

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2669,
COLLEGE COST REDUCTION AND
ACCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the Education and Labor Committee staff: Tom Kiley, Danielle Lee, and Daniel Weiss.

HONORING ATRIA SENIOR LIVING
GROUP

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, the Atria Senior Living Group received the Platinum Community award from the National Assisted Living Nurses Association for 100 percent quality compliance in state surveys at 22 communities throughout the country.

With the number of elderly and disabled Americans dramatically increasing, I am proud to say that an Atria Assisted Living facility is located next to my office in Riverdale, where it is helping to care for this influx of elderly. I have visited many times since it opened.

I was proud to again visit the Atria Assisted Living Facility, this weekend as part of National Assisted Living Week which has the theme of "Legacies of Love" and highlights the value of passing on the legacies of our elders to the coming generations.

I urge everyone to visit friends and loved ones who may be at an assisted living facility to share in their love, care, and knowledge. Sadly, I recently lost my mother and value every moment I had with her.

We, all of us, should make every effort to learn more about these facilities and the people in them. Atria's Platinum Award demonstrates its determination to give quality care to these most valued citizens, care they have earned and deserve. I congratulate them for what they have done.

HONORING CHRIST UNITED METH-
ODIST CHURCH UPON ITS 50TH-
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christ United Methodist Church on its 50th Anniversary for providing a place to worship, learn, assist those in need and gather in Christ's name.

On January 7, 2007 a JUBILEE Worship Service was conducted on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Christ United Methodist Church of Farmers Branch, Texas. The service was attended and conducted by twenty Charter Members, 500 congregants, a United Methodist Bishop, and eight robed ministers, gratefully celebrating the anniversary.

The City of Farmers Branch is the oldest settlement in north Dallas County, but in 1956 it was rapidly expanding with new construction of homes. The desire for a new Methodist church in the area prompted a small group of Christians to petition the United Methodist Bishop William C. Martin for the extension of the church. Upon approval by the Bishop, the Reverend Bourdon Smith was appointed church pastor. The first worship service was held at Valwood Elementary School on January 6, 1957. The name Christ United Methodist Church was voted upon, and 44 members united with the church. Charter membership closed on Easter, 1957 with 135 members registered.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the first phase of future church facilities were held in January, 1959 with 300 members in joyful attendance. Over the years a uniquely oval shaped sanctuary was constructed, accommodating 500 people for praise and worship. The current campus contains 51,000 sq ft of education and office space, a gym, and a commercial kitchen—all of it used on a weekly basis.

Dr. Victor Casad, Senior Pastor and Rev. Bob Spencer continue the message of those who served before them, and that is to live the mission statement, "To Share the love of Christ". Christ UMC provides ESL classes to the community, and financial aid to foreign missions. Child Development and Mother's Day Out programs provide a Christian learning experience. Three distinctively different worship services each Sunday morning welcome members and visitors. All ages are offered a variety of Sunday school classes and study groups each Sunday, and Bible Study groups throughout the week. Youth and Adult work teams tackle local assistance services, and travel far and wide to assist the Appalachia Service Project to make homes warmer, dryer, and safer. Men's Work Teams aid people impacted by disasters in Texas.

Those early dreams of Bishop Martin and the Charter Members have been met; however, the goal of today's 1455 members is equally as forward-reaching as theirs were. As the trumpets blasted to proclaim the year of JUBILEE at Christ United Methodist Church in January, the sanctuary was filled to capacity, and the spirit and energy was contagious. It was a day of genuine joy and appreciation for what has been accomplished and what lies ahead for each member of Christ United Methodist Church in Farmers Branch, Texas.

In honor of this special anniversary, Christ UMC is culminating its celebration with weekend events beginning on October 13, 2007. There will be a pancake dinner on Saturday and a parade begins the Sunday celebration. Following a special church service where former CUMC ministers and Charter Members will also be present, an all-church barbeque dinner will be enjoyed. An afternoon concert in the sanctuary will close the activities.

I am privileged to have had this time to honor the 50th Anniversary of Christ United Methodist Church of Farmers Branch, Texas.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF TELECT, INC.

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Telect, Inc. as they celebrate 25 years of business in the communications industry. Telect, Inc. has become a global leader in the development, manufacturing and service of connectivity and power products.

Bill and Judi Williams founded the company in September of 1982 with their then 18-year-old son, Wayne. Today, with headquarters in Liberty Lake and additional facilities in Texas, Latin America and Europe, they support a worldwide network of customers. In addition to providing quality service to their customers, the Williams' have also emphasized the importance of community involvement.

Together, their résumé of volunteer and community commitments is extensive. Bill has been active in the Boy Scouts of America's Northwest Council, and served on the National Association of Manufacturers' Board of Directors. Judi worked on several physician and hospital boards, was on the DSHS State Advisory Committee and served on the Whitworth College Board of Trustees. She also earned Working Woman Magazine's "Top 500 Woman Owned Business" award in 1998.

Telect continues to be known throughout the region as a model of how far a business can go when it is built on faith, integrity, and hard work. Their core values, which have been a part of the company since day one, still shape their business today. Now, as Bill and Judi have taken on the role as active members of the Board of Directors, their son Wayne is carrying the legacy of this great company into a new generation.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Bill and Judi Williams for their outstanding accomplishments as founders of Telect, Inc., and congratulate them on 25 years of quality service in the communications industry. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Bill and Judi Williams, and the employees of Telect, Inc. as they celebrate 25 great years together.

