

In an array of ways, families and folk who attend can share an educational and warm Puerto Rican influenced experience. During the festivities, Puerto Rican ethnic heritage is put on display. Relics, traditional instruments, drawings, paintings, and a variety of other items representative of Puerto Rican culture fill the East Chicago library. Many talented individuals find themselves performing for these festivities through music and dance. Each year, people reminisce about native regalia, delectable food, stylistic art, and the notorious island coqui, a tiny frog known throughout the island of Puerto Rico for its relentless chirping. It is an educational experience the whole family can enjoy. People are left with memories and knowledge about the culture, heritage, and diverse values of the Puerto Rico.

For the past twenty-nine years, La Presencia Puertorriqueña has brought together thousands, including an assortment of local sponsors, business and civic leaders, politicians, non-profit organizations, and people of a variety of heritages to appreciate the Puerto Rican presence in Northwest Indiana and come together.

Madam Speaker, at this time, let us pay tribute to the Puerto Rican people and their influence in the Northwest Indiana area. As we celebrate the welcoming of Puerto Rico as a commonwealth, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Puerto Rican contributions and culture in the Northwest Indiana area. Their efforts in the community to educate and serve the people are to be commended.

HONORING FALLEN MARINE
LANCE CPL. GARRETT GAMBLE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lance Cpl. Garrett Gamble. Garrett died in the Helmand province, Afghanistan on March 11th, 2010.

In honor of Garrett's life and service, I submit the following poem, penned by Albert Cafrey Caswell.

GARRETT'S GIFT

Garrett's!
Garrett's gift!
So Brilliant, and Bright!
So Magnificent, this light!
So all of this!
So Brave, This Light!
As That Last Full Measure . . .
Was but Garrett's fine gift, this night!
A United States Marine!
Who upon battlefields of honor, was seen!
Seen . . . Marching, into that valley of death. . .
With no regrets!
As shone, his most brilliant sheen! His quest!
As he took, all of those most courageous steps!
But worn upon his fine chest, all in courage's crest!
Giving all, until none lie left!
For all of his most beloved Brothers In Arms, to bless!
All in a Hero's quest, all To Be The Best!
As a Freedom Fighter, no less!
For such lights come, only from one's soul so bright!

To but vanquish the darkness, and bring The Light!

All in what you have done, all in your short life. . . !

A Mother cries, as her fine son has died . . . as she asks why?

Fine comfort! One day up in Heaven, he will be by your side!

Thy Will Be Done!

For you Garrett my son, are but the Brightest of All Ones!

Because, moments are all we have!

To Grab Hearts, To Make Difference . . . To Heaven Rise!

All in your most magnificent shades of green! You United States Marine . . .

And when there comes a gentle rain, all across Sugar Land. . .

Our Lord's tears will remain, with your Mother to ease pain!

For Heaven has just gotten stronger, as a new Marine belongs there!

And as the tears roll down our cheeks, remember what brilliance can be!

And remember all of this, and remember Garrett's Gift!

Amen!

IN HONOR OF THE DONATION OF
JOSEPH SCHIPRETT TO THE
LONSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generosity of a benevolent donation to benefit the community of Lonsdale, Minnesota.

The Lonsdale public library is now home to a text enlarger that returns the gift of reading to those whose eyes aren't as sharp as they once were. Estimated to cost \$1,800, this gift was made possible by Joseph Schiprett, a Lonsdale resident. Joseph purchased the machine for his wife who was losing her eyesight due to Diabetes. Helen, who never lost her love for reading, passed away in 2007, at which time Joseph shared this gift with the entire Lonsdale community.

As the Senior Republican on the Education and Labor Committee, I commend Mr. Schiprett for his selfless donation and investment in the continuing education of the Lonsdale community.

HONORING DAVE SOLEM

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you the deep appreciation that I and the people of the Klamath Basin hold for Dave Solem, the manager of the Klamath Irrigation District.

Those who know Dave admire his considerable knowledge, skill, and leadership abilities. You can always rely on Dave to have the informed perspective and good judgment to find solutions that make a difference.

