

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!

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 12

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Federal Trade Commission Reauthorization.

SR-253

Rules and Administration

To hold a hearing to examine the nomination of Robert Charles Tapella, of Virginia, to be Public Printer for the Government Printing Office.

SR-301

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to mark up H.R. 3222, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

SD-106

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 2017, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for national

energy efficiency standards for general service incandescent lamps.

SD-366

Finance

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "The Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 2007, H. J.Res. 43, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt, and revising subcommittee assignments for the 110th Congress.

SD-215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Julie L. Myers, of Kansas, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

11 a.m.

Appropriations

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine enhancing the safety of toy's relating to lead paint, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and toy safety standards.

SD-192

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine regulatory preemption relating to federal agencies usurping congressional and state authority.

SD-226

SEPTEMBER 18

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold an oversight hearing on the National Football League retirement system.

SR-253

SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine information technology.

SD-562

SEPTEMBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation by the American Legion.

345, Cannon Building

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 1377, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Henderson, Nevada, certain Federal land located in the City, S. 1433, to amend the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act to provide competitive status to certain Federal employees in the State of Alaska, S. 1608 and H.R. 815, bills to provide for the conveyance of certain land in Clark County, Nevada, for use by the Nevada National Guard, S. 1740, to amend the Act of February 22, 1889, and the Act of July 2, 1862, to provide for the management of public land trust funds in the State of North Dakota, S. 1802, to adjust the boundaries of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in the State of Idaho, S. 1803, to authorize the exchange of certain land located in the State of Idaho, S. 1939, to provide for the conveyance of certain land in the Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico, and S. 1940, to reauthorize the Rio Puerco Watershed Management Program.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 25

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine Persian Gulf War research.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 1756, to provide supplemental ex gratia compensation to the Republic of the Marshall Islands for impacts of the nuclear testing program of the United States.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 27

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine hard-rock mining on federal lands.

SD-366

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul J. Hutter, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-562