

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND LIFE OF JOSÉ "CHEGÜI" TORRES

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable life achievements of a beloved Puerto Rican sports icon and long-time distinguished New Yorker. José "Chegüi" Torres is an example to us all, both for his accomplishments as an athlete and his dedication to his community and Nation.

Chegüi was born on May 3, 1936 in Ponce, Puerto Rico. By his late teens, he had shown such prowess in the ring, that he was invited to join the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team. As an Olympian, he won a silver medal in the junior middleweight division at the 1956 Melbourne Summer Games.

Subsequently—still as an amateur boxer—he won the 1958 Inter-City Golden Gloves Championship. Later that year, Chegüi chose to join the ranks of boxing professionals. He debuted with a first round knockout of George Hamilton in New York, and followed that impressive professional victory with 12 wins—10 of them by knockout. On March 30, 1965, the Brooklyn resident became world light-heavyweight boxing champion before thousands of adoring fans at Madison Square Garden. He is one of the first three Puerto Ricans to earn a world title, and the first Hispanic ever to win the world's light heavyweight championship.

The notoriety that came from his 1965 triumph brought him considerable national attention. It even led to such highlights as an appearance—and singing performance—on the Ed Sullivan Show. Not one to rest on his laurels, however, Chegüi successfully defended his championship belt three times. In fact he did not retire from the sport until 1969, doing so with an impressive 41–3–1 record.

In more recent years, Chegüi has distinguished himself as a leader of New York's Puerto Rican community. He is a familiar face to city residents, and a tireless advocate of the less fortunate among us. From 1984 to 1988, he also served as New York State Athletic Commissioner. And, from 1990 to 1995, he was named President of the World Boxing Organization.

Having traded his boxing gloves for the might of the written word, Chegüi is now also an accomplished author. He has written several books, among them: *Sting Like a Bee*, about Muhammad Ali and *Fire and Fear*, about Mike Tyson. He is also a highly regarded sports columnist for ESPNdeportes.com and a commentator for ESPN Deportes and ESPN International.

José "Chegüi" Torres has lived a remarkable life. He has accomplished tremendous victories inside the ring, and—on behalf of Puerto Ricans everywhere—outside of it. He has shown himself to be a leader, a fierce representative of his Nation, and a tireless supporter of his community. After four decades of living in New York, "Chegüi" returned with his wife of more than 46 years, Ramona Ortiz Rodriguez, to his beloved Puerto Rico. He takes with him a lifetime of memories, our best wishes, and the respect of a people who will forever see him as their champion.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SALTER JOSIAH COCHRAN JR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I recognize a dear friend and one of this nation's most distinguished citizens, Dr. Salter Josiah Cochran Jr. Dr. Cochran was born on February 28, 1922 here in Washington, DC. He attended the public schools for the District of Columbia and graduated from historic Dunbar High School. Thereafter, he attended and graduated from Howard University receiving both a Bachelor's of Science degree and a medical degree from the School of Medicine. I applaud and commend Dr. Cochran and his classmates upon recently celebrating their 60th medical school class reunion.

Dr. Cochran served our country as a Captain in the United States Army Medical Corps. He served as Chief of the Outpatient Clinic and attending physician while stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia and Walter Reed Military Hospital. Upon his discharge he was awarded the Combat Medical Badge and two Bronze Stars for his service to our country.

After his military service, Dr. Cochran moved to North Carolina and embarked upon a very successful career as a community physician. He practiced medicine in Weldon, North Carolina for 51 years and retired from the practice in 2001 with thousands of patients who truly appreciate his service. Dr. Cochran also served as physician for the 632nd Air Force Radar Base in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. Both of these communities are in my Congressional District.

Even though Dr. Cochran committed many hours of providing dedicated service to his patients, he remained true to his commitment to be active, productive and dedicated to every facet of the community. Dr. Cochran served as the President of the Old North State Medical Society; President of Halifax-Northampton County Medical Society; Member of the School Board in Weldon, North Carolina; Physician for Caledonia Prison System in Halifax County; Chief Medical Examiner in Halifax and Northampton Counties; Weldon High School Sports Physician; Chairman of the Board of Elections in Halifax County; and a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

In December of 2001, Dr. & Mrs. Cochran retired to Suffolk, Virginia and now live in retirement in Smithfield, Virginia.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Cochran is a devoted husband and father. He is married to the former Doris Hill of Denver, Colorado. The Cochran's are the proud parents of four children: Leslie G. Bobbin, Anthony P. Cochran, Christine A. McLarty, and Robin C. Quarles. They also have 7 grandchildren: Amanda M. Bobbitt, Lydia M. Bobbin, Zachary J. Quarles, Jeremiah K. Quarles, Ryan A. Cochran, Lindsey K. Cochran, and Daniel F. McLarty.

