

California State University, San Diego, Dr. Mejia has been a tireless advocate for education. She began her career in the Sweetwater Union High School District serving as a classroom teacher at Sweetwater High School and later at Mar Vista High School. Dr. Mejia's dedication to improving California's educational system led to her 1999 appointment as superintendent in the Montebello Unified School District. In 2000, Dr. Mejia received a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Policy and Administration from the University of Southern California and was appointed superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District in 2003.

During her time as superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District, Dr. Mejia has developed and implemented a strategic plan entitled "Success for Every Student by Name." This plan gives special attention to four essential areas for improving education: closing the achievement gap, ensuring a successful transition from middle school to high school, integrating physical, social and emotional supports with academics, and improving parent and community engagement. In addition, Dr. Mejia has led other innovative initiatives in Sacramento. This includes seeing that the Sacramento City School District became the first district in California to earn an international certification for standardizing procedures and practices at the central office. She undertook a rigorous district review with the guidance of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, a process in which only ten districts in the Nation have engaged in. In 2007, Dr. Mejia was instrumental in the creation of a middle school task force to undertake reforms at that level. This has led to increased support for teachers and students alike.

Dr. Mejia has received many honors and professional recognition for her work in improving K-12 education. She was named the Association of California School Administrators Superintendent of the Year in 2006 and most recently she was one of the two California superintendents chosen by State Superintendent Jack O'Connell to represent California at the National Academy of Superintendents conference in Ohio. In addition Dr. Mejia has been awarded the first annual Administrator of the Year award from the California Association for Bilingual Education, named the Milken National Educator of the Year, and State Senator Martha Escutia's Woman of the Year for the 30th State Senate District.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. M. Magdalena Carrillo Mejia's distinguished commitment to education here in Sacramento and throughout California. Dr. Mejia's outstanding leadership and dedication to the Sacramento City Unified School District has increased the performance of our schools and most importantly our students. We all are thankful for her efforts. As Dr. Mejia's husband Carlos, their two children, her colleagues, family and friends gather to honor her service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing her continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES JOSEPH ZERZAN, JR.

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker. I rise today to note the passing of a true American hero and fellow Oregonian, Dr. Charles Joseph Zerzan, Jr. Dr. Zerzan passed from this world on May 23, 2008 in the presence of his beloved wife and children. This man devoted his life to service of his family, the community and our Nation, and it is a singular sign of America's special blessing that individuals such as he have lived, enriching us all in the great enterprise of our Nation. I know this entire body will rise with me and give a solemn note of thanks to Dr. Zerzan, and our condolences to his family.

Charles Zerzan was born on December 1, 1921 in Portland, Oregon and attended primary and secondary school in the Portland and Salem areas. At the age of sixteen his parents lied about his age so that he could enlist in the Oregon National Guard; three years later America entered World War II and Dr. Zerzan found himself a 2nd Lieutenant in an Airborne division commanding men several years older than he in the harsh jungle and mountain terrain of the China-Burma-India theatre. At the end of the war, by which time he had earned the rank of Captain, he returned home to Oregon to attend Willamette University and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then proceeded to medical school at the University of Marquette, where he earned the degree of Medical Doctor with a specialty in internal medicine. Following medical school Dr. Zerzan re-enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in many prestigious posts. Among these were two tours in Washington at Walter Reed Army Hospital; Chief of Medicine at Rodriguez Army Hospital; and he served as U.S. Army Medical Advisor to the Jordan Arab Army. Dr. Zerzan had the privilege of serving as personal physician to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal of Jordan, members of the U.S. Supreme Court and numerous United States Senators and Congressmen. During the Cuban Missile crisis Dr. Zerzan was part of the invasion force planning to go ashore in Cuba, in the event of a conflict which thankfully never came to pass.

Dr. Zerzan was highly decorated for his service to the United States. Among the military honors he received are the Legion of Merit, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the World War II Victory Medal, the Pacific Theater Medal with two battle stars, the National Defense ribbon and the American Defense ribbon. These honors, which are awarded among other reasons for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements," are but a small symbol of the patriotism and devotion of Dr. Zerzan to our country. As is true for so many of our veterans the true worth of his service cannot be measured.

Upon retirement from the Army in 1968 Dr. Zerzan returned to Oregon, where he served as Director of Continuing Medical Education at the Medical School of the University of Oregon-Portland (now known as Oregon Health Sciences University), and later as partner in the NW Permanente Clinic, Sunnyside Kaiser.

Despite his many professional achievements Dr. Zerzan viewed his greatest accomplishment to be his family. It was while attending college at Willamette University that Dr. Zerzan met the great love of his life, Ms. Joan Margaret Kathan of Rogue River, Oregon. As Mrs. Zerzan described it, the first time they kissed her "shoes flew off," and she knew it was true love. They married on February 7, 1948 and during their 60 years of marriage proceeded to have 12 children. These children, who live in Oregon and throughout the United States, in turn gave Dr. Zerzan 30 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The passing of Dr. Zerzan is a sad day for Oregon and all of America. But at the same time, it is a source of celebration for the accomplishment of his life's work. Dr. Zerzan was a man of courage, honor and great faith. As recorded in the Gospel of St. Matthew: "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Dr. Zerzan's treasure was in his devotion to his family, his country and his work. He has now passed on to receive his reward, and to enjoy the treasure he stored up during his time on earth. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for joining with me and our colleagues today to celebrate Dr. Zerzan's life and reward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I have been out on medical leave. I have been unable to cast votes; however, I would like the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 366, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 365, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 364, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 363, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 362, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 361, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 360, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 359, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 358, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 357, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 356, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 355, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 354, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 353, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 352, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 351, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 350, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 174, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 173, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 172, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 171, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 169, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 168, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 167, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 166, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 165, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 164, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 163, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 162, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 161, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING RSVP OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S 35 YEARS OF FACILITATING VOLUNTARISM

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, on behalf of all the citizens of the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Montgomery on its 35th Anniversary.

