continue to fight for our seniors and I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 4.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION TO THE MEMBERS OF HITRON

HON. ANDER CRENshaw

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Mr. CRENshaw. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Joint Interagency Task Force, the Navy and the Coast Guard drug interdiction forces for their role in seizing more than 43,420 pounds of cocaine during operations over the last several months in the Pacific. In particular, I would like to commend the Jacksonville based Coast Guard Helicopter Tactical Interdiction Squadron, HITRON, for their critical role in missions which intercepted 8,850 pounds of cocaine that was headed for our Nation's shores. These actions represent a crucial victory in keeping drugs off our streets, out of our schools, and away from our children.

HITRON is the Coast Guard's premier airborne law enforcement unit trained and authorized to employ Airborne Use of Force. With an historic record of success, HITRON consists of eight leased AgustaWestland MH-68A StingRay helicopters. These helicopters are extremely fast and maneuverable, and they are armed and cutter-deployable. They have proven very effective at intercepting the go-fast boats favored by drug runners on both coasts.

Prior to HITRON, drug runners would simply ignore our orders to cease and desist.

HITRON now has the ability to shoot out the engines of these drug boats, preventing them from reaching our shores. During a House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security hearing the Commandant of the Coast Guard told me that HITRON is batting a thousand—every time the HITRON aircraft went after a go-fast drug boat it had stopped the drug runners cold.

America is continuing to fight the war on drugs, and these are the kinds of successes we need to win. For their contributions the HITRON unit has a lot to be proud of, and our Nation owes them a great debt of gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPRESENTATIVE KATHLEEN M. TEAHAN FOR FOUR DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN OF MASSACHUSETTS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a woman who has dedicated both her personal and professional life to the men, women, and children she has so thoughtfully served. Massachusetts State Representative Kathleen M. Teahan has served the citizens of Abington, East Bridgewater and Whitman for the last ten years. The impact of her work has been felt not only throughout the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts, but throughout this great Nation as a whole.

Known to be an always positive leader in both the classroom and legislature, Representative Teahan began her public service as a teacher after graduating from Bridgewater State College in 1969. Over the next three decades, she taught at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School and Gordon W. Mitchell Middle School in East Bridgewater. Yet her passion to help others and invest in the community was not limited to just the classroom. Representative Teahan's commitment to Habitat for Humanity, the Whitman Democratic Town Committee, and the Whitman Library are just a few examples of her devotion to the citizens of Massachusetts.

Encouraged and supported by her late husband Robert, Representative Teahan decided to expand her efforts to help others and was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in November 1996. Since that time, she has not only made an impact on the citizens within the 7th District but has been a national leader and role model through her involvement with issues involving health care, education, employment and the environment,

especially finding passion in the areas of children's health and adoption.

During her time in elected office, Representative Teahan served on the House Personnel and Administration, Joint Elder Affairs, and Joint Public Health Committees and served as the House chairman of the Caucus of Women Legislators. As a sign of her strong leadership and efforts to bring about positive change, Representative Teahan was nominated by her colleagues in 2001 to participate in the Flemming Fellows Institute at the Center for Policy Alternatives. She has also participated as a Massachusetts Team Leader for the Veterans Oral History Project at the Library of Congress since 2003.

A place where her dedication and work is most evident is on the issue of oral health care. Representative Teahan served as a member of the Special Committee on Oral Health, who presented its report to the Massachusetts Legislature on March 2, 2000. Five years later, Representative Teahan became part of history when she became cochair of the Massachusetts Caucus on Oral Health, which is the first caucus on oral health in the Nation.

Those who come in contact with Representative Teahan know all too well that she will fight for the health and well being of any child, whether they are in District 7 or in another country. In 2002, she accompanied a humanitarian delegation to bring medical supplies, books, Braille texts, toys, and toothbrushes to Cuba. Representative Teahan has been honored for her legislative efforts by the Congressional Coalition Adoption Institute, Health Care for All, and the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, and the Special Olympics.

It has always been clear that Representative Teahan's most cherished asset is her family, and she values the time she will now have to spend with her four children Anne, Jean, Robert, John, and her granddaughter Jill. Even though Representative Teahan's tenure as a State Representative has ended, her passion for changing lives will not cease. She will continue to inspire the next generation to get involved in their local communities, continuing her role as educator by teaching American Government at Bridgewater State College.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with State Representative Kathy Teahan's family, friends, and fellow citizens of Massachusetts to thank her for a decade of service in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and her lifetime of service in educating all within her reach. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Representative Teahan's distinguished career, as we wish her good health and God's blessing in all of her future endeavors.