It is with mixed emotions that I join my fellow Oregonians in bidding Dave farewell as he

leaves the Klamath Basin for a new career. After 28 years of managing the Klamath Irrigation District, Dave is leaving to become the general manager of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District in Pasco, Washington. Dave's departure is a great loss for those of us who hold Klamath Basin agriculture close to our hearts.

Madam Speaker, you may be familiar with the vast agricultural bounty of the Klamath Basin. Known worldwide for its superior food and forage crops, the success of the basin depends on the conservation and delivery of water. Dave's contributions to irrigated agriculture have been unmatched.

As the general manager of the Klamath Irrigation District, Dave earned a stellar reputation as a leader, organizer, and team player, overseeing all aspects of operation and maintenance of a complex irrigation and drainage system. The Klamath Irrigation District is a major enterprise consisting of irrigation and drainage systems that span 400 miles in length.

Dave, a professional in every sense of the word, managed major water projects during his tenure, including the \$14 million A-Canal Fish Screen and Headworks Construction, the \$900,000 A-Canal Tunnel Invert Replacement, the \$700,000 Miller Hill Pumping Plant Replacement, and the \$350,000 Adams Siphon Construction.

Madam Speaker, Dave knows the value of water and has spent a career managing that precious resource for all uses. Klamath Irrigation District, under Dave's leadership, has been committed to ongoing efforts to conserve water, including several miles of canal piping, the automated telemetric control system of all of the head gates and major canals, and, most recently, the initiation of a GIS mapping and monitoring system for the district.

Dave has served as director of the Klamath Water Users Association, including two terms as president. He was frequently the voice of irrigated agriculture in state and federal forums. He distinguished himself in his time at the Klamath Water Users Association by receiving their Leadership Award three times, and was praised for the strong roles he took in the Klamath River Fisheries Task Force and his participation in addressing issues related to water supply, water quality, herbicide application, tribal trust, the environment, and electric power.

Dave is no stranger to Congress, as he has made frequent trips to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress, Senators, and staff members as well as testify in hearings. He has met with high level agency and administration officials to help them understand that intricacies of water in the Klamath Basin.

I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dave and his wife, Julie, Godspeed as they pursue new horizons. Dave will be sorely missed in the Klamath Basin, as he is a man of extraordinary character and honesty who has served the irrigators in the Klamath Reclamation Project exceptionally well.

Dave may be leaving the area, but the results of his great work will remain, and he will always be our friend.

HONORING MILFORD POLICE CHIEF
WAYNE WALLI

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Milford Police Chief Wayne Walli, upon his retirement after a distinguished 39 year career in law enforcement.

After graduating from Rochester High School in 1967, Wayne pursued what he thought would be his career path, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from Oakland University in 1971. During his senior year at Oakland University Wayne discovered that he no longer felt a passion for the vocation he had chosen. Soon after graduation, Mr. Walli took an extended vacation to New York City where by observing the busy police officers of Manhattan he took an interest in police work.

Upon his return to Michigan, Wayne Walli was elated to discover that the City of Pontiac was hiring police officers. Applying for the position, Walli set himself on the career path he would follow for the next four decades. Chief Walli began his career in law enforcement with the City of Pontiac in 1972. He served that city for 11 years as a police officer, 4½ years as a Sergeant and Captain for 6½ years. Leaving a lasting legacy, Walli authored the orientation manual still employed by the Pontiac Police Department for beginning sergeants.

Walli completed training at the FBI National Academy in 1993 and in 1996 became Police Chief of Milford where he was instrumental in initiating a township wide police millage in 1997. In 2004 he was instrumental in the approval of a millage dedicated to converting the former library to house the police department headquarters. Under his leadership the Milford Police Department increased its patrol and investigative abilities, growing the number of sworn officers from 12 to 20 although the number of officers is currently 18.

Chief Wayne Walli is a member of the FBI National Academy Associates, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and the Oakland County Association of Chiefs of Police.

Wayne Walli has proven to be a man of dedicated and irreproachable service. His loss will be felt by all the citizens of Milford who wish him nothing but happiness.

