

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
YOSHITO TAKAHASHI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a special man, Yoshito Takahashi of Fresno, California. Yoshito recently passed away at the age of 88 years old. He leaves behind his loving wife of 61 years Yoshiye, three children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Takahashi was born on June 16, 1920 at his family farm in Clovis, California where he lived all his life. He was the eldest son of eight children of Yoshibei and Shizuyo Takahashi, Issei immigrants from Japan. He attended Clovis Grammar School and graduated from Clovis High School.

During the outbreak of World War II, Yoshito and his family were sent to a U.S. Internment camp in Poston, Arizona, where they remained until 1945. Upon returning home to Clovis, Yoshito and his brother Ted went into farming together. Takahashi Farms was born, becoming a recognized brand in the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area. In addition to raising stone fruit, melons, vegetables, and berries, the brothers were also engaged in a custom grape harvesting business. Yoshito continued to farm with his brother until 1992 when he retired. Yoshito was a member of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, the Central California Freestone Peach Association and Treasurer of the Nisei Farmers' League. He was also a supporter of the Central California Nikei Service Center for seniors.

Yoshito was an active member of his church, the community, and many professional and civic organizations. He served as president of the Fresno Buddhist Church, Secretary-Treasurer of the Clovis District Coordinating Council, the Clovis High School Agriculture Advisory Committee, Director of the Clovis Chamber of Commerce, and he served on the Board of Directors with the Fresno County Cancer Society, Fresno Community Hospital, Community Medical Foundation and the Clovis Rotary Club. He was the Founding Director of the Community Hospitals of Central California and Co-Chairperson of the Clovis Unified School District Foundation.

Yoshito's community involvement was felt throughout the valley and was recognized by many. In 1977, he was named Clovis "Citizen of the Year" and, in 1979 he was inducted in the Clovis Hall of Fame for his longstanding support and service to the community at large. Yoshiito's strong community ties and service-centered activities led him to receive regular recognitions by numerous local leaders as well as state and federal representatives.

It goes without saying that Mr. Yoshito Takahashi was a humble man and as well as a forever farmer at heart. His love for the outdoors led him to places such as the nearby Sierras and many destinations abroad. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man. His presence will be missed in our community and by many others whose lives he so graciously touched.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF KATHLEEN CEPEDA
SARMIENTO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathleen Cepeda Sarmiento for her lifelong service to Guam's community. Kathleen, daughter of Jose Babauta Sarmiento and Maria Cepeda Sarmiento, was an educator who influenced many young people in Guam since 1981. We honor her for her dedication to her religious community and service to our community.

In 1976, Kathleen graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, and subsequently attended the College of San Mateo in California. She returned to Guam to begin her career as an educator. At this time, she also made the decision to become a member of the Catholic religious order of the Sisters of Mercy as Sister Mary Kathleen Cepeda Sarmiento.

Kathleen pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from the University of Guam, and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1986. In 1995, she graduated from the University of San Francisco with a Master of Arts degree in School Administration.

Kathleen served in several positions within Guam's private Catholic school system, all culminating into her role as a leader to both teachers and students. She taught Theology and Art at the Academy of our Lady of Guam, Bishop Baumgartner Junior High School, and finally at Saint Anthony School. During the latter part of her life, Kathleen served as Vice Principal and Principal of St. Augustine School in Laredo, Texas.

Kathleen was an innovator. At Saint Anthony School on Guam, she initiated the After School Extended Care Program allowing students greater opportunities for enhancing their educational interests. She implemented the Rainbows Program to help students with social and emotional difficulties. She also promoted the Student Cultural Exchange Program with students of Ako City, Japan and the Chamorro language and culture program.

Kathleen helped to develop the academic strengths of students by encouraging their participation in extracurricular activities. Under her guidance, her students excelled in the Academic Challenge Bowl, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, Math Olympiads, Best of Carols Program, and several competitions in art, essay, and speech. Her leadership and emphasis on academic performance contributed to the accreditation of Saint Anthony School by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. At St. Augustine High School, Kathleen was credited for enhancing the fine arts program. She helped to advance information technology at the school by implementing a laptop "lease-to-own" program for high school students and by encouraging teachers to integrate more technology into their lessons.

