

MEMORIAM FOR ANNA SUGI, COMMUNITY LEADER AND HEALTH CARE VISIONARY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to join today with my friend and colleague Congressman BUCK McKEON in a memorial to Anna Sugi, a community leader and pioneering advocate for women's health issues in her hometown of Apple Valley, California. Ms. Sugi passed away Dec. 16, but will be long-remembered by her friends and supporters.

A native of Brindisi, Italy, Anna Sugi came to Apple Valley in 1982, when her husband Ron Sugi was stationed at the former George Air Force Base in California's High Desert region.

After an education in health care, Anna Sugi took a job as an office clerk in a local medical office. Over 20 years, she worked her way up to become the chief administrative officer of Choice Medical Group, a High Desert medical provider that has specialized in women's health. Under her leadership, the group established a Health and Wellness Center in 2008, focusing on helping women through the process of aging.

Working to expand health outreach efforts to the all members of the community, Anna Sugi in 2000 founded the Today's Woman Expo. The first events drew a few hundred people for information on preventive health care and providing tools to help women improve their lives and physical well-being.

The event has grown tremendously, serving more than 2,000 women annually in the past few years. They are provided free breast exams, career counseling and an expanding range of services. Today's Woman is now a non-profit foundation that provides health screenings throughout the year and raises funds for scholarships and grants to High Desert women.

Beyond her pioneering work with the Expo, Anna Sugi has served on the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee and is a 13-year member of Rotary International Victorville Chapter. She has worked with High Desert Resources Network on programs to fight childhood obesity. She was honored in 2009 by the Victorville Daily Press as one of the area's Most Inspiring Women.

Even as she became a leader in bringing women's health care to the entire community, Anna Sugi waged her own quiet battle against breast cancer. Yet she continued working hard on expanding women's health services until dying peacefully at age 50. In addition to her legacy of service, Ms. Sugi leaves a personal legacy in her children, Mark and Michelle, who will both graduate from UCLA Medical School in June and plan to continue her work in community health.

Madam Speaker, Anna Sugi was respected and loved throughout the High Desert region. A group of physicians have already raised \$35,000 for the Anna Sugi Endowment Fund to provide scholarships for needy students. I ask my colleagues to join Congressman McKEON and me in offering condolences to her family, and in praising the life and legacy of this community leader.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 652 on, H. Con. Res. 336, on Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for the sine die adjournment of the second session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 653 on, H. Res. 1776, on Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of the joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 654 on, H.R. 2142, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment, GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 655 on, H.R. 5510, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Aiding Those Facing Foreclosure Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 656 on, S. 3874, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING FERNANDO JOSE MOLLEDA RAMIREZ

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Fernando Jose Molleda Ramirez, who was with us from December 21, 1976 through August 22, 2008.

Beloved son of Oscar and Elia Molleda; loving brother to Diego and Diana. You are dearly missed by your family and friends for the profound way you touched our lives and always sought to bring out the best in us. Your efforts will be long remembered and will continue to drive us in the future to exceed our expectations of what we are capable of accomplishing.

I have only slipped away into the next room. Whatsoever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way which you always used to. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without effort. Life means all that it has ever meant. It is the same as it ever was, there is absolutely unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of your mind because I am out of your sight? I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well. Nothing is past, nothing is lost. One brief moment and all will be as it was before, only better, infinitely happier and forever—we will be one with God.

JEANETTE TRUJILLO-LUCERO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Jeanette Trujillo-Lucero for her outstanding service to our community.

Jeanette has been committed to the preservation of the cultural traditions of the Mexican and Spanish dance and music arts for its community. She has strived to create an understanding and appreciation of the Latino culture through educational programs and professional performance.

Jeanette founded the Colorado Fiesta Dance Company in 1972. Her Lakewood based studio impacts over sixty thousand people through educational outreach and performances. Jeanette's outreach programs include a full array of offerings tailor made for grades K-12 where students discover the Hispanic arts and come to understand the roots of the culture and its traditions.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jeanette Trujillo-Lucero for her well deserved recognition by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF F. MIKE MILES

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. F. Mike Miles—the Superintendent of Harrison School District Two in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mike is an innovative educator who has brought sweeping changes to the students and teachers in his district. Our local newspaper, the Colorado Springs Gazette notes, "local and state educators are watching because Miles is in the vanguard of educators nationwide who are using controversial techniques in an attempt to turn around failing schools." Most recently, Miles implemented the most rigorous and innovative pay-for-performance plan in the Nation.