Madam Speaker, for 39 years Police Chief William Walli has faithfully served the State of Michigan. As he enters the next phase of his life, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and excellence. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Police Chief William Walli upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

RECOGNIZING LAURA HURD, CODY HUDSON, MARCELO SOMOS VALENZUELA, AND RACHEL CHISHOLM FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK IN SANDERSON, TX

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 4 students for their outstanding contributions in my district and their dedication to academic success. University of Texas students Laura Hurd, Cody Hudson, Marcelo Somos Valenzuela, and Rachel Chisholm recently completed and presented their graduate hydrology projects on flooding in Sanderson, Texas. This is especially important because their academic work will directly benefit the people of Sanderson and Terrell County.

In 1965, Sanderson experienced severe flooding, killing 27 people and devastating the town. In response, the Federal government built \$37 million worth of dams and watershed infrastructure to protect the flood-prone area from any future incidents. This infrastructure has prevented similar devastating floods and changed the flood plain forever; however, the FEMA flood plain maps were never updated to reflect this new infrastructure. The old maps still show much of the town and over 200 residents living in a flood plain that no longer exists. By law, residents living in flood zones are required to purchase flood insurance. For many years residents of this tiny, rural town have been unnecessarily paying for flood insurance.

The town of Sanderson in Terrell County, Texas, is a town of just over 1000 people and is larger than the state of Rhode Island. By itself, this community does not possess the capacity or means to remap its flood zones. With the help of the University of Texas and its graduate hydrology students, the town was able to complete much of the technical and complex analysis required in flood zone mapping. At the same time the students were able to gain valuable experience by completing hands-on coursework.

The students traveled to Sanderson during their Spring Break to begin their work. The community of Sanderson is very appreciative and I am proud to acknowledge their work. I want to again thank Laura Hurd, Cody Hudson, Marcelo Somos Valenzuela, and Rachel Chisholm as well as Mr. David Maidment the Director of the UT Center for Research in Water Resources and other administrators that made this possible.

As a former educator myself, I am always impressed when we can use academic enrichment exercises to improve local communities. This will leave a lasting effect on this community and we are grateful for your work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, on July 26, 2010, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 467, 468 and 469.

Had I been present for vote 468, on H.R. 1320, the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for vote 469, on H. Res. 1504, recognizing and honoring the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for vote 470, H.R. 3101, the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MR. BRIAN TOUPS FOR
EARNING THE GOLD CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brian Toups for earning the Gold Congressional Award. Mr. Toups has proven himself to be an achiever and an exceptionally capable young man. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize him for being awarded with such a distinct and coveted honor.

The Gold Congressional Award is the only congressionally recognized award given to youth. The recipient must meet a rigorous set of requirements. These requirements include a minimum of four hundred community service hours, two hundred hours of personal development and physical fitness activities, and the planning, preparation, and execution of a four night expedition. Not only has Mr. Toups successfully met each requirement, he has surpassed every expectation.

To fulfill the four hundred hours of community service, Mr. Brian Toups spent time working at a program for underprivileged children. While working with these children, Mr. Toups was a shining example of the virtue of voluntarism as he worked to provide a positive influence and make a lasting impact in their lives. Additionally, Mr. Toups pushed his physical limits by enrolling in a competitive gymnastics program. Indeed, this was no easy task. However, focusing his ambition and remaining steadfast in his commitment, he prevailed.

Mr. Brian Toups, spent many hours penning literary works ranging from short stories to novels. Honing his skills as a writer, he has submitted at least 500 pages of stories to a local publisher. In his final effort to earn the Gold Congressional Award, Mr. Toups prepared a journey to Northern Alaska. During this trip, he was faced with numerous challenges as he traversed the rugged road known as the James W. Dalton Highway.

Madam Speaker, throughout the course of his journey, Mr. Brian Toups had an incredible opportunity to develop character and integrity by taking an active role in his community. It is a real privilege to recognize Mr. Toups, and on behalf of the entire United States Congress I congratulate him on his amazing accomplishment.