Kathleen was blessed with many talents. Her artistic and musical abilities were appreciated throughout the community. As a visual artist, her work was featured in numerous displays such as the American Cancer Society Art Auction, Guam Micronesia Island Fair, and displays by the Guam Council on the Arts and

Humanities. She was also talented in playing the guitar. Her music was an important part of her ministry and a means for reaching out to young people and senior citizens.

Kathleen has been recognized for her many achievements. She has been honored through the Marquis Who's Who Publications Board; Who's Who in American Education; 1991 Outstanding Young Women of America; 1990 Governor's Art Awards Program; Service Award from the Department of Parks and Recreation; and the Special Olympics.

Kathleen Cepeda Sarmiento will be remembered for her dedication and commitment to young people and her service to our community. The people of Guam join her religious community, her family and friends in honoring her and remembering her contributions as an educator and community leader.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
HONORING THE OREGON
NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH
CHALLENGE PROGRAM

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am introducing this resolution to honor an organization committed to the Oregon ideals of leadership, self-reliance, and fortitude. For nearly 15 years the Oregon National Guard Youth Leadership Challenge Program has served the State by promoting self-confidence and fellowship among at-risk youth. More than 3,500 Oregonians likely to drop out of high school or engage in destructive behavior have entered this free and voluntary program. I'm pleased to say that the majority of these cadets have gone on to graduate the program and earn a high school degree or its equivalent.

This program has made a positive difference in countless lives and communities. This tremendous success has garnered the Oregon Program high praise, including the United Service Organizations' (USO) award for "Best Overall Program" in 2007, 2003, and 2001.

Oregonians have a great deal to be proud of. We are proud of these cadets, who are determined to succeed despite adversity, and of our National Guard, which draws strength from our communities and gives back so much. It is my hope that our Nation will learn from the example provided by the Youth Challenge Program and will be inspired by Oregon's success.

HONORING COLONEL PAUL J.
KENNEDY

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Colonel Paul J. Kennedy. Colonel Kennedy is taking command of the Second Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, Camp Lejeune North Carolina on July 17, 2008 after serving two years as the Director of the Marine Corps House Liaison Office.

Since June 2006, he has very ably served as a direct link between the Marine Corps and the House of Representatives, providing Members of this body the information necessary to effectively equip, maintain and support the United States Marine Corps, and ultimately provide and ensure the nation's security. I know that everyone of my colleagues who had the pleasure of working with him shares the deep respect I have come to hold for Colonel Kennedy, and has trusted his straightforward and dependable assistance. His candor and knowledge have been key in maintaining superb relationships on both sides of the Potomac. He has demonstrated a unique ability to translate the language of the House of Representatives to the language of the Marine Corps and vice versa, enabling him to provide Members of Congress with a keen understanding of the issues that affect the men and women who wear a Marine uniform.

Over the course of two very busy years, Colonel Kennedy successfully planned, coordinated and escorted over 30 international and domestic Congressional and Staff Delegations. I had the opportunity to work closely with the Colonel on many of these Congressional Delegations as part of the House Democracy Assistance Commission, as we have worked to strengthen legislatures in emerging and re-emerging democracies around the world. HDAC works directly with the Members and staff of these institutions, and our Members must travel to places as diverse as Afghanistan, Mongolia and East Timor to conduct these programs. The technical and logistical support he provided in traveling often to remote or dangerous regions ensured that our delegations were always conducted safely; professionally and effectively, and afforded us the ability to focus entirely on the quality of our programs with these legislatures in burgeoning democracies. But just as important were his insights into conflict and post-conflict regions, based on his first-hand observations from the field. They were an invaluable asset to our delegations.

Colonel Kennedy also took a number of delegations to Iraq and Afghanistan, helping to educate Members of Congress on the successes and challenges facing our service men and women who are currently in harm's way. Due to his professionalism, dedication, experience and knowledge, Colonel Kennedy became the most sought-after military escort for delegations traveling into Central Command. He has made lasting contributions to the House of Representatives. I wish the Colonel the very best as he pursues other duties within the Marine Corps. He will be missed tremendously.

Colonel Kennedy's 23 years of service have included: Executive Officer of a Weapons Company; Instructor at The Basic School and the Infantry Officer Course in Quantico, Virginia; a Weapons Company Commander and Battalion Operations Officer in Camp Pendleton; Recruiting Station Commander in San Francisco, California; Plans Officer for Pre-Operation Iraqi Freedom and Plans/Future Operations Officer for the First Marine Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom; Battalion Commander for Operation Iraqi Freedom II; and Director of the House of Representatives, Marine Corps Liaison Office. Colonel Kennedy has received the Legion of Merit with combat "V", Bronze Star, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Com-

mendation Medals and the Combat Action Ribbon.