FREEDOM FOR ARTURO SUÁREZ
RAMOS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Arturo Suárez Ramos, a long suffering and heroic prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Suárez Ramos is a member of the Cuban Pro-Human Rights Committee and a leader of the pro-democracy movement in totalitarian Cuba. Because he believes that freedom is the birthright of every person, he has steadfastly demanded freedom, democracy and human rights for the Cuban people. He has bravely denounced the cruel policies of the dictatorship, its apartheid-style discrimination against Cubans, and its constant indoctrination campaign, and demanded that the

Cuban people be allowed to exercise their inalienable rights. Unfortunately, because the dictatorship forcefully represses those who bravely support freedom, he has repeatedly been a target of the regime's henchmen.

Mr. Suárez Ramos rejected the regime's mandated lies and propaganda early in his life and was therefore denied by the dictatorship the opportunity to pursue a higher education. Knowing full well that in a totalitarian Cuba there was no future, only dire consequences, for those who voiced dissent, he refused to allow his cries for freedom to be silenced. In 1985 Mr. Suárez Ramos was arrested by state security thugs and in a sham trial "sentenced" to 18 months in the totalitarian gulag for being a "menace to society" by attempting to leave the country without "proper permission".

Although Mr. Suárez Ramos was eventually released, his time outside the infernal totalitarian gulag was brief. On October 3, 1987, Mr. Suárez Ramos was again arrested, this time on charges of "piracy" and "illegal exit" from the country. Although he was initially sentenced to death by firing squad for attempting to divert a plane to the United States, the dictator decided to "commute" his sentence to thirty years in his dungeons.

Mr. Suárez Ramos has participated in several hunger strikes demanding his release and to draw attention to the abhorrent conditions in which political prisoners are kept. Currently, Mr. Suárez Ramos, among Cuba's longest serving political prisoners, suffers from migraines, loss of vision, severe back pains, chronic stomach pains, diarrhea and various other ailments. These maladies are brought on and compounded by the deprived, subhuman conditions to which he is subjected. Mr. Suárez Ramos has never relinquished his dream of freedom for the Cuban people. He continues to advocate for freedom and justice while locked in the hellish squalor of the dictatorship's dungeons and courageously endures countless attacks at the hands of his brutal jailers.

No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and

women who represent the best of the Cuban nation. Madam Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that Mr. Suárez Ramos continues to be systematically tortured because of his belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Arturo Suárez Ramos and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ELEONOR VELASQUEZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Eleonor Velasquez, an intelligent and hard-working woman who has been on my staff from June 2003 until August 2007. During her tenure in my office, Eleonor was an asset to me and the constituents of the 32nd District of California. Eleonor's hard work, dedication, and skills are the reasons why I promoted her twice during her time in the office: from staff assistant to legislative correspondent in 2004 and from legislative correspondent to legislative assistant in March 2005.

Eleonor immigrated to the United States from Peru when she was just 13 years old. Her experience as a young woman assimilating to the United States provided her an invaluable perspective on issues such as immigration, education, trade, and Latino issues. Eleonor's fluency in Spanish has been of great service to my office since over half of my constituents do not speak English as their first language at home.

Eleonor has demonstrated a keen grasp of the complex issues involved in the ongoing immigration debate in the House of Representatives. Eleonor coordinated a number of sign-on letters and drafted Dear Colleague letters about immigration, trade, and education.

Recently, Eleonor drafted a letter to President Bush expressing deep disappointment regarding the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) increased fee structure for naturalization and asking him to work with Congress to create a fairer system.

During her time in my office, Eleonor spearheaded two pieces of legislation: H. Res. 721 (109th Congress), a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a Salvadoran-American Day (El Dia del Salvadoreño); and H.R. 5161 (109th Congress), a bill to establish a commission to study the removal of Mexican-Americans to Mexico during 1929–1941. H. Res. 721 recognized all Salvadoran-Americans for their hard work, dedication, and contribution to the stability and well-being of the United States, and was co-sponsored by 55 Members of Congress. The resolution was passed by the House of Representatives on July 18, 2006. H.R. 5161 was not considered in the 109th Congress, but its introduction was very important to the families of the 2 million individuals of Mexican ancestry who were forcibly removed to Mexico during the Depression, as many as 1.2 million of whom were United States citizens.

As the liaison in my office to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), Eleonor has gained a wealth of institutional knowledge about issues important to the Caucus over the past 4 years. Eleonor began her tenure on Capitol Hill as a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) fellow in the office of Congressman JOSÉ SERRANO. She has been an active member of the CHCI alumni association and mentored other Latino young men and women who came through the program to work on Capitol Hill and in the private sector on public policy issues.

While I am sad to see Eleonor leave, I am confident that the future will bring her much success. I wish Eleonor and her family good health and best wishes. I join my staff in my Washington, DC, El Monte, and East Los Angeles offices in wishing Eleonor the best of luck in all of her future endeavors. Buena suerte, Eleonor!