EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING THE DEEPEST APPRECIATION OF CONGRESS TO THE FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the families of members of our United States Armed Forces.

Today, the United States House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 295, a concurrent resolution ''expressing the deepest appreciation of Congress to the families of members of the United States Armed Forces.'' I was proud to add my support to this legislation.

In northeast Florida, we are honored to live in an area with a large community of military members and families. They are a tremendous asset, not only to our Nation as a whole, but to our local municipalities as well.

While husbands and wives are serving our Nation all over the world through military service, their families are also sacrificing for the benefit of our Nation. Their willingness to frequently relocate, separate from spouses and parents, and ''face increased worry and uncertainty when their loved one serves extended tours overseas'' demonstrates their commitment to our Nation. For that and more, they deserve our deepest and most grateful thanks.

Many times these families are not recognized, nor seen in the spotlight of our society. While there are no medals awarded to spouses or children, their sacrifice and service could not be any more distinctive.

It has been said that families are the fabric from which any strong culture is built, and certainly the strength of our military families bolsters the foundation of America.

So it is with great appreciation and sincere thanks that I salute some 3 million United States Armed Forces members and their families serving our Nation around the world.

A TRIBUTE HONORING BOXING EXTRAORDINAIRE JAVIER MOLINA FROM THE CITY OF COMMERCE AS HE PREPARES TO COMPETE AT THE SUMMER OLYMPICS IN BEIJING

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an exceptionally gifted boxer from the City of Commerce in the 34th Congressional District as he embarks on his trip to the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing as a member of the U.S. Boxing Olympic Team.

At 5 feet 9 inches tall and 141 pounds, 18-year-old Javier Molina is classified as a light welterweight in the boxing world. In August of last year, Javier qualified to join the U.S. Olympic team.

Javier trains at the Commerce Boxing Club, operated by the City of Commerce, under the experienced guidance of Boxing Coach Roberto Luna. Javier and his twin brother, Oscar, have trained under Mr. Luna since they were 9 years old.

Described by his coach as an intellectual and role model, Javier also excels in school. As a student at John Glenn High School in Norwalk, Javier earned a 3.8 grade point average while taking mostly honors courses.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 34th Congressional District and the State of California, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Javier on his remarkable achievements and extending to him and his teammates our best wishes for a victorious trip to the Beijing Olympics. I can assure you, regardless of how he performs, Javier will always be a champion to his many devoted fans in the City of Commerce. He is among our hometown heroes, and we are very proud of him—in and out of the boxing ring.

I would also like to submit for the record excerpts from an article that appeared in a boxing publication about Javier. It provides a more personal glimpse into the mindset of this dynamic young Olympian.

[From the Sweet Science, Sept. 6, 2007]

THE SWEET SCIENCE OLYMPIC SPOTLIGHT: JAVIER MOLINA

(By Ralph Gonzalez)

Sometimes a song sums it all up for a person. For 17-year-old Javier Molina, it's Mexico's Frank Sinatra, Vicente Fernandez, who spells it out for him in one of his classic mariachi songs. ''No Me Se Rajar!'' (I Don't Know How To Back Down) is a tune that reflects the macho culture that prevails in Mexico.

''I like that song. It talks about never quitting, never giving in,'' said Molina before receiving a special commendation from the city of Commerce, CA. ''That's my attitude inside the ring. I have no quit in me.''

It's exactly that frame of mind that got the 17-year-old where he is. The Commerce kid just earned the privilege of representing the United States in the 2008 Olympics set to take place in Beijing, China, in the 141 (light welterweight) class. Molina won the Olympic trials held in Houston, Texas, this past August 25th. He sports an impressive amateur record of 111wins against 12 losses.

''I knew he had that special something when he first walked into the ring. Sometimes you can tell right away,'' said trainer Roberto Luna. Molina walked into the Commerce Boxing Club at the age of 9 with his twin brother Oscar. ''He always had the mentality of a winner. He and his brothers always showed great ability.''

It seems that boxing is encrypted into the DNA of the Molina family. The father, Miguel, was a pro in Mexico with two fights in his short career. Javier's older brother, Carlos, is a highly regarded prospect with a 2–0 record. Luna co-manages Carlos along with Israel Vazquez's manager Frank Espinoza. Javier's twin brother, Oscar, is also a highly touted amateur who reached the nationals as a 152 pounder. ''We're going to try Oscar out for the Mexican national team,'' said Luna.

Molina discovered the importance of mental toughness at an early age. ''I always trained real hard physically and mentally. I fight with a lot of confidence,'' said Molina. ''When I'm in the ring, I don't think of anybody as better than me. When I get in there, I don't think about getting tired or anything negative. I block everything out. I'm really focused.''

Luna believes Molina is destined for success regardless of what field he chooses. ''He's very intellectual and humble,'' said Luna. ''He's going to be a great role model. Whatever he decides to do in life, he's going to make it.''

RYAN AND AARON JOB

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two heroic brothers, Ryan and Aaron Job, constituents of the 8th District of Washington State, whose time spent in defense and service of our Nation are both inspirational and incredible. Both served under harrowing conditions in Iraq and are two fine examples of the young men and women who serve in our Armed Forces.

Aaron, who signed up for the Marine Corps before his senior year at Skyline High School in Sammamish, Washington, in 2001, served two tours in Iraq. He participated in the invasion of Iraq in early 2003 and he, along with his Marine Corps comrades, renovated schools and medical clinics, dredged water canals and helped build six new markets. Before returning home from his second tour of duty, he helped oversee the first free elections in Iraq in early 2005 while in Najaf. Najaf is also where he suffered shrapnel wounds to his hand and narrowly escaped insurgent sniper fire. Once home, he served in Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina with his fellow Marines.

Ryan, who was nearing the end of Navy Seal training when Aaron was ending his second tour, was on patrol in Ramadi in 2006 when sniper fire hit the rifle he was holding and severely damaged both of his eyes, leaving him permanently blind. His lack of sight did not stop him from recently climbing Mt. Rainier, a 14,441 foot mountain.

Throughout their service, Ryan and Aaron's commitment to God and Country never wavered. With selflessness, courage and resiliency, Ryan and Aaron served our country admirably and this entire body is grateful for their sacrifice.

● This ''bullet'' symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.