RSVP of Montgomery County, established in 1973, promotes voluntarism among persons 55 years of age and older, and provides opportunities for them to pursue their interests and use their abilities to help meet critical human needs in Montgomery County. This double mission is beneficial to all concerned. Major findings from more than 30 rigorous and longitudinal studies have found that seniors who volunteer have greater longevity, higher functionality, lower rates of depression, and less incidence of heart disease. With the large number of baby boomers (27 percent of the population) now reaching senior adulthood, RSVP's mission is becoming increasingly relevant to society as a whole. While volunteers are bettering their own lives, they are contributing invaluable service to the community at large. Last year RSVP of Montgomery County's 1,300 volunteers contributed more than 100,000 hours to 300 nonprofit agencies and 11 special programs that RSVP has developed to assist vulnerable sectors of society.

In the area of arts and culture, 112 volunteers contributed 7,725 hours assisting 30 museums, libraries, historical sites, nature preserves, cultural organizations, and performance groups. In the area of health, 253 volunteers contributed 30,000 hours working in 48 hospitals, hospices, rehab centers, adult day care centers, nursing homes, the American Red Cross, March of Dimes, Easter Seal Society, Wellness Center, and organizations dedicated to specific diseases. In the area of Human Services, 691 volunteers contributed

36,000 hours working in 78 various human service agencies throughout the county including the Women's Center, Manna on Main Street, Meals on Wheels programs, hotlines, shelters, soup kitchens, and more.

Within the 11 RSVP programs, 45 trained volunteers contributed 3,018 hours of service tutoring over 300 American and foreign-born adults in GED, ESL and basic literacy programs; 61 trained volunteers contributed 2,153 hours working with 200 young elementary school children, helping them improve their reading skills and confidence; 17 trained volunteer counselors contributed 1,908 hours assisting more than 1,000 seniors with health insurance concerns; 77 volunteers contributed 2,634 hours assisting frail/homebound elders with nonmedical tasks of daily living; 15 volunteers contributed 851 hours reading to Head Start children on a regular basis; 30 volunteers at Gwynedd Estates contributed more than 500 hours wrapping new gift books for Head Start children; 9 volunteers contributed 213 hours visiting special needs children in their homes on a weekly basis, providing the children with companionship and skill reinforcement while affording their families needed respite time and emotional support; 77 mentors contributed 6,967 hours meeting on a one-on-one, long-term basis with 82 elementary, middle, and high school students whose potential is compromised by difficult life circumstances; 27 volunteers contributed 481 hours enhancing emergency preparedness awareness in Montgomery County; 84 volunteers contributed 6,738 hours as tutors, aides, docents, and presenters to children in schools and agencies serving youth; 88 volunteer speakers and trained clowns contributed 2,064 hours making topical presentations and providing entertainment to community organizations, clubs, and nursing homes; and 44 retired executives, professionals, managers, and technicians contributed 2,973 hours helping nonprofit agencies build their capacity and enhance their service delivery.

Just two examples of RSVP volunteers in action are:

Ron, a retired businessman, has been a mentor to two brothers—Josh who is 10 and Nathan who is 12—through the Prétogé program. Originally, Ron was matched with Josh, but he said it broke his heart to leave Nathan behind when they went on excursions because the brothers are like "two peas in a pod". The boys' mother is seriously ill with Scleroderma and disabled. There is no family in the area except for an absentee father. The boys take care of their mother by cooking, cleaning, feeding her when necessary and remaining quiet so that she can rest. Both boys are motivated to do well and are well-behaved, but needed someone to build their confidence and take them on outings. Ron has taken them to the Camden Aquarium, the National Constitution Center, Fireman's Hall, the Auto Show, ball games, movies, and amusement parks. Ron is married but never had children. On Fathers Day last June the boys called him to wish him an honorary Fathers Day. At Prétogé's 10th anniversary event in November, Ron brought the boys and their mother. At that event, the mother asked to stand and thank Ron and Prétogé for all they have done for her children.

Volunteer, Jan, goes once a week to Conshohocken Head Start where she spends two hours reading to the children. She also

tries to cultivate their observational skills through various activities such as putting an item in a bag and asking the children to feel it and guess what it is; or putting items on a tray, having the children look at them, and then covering them with a towel and asking the children to remember what they saw.

I applaud this great organization and their volunteers for all the work they have done and look forward to RSVP of Montgomery County's next 35 years of helping seniors help others.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 90th anniversary of Republic Day, celebrated by the people of Azerbaijan and in recognition of the Republic's rich and diverse history.

Every year on May 28, the Azerbaijani people celebrate the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan. It was on this day in 1918, that Azerbaijan was first declared as an independent Democratic Republic, the first of its kind in the Middle East. Azerbaijan connects the Eastern and Western worlds; located on the western coast of the Caspian Sea, in the center of what was the historical Silk Road. The country is home to more than 70 diverse ethnic groups and its history can be traced back to over a million years ago to the Azykh cave. I join the Azerbaijani people in celebrating their rich cultural heritage and history on this year's Republic Day celebration.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Azerbaijani people and in recognition of the country's rich culture and history.

HONORING MATHEW MILLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mathew Miller of Grain Valley, Missouri. Mathew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1310, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mathew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Mathew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mathew Miller for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.