I urge my Colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Salter Josiah Cochran, Jr.

HONORING HAMILTON COLLEGE WOMEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly congratulate the Hamilton College women's lacrosse team on winning this year's NCAA Division III Championship.

I commend the Hamilton Continentals on their remarkable 21–1 performance this season and on setting a NCAA program record for the year. The Continentals achieved a stunning 19-game straight victory leading into the playoffs, and this year marks the first time that the team has advanced to the national semi-finals in its playoff history. This team has proven that a strong will and never looking back will take you far, as it encountered and beat both the number-one ranked team and the defending champions en route to their 13–6 victory in the final.

The Hamilton Continentals are a shining example of what hard work and commitment can produce, and I am delighted to represent such an inspirational group of young athletes in Congress. The sacrifices and contributions of the entire team and their head coach merit true recognition. The Continentals have brought pride and honor to our community as well as their loved ones and the students and alumni of Hamilton College.

Madam Speaker, I deeply congratulate the Hamilton College women's lacrosse team on this great accomplishment, and I wish them luck and success in their future endeavors.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the first and second amendments to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2642. In November 2006, the people of the United States gave this Congress a mandate to end the war in Iraq. Yet today we are in the same place we were in January of 2007 and have not taken appropriate action to end the war.

The first amendment considered today continues to fund the war with an additional \$162.5 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. These funds will carry the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan into 2009. This money adds to the \$700 billion that Congress has appropriated for all war related expenses since 2001. Expert analysis tells us that the real cost of funding this war will amount to \$3 trillion. Yet dollar figures cannot begin to estimate the true cost of war which includes the lost lives of the 4,077 of our honorable troops who have been killed in Iraq and 501 killed in Afghanistan, the lives of over 1,000,000 Iraqi civilians, and the injury of over 30,000 members of the Armed Forces.

The second amendment sets a goal for the withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. I favor the safe and orderly redeployment of our troops

and this amendment requires that it begin within 30 days. But a nonbinding goal to withdraw our troops within 18 months does not end this war and does not mean that all of our troops will be home within 18 months. This goal amounts to an open-ended invitation to continue this war well into the future. This body has the ability to end the war and bring our troops home simply by refusing to continue funding.

The war, waged under false pretenses, has decimated Iraq. Destruction has permeated most of the country. War has taken a very heavy, very real and very caustic toll. At an absolute minimum, we have a responsibility to rebuild that which we have destroyed. However, amendment number two to the Emergency Supplemental requires Iraq to match U.S. reconstruction funds dollar-for-dollar. The U.S. has waged an illegal war that has torn Iraq to pieces and now this body sees fit to require that Iraq match U.S. funding for reconstruction. This sends a clear signal to the Iraqi people about the U.S. commitment to the health and well-being of the people of Iraq. I cannot support this policy.

The second amendment will also require Iraq to partially finance the cost of fuel for the U.S. military in Iraq. This amounts to stealing from the Iraqi people. The Constitution of Iraq mandates that the petroleum resources of Iraq belong to the Iraqi people. These resources will be needed by Iraq to ensure their future well-being. This body should not establish any requirements related to the oil resources of Iraq.

It is time for this body to stop equivocating. This body must end this war. The American people have asked us to end this war and bring our troops home. We must respond to the will of the American people.

GAS PRICE RELIEF FOR CONSUMERS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in strong support of H.R. 6074. Today gas prices are higher than they have ever been at any time in our Nation's history. These prices are causing a ripple effect that is causing the price to rise for even the basic necessities of life for Americans, such as food and electricity. And in States like my home State of North Carolina, where people must travel farther distances to go to work, church, and the grocery store, these prices are making it harder to make ends meet.

