

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT ISAAC  
PALOMAREZ

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sergeant Isaac Palomarez.

Mr. Palomarez served in the United States Army as a Sergeant and was assigned to the A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Mr. Palomarez courageously died in combat May 9, 2008 in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I believe his service and commitment to our country most worthy of being preserved in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Isaac Palomarez was born April 14, 1982 and graduated from Loveland High School in 2001. Mr. Palomarez joined the Army in 2004, following in his father Candido's footsteps, who served in the Army in the 1960's.

Palomarez is survived by his parents Candido and Elma Palomarez and will be remembered as a loving son and loyal friend to many.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Palomarez's selfless service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Mr. Isaac Palomarez.

HONORING THE DEEDS OF SERGEANT MIGUEL HINOJOSA AND  
MICHAELA SULLIVAN

**HON. JERRY MCNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to honor U.S. Marine Sergeant Miguel Hinojosa and 15-year-old Michaela Sullivan, both of Brentwood, California.

Sergeant Hinojosa and Ms. Sullivan are an example to us all because they acted quickly to save a young child's life. They do not view their deeds as heroic, which is exactly why we need to recognize their selflessness.

On a hot day last month, Ms. Sullivan noticed that a 5-year-old friend and neighbor, who was swimming at their apartment complex, was struggling to stay afloat in the deep water and she rushed into the pool to pull the young girl out.

When Sergeant Hinojosa saw the unconscious child who had just been pulled out of a swimming pool, his instincts took over, and he immediately began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and chest compressions. By the time an oxygen tank arrived on the scene, the girl was breathing.

Thanks to the alertness and quick actions of the high school sophomore and the well-trained 13-year Marine veteran, a young child's life was saved. Had it not been for the quick thinking of Sergeant Hinojosa and Ms. Sullivan, a parent's worst nightmare might have come true for one Brentwood family.

These two citizens have demonstrated what it means to be a true American hero, and I wish to express my sincere gratitude.

RECOGNIZING GRACE THORPE

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Grace Thorpe, an environmental justice activist who fought to protect the Native American community who passed away on April 1, 2008 at the Claremore Veterans Center.

Ms. Thorpe dedicated herself to the improvement of health and the environment for the Native American community. As a result of her efforts to prevent the Sac and Fox leaders from accepting grants for storage of nuclear waste in nation territory, many Native American tribes were able to establish Nuclear Free Zones. Ms. Thorpe later served as the Director for the National Environmental Coalition of Native Americans, as well as on the advisory council for Native American affairs at Greenpeace. She authored "Our Homes Are Not Dumps: Creating Nuclear Free Zones" and brought awareness about the environmental injustices in the Native American community.

Ms. Thorpe was also a dedicated public servant. She served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II in New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan, and was awarded a Bronze star for her performance in the battle of New Guinea. She further served as a Tribal District Court Judge and was a Congressional Liaison to the American Indian Policy Review Commission in the U.S. House of Representatives. She earned her Bachelors degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, obtained a paralegal degree from the Antioch School of Law while in Washington, DC, and was an Urban Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

I applaud Grace Thorpe's achievements and important contributions in bringing environmental justice and awareness to the Native American community. These contributions will not be forgotten.

HONORING CHIEF FRANCISCO  
ORTIZ ON THE OCCASION OF HIS  
RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and a dear friend as he retires after 30 years of dedicated service to the New Haven Police Department—Chief Francisco Ortiz. Chief Ortiz, or Cisco as he is affectionately known throughout the community, has dedicated a lifetime to public service and his presence at the department will most certainly be missed.

In a career that has spanned over four decades, Cisco has demonstrated what can only be described as an unparalleled commitment to public service and law enforcement. Joining the New Haven Police Department as a patrolman in 1978, he quickly rose through the ranks and gained invaluable experience in every major unit within the Department. Cisco

went on to earn a master's degree in law enforcement from the University of New Haven and is a proud graduate of the 170th Session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy in Quantico. He was invited to attend the prestigious Senior Management Institute for Police at Boston University and attended the inaugural class of the Management Training Institute, a joint initiative between Yale University and the City of New Haven.