HONORING CAPTAIN SILVESTER R. DEL ROSARIO, THE HIGHEST RANKING DOMINICAN AMERICAN IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Silvester R. Del Rosario for becoming the first Hispanic Aviation Limited Duty Officer in the United States Navy to achieve the rank of Captain. This promotion makes Mr. Del Rosario the highest ranking Dominican American in the United States Navy.

Captain Del Rosario was born and raised in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He moved to Queens, New York at the age of 17 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1976. After basic training, he was rapidly promoted from "striker" to Aviation Structural Mechanic Chief Petty Officer. His first assignment was to Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland where he trained in structures, hydraulic, and flight control systems. Mr. Del Rosario was subsequently moved to the prestigious Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron "Blue Angels" Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida.

In 1990, Captain Del Rosario was selected to serve as Officer-in-Charge for the VP-45 Detachment at Cecil Field, Florida where he earned distinction when he was honored as "1990 Maintenance Officer of the Year" by the Association of Naval Aviation. Over the course of two tours to the Mediterranean and North Arabian Gulf, he was awarded the "LTJG Clint Neidecken" award for leadership, selected by Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet as the "1993 Maintenance Officer of the Year" and honored as the 1994 COMNAVAIRLANT "Capt. Charles J. Nechvatal Aviation Maintenance Officer of the Year". Under Captain Del Rosario's management, the Naval Air Maintenance Training Unit Norfolk won the 2002 Bronze Hammer Award, the 2002 NETC Training Excellence Award, and the 2002 NETC Retention Award. In 2003, his command was recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a nationally accredited institution.

Over his long career Captain Del Rosario has won many awards, including four Meritorious Service Medals, five Navy Commendation Medals, four Navy Achievement Medals, three Navy Good Conduct Medals, Navy Rifle and Pistol Expert Medals, and various service campaign and unit decorations. In light of his considerable achievement, it is fitting that Mr. Del Rosario was promoted to the rank of Captain on Thursday, July 3rd, 2008. Captain Del Rosario is an exceptional role-model for young Americans considering a career in the United States Armed Forces. I congratulate him on this achievement and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National HIV Testing Day, celebrated on Sunday, June 27th, 2008. Every year, the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) work in conjunction to sponsor National HIV Testing Day. This year, National HIV Testing Day used the slogan: "Take the test, take control". National HIV Testing Day is used to provide vital information about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, educate people on the affect it has on an individual and on the community, help decrease the number of newly infected Americans with HIV/AIDS by increasing the availability of HIV tests and encourage individuals to seek voluntary counseling.

Worldwide, there are 14,000 new HIV/AIDS cases daily and a total of 22 million people who have died from the epidemic. As the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. today increases, it is crucial to acknowledge the significance of knowing your HIV/AIDS status. Every year, 40,000 Americans are newly infected with the disease and approximately 1,200,000 people in the U.S. are living with HIV/AIDS. Twenty-five percent of them are unaware of their positive status.

Over time, as scientific developments around HIV/AIDS have progressed, HIV/AIDS is no longer a death sentence, but can be treated with proper medical care. Although the positive diagnosis of HIV/AIDS is life altering, everyone deserves to know their status—for themselves, their partner, and their family. Worldwide, the HIV/AIDS epidemic carries a negative stigma that results in societal disapproval and rejection. As a country and community, we need to stand together and fight this disease to provide a healthier America for generations to follow.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District in Ohio and the United States Congress, I extend my condolences to the friends and family of people who have lost a loved one to the disease. As we stand together as Americans, we can make a difference, we can save a life.

A TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY RUSSERT BY WILLIAM O'SHAUGHNESSY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Timothy Russert by submitting for the record a tribute to him by the Buffalo, New York native, William O'Shaughnessy on June 16, 2008. "A Death in the Family" was broadcast on WVOX and WVIP in New York.

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

And although we were in the care and keeping of the German Jesuits some ten years apart, Russert and I both got whacked upside the head by the same worn old leather prayer book belonging to the Reverend John