This legislation will end the practice of oil producing countries, most notably the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), from intentionally suppressing production capabilities to ensure higher profits. This legislation closes a loophole that prevents the U.S. Department of Justice from being able to sue these countries under anti-trust violations. H.R. 6074 will also establish a Justice Department task force that will carefully examine these countries for collusion, gouging, trade manipulation, and other unfair practices. This task force will be required to report their findings annually to the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, for too long these countries have come to rely on a strong U.S. market to sell their product. Today, we are sending the message that they will now have to play by the rules.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 6074.

H.R. 3221, AMERICAN HOUSING RESCUE AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act (H.R. 3221) and to Chairman FRANK and Speaker PELOSI for their quick action to help American families.

The United States is facing a housing crisis. Nationally, between 7,000 and 8,000 people a day are filing for foreclosure, and estimates show that over 28,000 Minnesotans will lose their homes to foreclosure in 2008. Foreclosures hurt our families, neighborhoods, and communities. I saw the impact of the foreclosure crisis firsthand when I recently visited the East Side neighborhoods in St. Paul who are hit hard by this crisis. Foreclosures result in reduced property values for neighbors and lost tax revenue for states and local governments, as well as contribute to criminal activity. The high rate of foreclosure also has a substantial spillover effect on financial markets and the broader economy through the loss of jobs.

Congress has a role in protecting families and neighborhoods from an expansion of this crisis, which is why I support the Foreclosure Prevention Act (H.R. 3221). H.R. 3221 is Congress' most comprehensive response yet to address housing affordability and the rising numbers of foreclosures. This legislation will help troubled borrowers avoid foreclosure while minimizing taxpayer exposure. It expands the FHA program so that borrowers in danger of losing their home can refinance into lower-cost government-insured mortgages they can afford to repay. This voluntary program is not a bailout as mortgage investors must take significant losses by reducing the loan principal. This bill also strengthens regulation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, raises the GSE loan limit, and increases homeownership opportunities for our veterans. To increase investment and confidence in the real estate market, this bill also includes tax provisions to aid potential homebuyers. I am pleased to be able to cast a vote for this legislation to help play a part to keep families in their homes.

The U.S. House has also taken action to help our communities deal with the cost of foreclosure. The Neighborhood Stabilization Act (H.R. 5818), of which I am a cosponsor, focuses on the communities that have been hit hardest by foreclosures as many foreclosed homes are currently vacant creating neighborhood blight and bringing down property values. This bill will establish a \$15 billion HUD grant providing state and localities with the funds to purchase, rent, or rehabilitate of va-

cant foreclosed homes with the goal of occupying them as soon as possible.

These housing measures are an important step to help families facing foreclosure keep their homes, help other families avoid foreclosures in the future, and help communities harmed by empty homes in the foreclosure process. The dream of homeownership has become a nightmare for too many people in our community. We need this legislation will help rebuild our neighborhoods and our economy.

H.R. 3221 is an important step in addressing the crisis in the housing market to help families, communities and our economy. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and move our housing policy in a new direction.

HONORING COUNCILMAN GENE BELMARES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilman Gene Belmares, who will be presented with the Liberty Bell Award by the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association on May 9, 2008.

Gene Belmares is the son of a decorated World War II veteran, Ignacio Belmares, and Elvira Belmares. He grew up in Laredo, Texas, and attended United High School and Laredo Junior College. Gene utilized his marketing skills to great effect in his work with some of South Texas's most prestigious companies such as Thomas Petroleum, Arguindegui Oil, and WestWind Homes. Gene is now enjoying his work with the marketing and sales team at the famous La Posada Hotel, one of the oldest hotels in South Texas that is leading the revitalization of downtown Laredo.

Councilman Belmares was elected to the Laredo City Council in 2002, and is seated on the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Water Issues, Sports Venue, and Legislative Committees. He is currently serving as Mayor Pro Tempore, and is responsible for the unprecedented fiscal growth of the City of Laredo for the last six years through his work on landmark ordinances and legacy projects. Councilman Belmares also has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his civic work with the March of Dimes, Muscular Dystrophy, and the American Cancer Society. He enjoys coaching the Gateway Girls Softball League, and the Boys and Girls Club flag football.

Councilman Belmares is a truly deserving recipient of the Liberty Bell Award, which is given out annually by the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association to those who have demonstrated exemplary community service, and contributed to good governance in the community.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Councilman Belmares to the City of Laredo, and I thank you for this time.