A long time advocate of the community policing philosophy, Cisco is also a senior fellow and one of the founders of the Yale Child Study Center's Child Development/Community Policing Program—a program designed to provide police personnel with the special psychological expertise which is needed when dealing with children and families who are witness to, or victims of, violent crime. I have had the privilege of working directly with Cisco on this program and today it stands as a national model for communities across the country.

Cisco's involvement with the community goes far beyond his professional contributions. He also serves on a number of local civic and service organizations including Easter Seals/Goodwill, the Connecticut Puerto Rican Parade Committee, the Connecticut Special Olympics, and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. Cisco has also been an invaluable resource to myself and my staff. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to extend a special note of thanks to him for his participation as a member of the recommendation panel for the Maria Baez Perez Scholarships—a program which I sponsor in memory of one of my former staff members who we lost only a few years ago.

With all of his experience in the Department and in the community, it was no surprise when Cisco was named Chief in 2003—becoming the first Latino in Connecticut to attain the highest rank in a law enforcement agency. It was a very proud day for him, his family, and our community. I have no doubt that Cisco will continue to be involved in our community. His desire and commitment to making New Haven a better place to live, work, and grow will not fade with his departure from the department. Every community should be so fortunate.

Today, as family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate his retirement, I am so pleased to extend my very best wishes to Chief Francisco Ortiz, his wife, Myra, his children, Jennifer, Francisco, and Mariah, as well as his granddaughter Mariah, for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO FLINT CENTRAL HIGH  
SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
HONOREES

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2008 Flint Central High School Alumni Association honorees. The eighth honorees will be recognized at a dinner to be held on May 15 in Flint, Michigan. This year the Alumni Association is honoring Henry Hatter, Lynn Chandnois, Dr. Catrise Austin, Lawrence R. Gustin, Judge Robert E. Weiss, Dean Ludwig, James Beaubien and posthumously Gracie Field.

The distinguished alumni are: Henry Hatter is a member of the class of 1954. Henry worked for Buick Motor Division for 38 years, responsible for the plant-wide waste water environmental program. Active in the Republican Party, Henry served in the Electoral College and will be a 2008 Alternate Delegate at the National Republican Convention.

Lynn Chandnois is a member of the class of 1944. He played professional football for the Pittsburgh Steelers and was named "NFL Player of the Year" by the Washington Touchdown Club. He has been given the title of "The Greatest Football Player Flint Ever Produced."

Dr. Catrise Austin graduated from Central High School in 1988. Through her medical practice, VIP SMILES, she specializes in treating entertainers and persons in the public eye. She has been named as one of America's top dentists by Consumers Research Council of America.

Lawrence R. Gustin graduated in 1955. Larry worked for the Flint Journal for 23 years. He published three award winning books and created the Flint Journal Picture History of Flint. During his time working for Buick public relations he started the magazine, "Inside Buick."

Judge Robert E. Weiss is a member of the class of 1956. Judge Weiss served as Special Litigation Counsel in the Watergate Civil Proceedings. He went on to be elected as Genesee County Prosecuting Attorney from 1979 to 1993. He was a Genesee County Probate Judge in the Family Division when he was appointed the Chief Judge in 2006.

The distinguished educators are: Dean Ludwig was Flint Central High School's principal from 1984 to 1995. He began his career at Flint Central High School teaching Social Studies. He was Assistant Principal at Flint Central High School before taking the helm at Whittier Junior High School. He assumed the position of Principal at Flint Central in 1984.

Jim Beaubien began his career with the Flint Schools in 1963. He served as the Flint Central Community School Director for many years, organizing after school activities for students and the community at large. He served as the school's Principal from 1998 to 2002.

Gracie Field is being honored posthumously. She was the school's English Literature teacher for approximately 50 years. She sponsored the English Club, the Shakespeare Club and was a troop leader for the Boy Scouts. She devoted her life to bringing the words of great English writers to her students.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these distinguished alumni and educators. May their lives and dedication be an inspiration to the current and future students of Flint Central High School.

IN HONOR AND CELEBRATION OF  
GEORGE AND ANN MARIE LAZAR  
IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50TH  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of George and

Ann Marie Lazar, as they celebrate fifty years of devotion to each other, to their family and many close friends. Their unbreakable union represents a deep and enduring love, not only for each other, but also for their children, grandchildren and for their community.