**HONORING E. DAVID FOREMAN,
JR., IN RETIREMENT**

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor E. David Foreman, Jr., who is retiring after a life of dedicated service in both the private advocacy sector and to the Republican Party.

David has had a long history of service to both the Republican Party of Virginia and the Republican National Committee. This record is well documented and has come full circle from his initial role as chairman of the Fairfax County Republican Party from 1970 to 1976 through his most recent role as the party's senior consultant.

During his political career, David also served on numerous exploratory, steering, advisory and finance committees for countless Republican candidates for local, State, and national office. Most notably, David was chairman of Americans for Bush in 1990 as well as chairman of the Credentials Committee at the 1996 Republican National Convention.

It was easy for "those in the know" to recognize that Mr. Foreman was a true player in local and national politics. David has been featured in the Who's Who in American Politics, Who's Who in Washington, Who's Who in Virginia Politics, as well as Who's Who in Politics in the South and Southwest.

David's love for politics complimented his knack for policy. This was demonstrated through his extensive work as a congressional and administration lobbyist for numerous American corporations. Through his role as founder and president of Foreman & Associates, David was able to effectively represent his clients in their interactions with State, local, and Federal officials as well as all Federal agencies.

While compiling this impressive legacy of private and political service, David was a loving and dedicated husband to his wife Rosemary Foreman, and father to his two children, Sheryl Olecheck and E. David Foreman III.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding E. David Foreman, Jr., and congratulating him on his deserved retirement after a distinguished career of service.

**IN MEMORY OF BOBBY GENE
HICKS**

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bobby Hicks, a resident of the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who passed away January 7, 2006 after an extended illness.

Bobby Hicks lived his entire life in the beautiful hills of East Tennessee and spent his adult life in a career of entrepreneurship and public service for the area he called home. A graduate of Sulphur Springs High School, Bobby worked on the farm at an early age, learning to appreciate the value of hard work. He served in the Army Reserve and worked for the Tennessee Eastman Company until choosing to begin his own business, the Hicks Construction Company, in 1970.

His career in construction was distinguished, where he served on the Johnson City Area Home Builders Association. He was president of the association in 1983 and 1984. He also served as president of the Home Builders Association of Tennessee in 1990. On two separate occasions, he was named Builder of the Year, winning the prestigious honor in 1988 and 1994. In 2002, he was inducted into the

Building Industry of Tennessee Hall of Fame and continued to be actively involved in business into his final days.

Bobby also served our area with distinction, serving 12 years as a county commissioner for Washington County. He was a member of the Washington County/Johnson City Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Board serving the same region.

From 1994 to 1998, Bobby was elected to serve the constituents of the Sixth House District of Tennessee as their State representative. He was a relentless advocate of promoting the interests of Upper East Tennessee during his time in the legislature, and I was privileged to be his successor to that seat.

Bobby's service to the community has been noted and appreciated. The library in Gray, TN, and the local Emergency Medical Service buildings have been named in his honor. In addition, one of the major State highways in our area, Highway 75, has been named as the Bobby Hicks Highway by the Tennessee General Assembly, as a result of his tireless efforts to gain the approval for necessary upgrades to this well-traveled road.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Bobby Hicks. He was a good businessman, a fine public servant, and a decent and kind person. His service is greatly appreciated, and he will be deeply missed.

**CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007**

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Ms. HERSETH. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Amendments Act of 2007.

The act will help to right a historic wrong that occurred during the construction of the Oahe Dam and Reservoir which inundated over 100,000 acres of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's best lands. For many years, the tribe was not provided adequate compensation.

Recognizing this wrong, Congress moved to compensate the tribe in 2000 by establishing a trust fund. While these actions were commendable, they left one important group behind—tribal members that lost privately owned lands. This act would correct that omission and give the tribe the discretion to distribute funds to individuals who are currently prohibited from receiving them.

I introduced similar legislation in the 109th Congress and was pleased to see it considered by the then-House Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Water and Power. Examination of the bill at a subcommittee hearing generated a number of constructive suggestions and, after additional consultation with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, committee staff, and administration officials, we were able to make a number of positive changes to the bill.

Though a revised version of the bill failed to pass the House last year, its companion passed the Senate in the last moments of the