George Lazar and Ann Marie Seaman wed on May 10, 1958 at St. Bonafice Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Shortly after their wedding, they moved to Parma, where they have grown together, raised a family and become an integral part of the community. They have lived on the same street in Parma since their move from Cleveland; raising, guiding and nurturing their three children: Georgeanne, George, and Suzanne. They are the proud grandparents of seven talented and beautiful grandchildren; Sean, Christopher, Alex, Emily, Vincent, Derek, and Valerie, to whom they provide much comfort and love.

Throughout their lives together, both George and Ann Marie have dedicated their time and talents within the community that they have been a part of for so long. George, a veteran of the Korean War, is a long-standing member of the Honor Guard with American Legion Post 703. Ann Marie is also an active member of the same Post and served as a precinct committee member for the Democratic Party in Parma. Their dedication to helping others is evidenced at Holy Family Church where George sings in the choir and where Anne Marie volunteers in several different capacities. Anne Marie also volunteers for Meals on Wheels in Parma. Their legacy will be one of dedication to their family, to their church, and to their community.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of George and Ann Marie Lazar, as they celebrate this momentous occasion—their 50th wedding anniversary. May their commitment to each other, their family and their community continue to inspire us to follow our dreams, to give back to our community, and to hold family closest in our hearts.

PRAISING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
THE ENLOE HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS

**HON. BRAD MILLER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a talented high school choir in my district, Enloe High School Chorus of Raleigh, NC, which was chosen to perform at New York City's world-renowned Carnegie Hall on March 10, 2008.

The Enloe High School Chorus was selected out of dozens of high school choruses from across the country to perform in this concert. The event featured 200 students from four States, and was the capstone of Carnegie Hall's yearlong National High School Choral Festival. The concert was conducted by Dr. Craig Jessop, esteemed Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, who has been working with the choirs and their conductors throughout the year. I am thrilled that these Enloe High School students have been given such a remarkable opportunity to showcase their talent.

Led by Ann Johnson-Huff, the Enloe High School Singers is made up of the Chamber

Choir and the Advanced Women's Ensemble, two of the five choirs of the William G. Enloe High School Choral Department. The Chamber Choir and the Advanced Women's Ensemble study a wide array of repertoire and perform at numerous local and national events throughout the school year. Past tours included performances at the Olympics in Barcelona, the Vatican, Carnegie Hall, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. In 2006, the Chamber Choir and Advanced Women's Ensemble were chosen to perform for a special event at the North Carolina Music Educators' Association Conference. Both ensembles also represented the State of North Carolina at the Founding of Jamestown Settlement Celebration in May of 2007, featuring guest speakers Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and President George W. Bush.

I am privileged to have in my district one of the four schools in the Nation chosen for the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival. I commend these students and their leaders for their accomplishment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on May 6, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 246; rollcall 248; rollcall 249; rollcall 250; rollcall 251; rollcall 252; rollcall 253; rollcall 254; rollcall 256; rollcall 257; rollcall 258; rollcall 259; rollcall 263; rollcall 264; rollcall 265; and rollcall 266.

I would have voted "nay" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 245; rollcall 247; rollcall 255; rollcall 260; rollcall 261; and rollcall 262.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CREATING  
OPPORTUNITIES TO MOTIVATE  
MASS-TRANSIT UTILIZATION TO  
ENCOURAGE RIDERSHIP (COM-  
MUTER) ACT OF 2008, H.R. 6030

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, as gas prices continue to rise, the most immediate and cost-effective way to offer relief to consumers is to provide incentives for mass transit use. According to a study published by the American Public Transportation Association, public transportation use in the U.S. saves an annual 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline. This represents almost 4 million gallons of gas per day. Factoring in the current average gasoline price in Chicagoland of \$3.95, public transit in the region saves consumers more than \$1 billion in gas costs in my area alone.

Current law allows businesses, governments, non-profits and employees to purchase tax-free transit benefits. However, there is no tax incentive for employers to directly subsidize their workers' transportation costs. The Creating Opportunities to Motivate Mass-transit Utilization To Encourage Ridership (COMMUTER) Act of 2008 offers employers a 50