Mike, who was born in the Panama Canal Zone, was one of eight children born to retired Army Sergeant Major Floyd Miles and his wife, Chiyo. Mike and his siblings worked hard in school and promised their father when he deployed to Vietnam that they would all graduate from college. All of them did.

After graduating as valedictorian from Fountain-Fort Carson High School, he earned a degree in engineering from West Point, where he was eighth in his class. He then joined the ranks of the officer corps at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he served in the Army's elite

Ranger Battalion and commanded an Infantry Rifle Company.

During a night training exercise at Fort Lewis, Mike was nearly killed in a C-130 crash. The fuselage of the plane split open as the plane skidded 200 yards and embedded in the desert floor. Mike recalls, "I felt my hand break, in three places, and smelled dirt and was knocked unconscious." He was buried under the dirt with only his arm showing. Two fellow rangers dug him out and helped him crawl from the wreckage as the plane exploded into flames.

After the Army, Mike studied Slavic languages at the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Leningrad in Russia. Mike then pursued advanced study of Soviet affairs and public policy at Columbia University after being selected as a Mellon Fellow in the Humanities and winning a National Science Foundation Graduate Scholarship.

Mike graduated from Columbia University in 1989 and joined the U.S. State Department as a Presidential Management Intern. He handled a portfolio usually reserved for more senior officials at the Soviet Desk, making policy recommendations and writing talking points for the Secretary of State regarding German reunification, chemical weapons, NATO, and other issues. While at the State Department, Mike became a Foreign Service Officer.

As a diplomat in Warsaw, Poland, Mike tracked Poland's evolving relations with Russia and the countries of Eastern Europe. He analyzed the strength of the post-Communist Party, correctly predicting its return to political power in 1993. A tour in Moscow followed. As special assistant to the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, Mike helped coordinate the Embassy's response to critical events during a time when Russia's relationship to the U.S. in a post-Cold War world was as yet undefined. He received the State Department's Meritorious Service Medal in 1994.

The Cold War largely won, Mike and his family decided to return home. He honored his commitment to continue to serve the public interest and entered the field of education. Mike has assumed leadership roles to raise academic standards in his school district and the State of Colorado. Mike also serves as an educational consultant and motivational speaker for school districts and other public organizations around the State. He is recognized as an accomplished practitioner of curriculum alignment, organizational effectiveness, and systems thinking.

Over the past 5 years Mike and the Harrison School District Two School Board have been on a quest to turn around the chronically underperforming Harrison School District Two. More than 70 percent of the 11,300 students are living below the poverty line and many are at risk of dropping out.

Their systemic reforms of the school district include: Developing and implementing a rigorous pay-for-performance evaluation system; Changing the recruitment paradigm by identifying teacher candidates early and investing in their training and preparation in return for a commitment to teach in the school district; Piloting a Year 2020 curriculum in a middle school and high school in which students learn critical thinking, information literacy, economics and globalization, math and science reasoning, Chinese, and the arts; Developing principals and instructional leaders who are

held accountable for improving the quality of instruction and raising student achievement; and Creating a culture of instructional feedback in which classroom instruction is observed and effective feedback is given regularly and consistently.

The district cites these other achievements during Mike's time as superintendent: District removed from state academic probation; Significantly improved test scores; Decreased the minority achievement gap; Improved teacher effectiveness, including removing ineffective, tenured teachers from the district; and Created the only public year-round school in the area.

Despite enormous resistance from the teacher's association in the district, Mike and the school board have not backed down from putting children first. I admire his focus and fortitude in fighting for the school children of Colorado Springs. I commend him for his success and urge professional educators across the country to study his record of success as they look for ways to better educate our young people.

Mike is married to Karen Miles, and they have three children: Nicholas, Madeleine, and Anthony.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for allowing me this opportunity to pay tribute to Mike Miles for his success in improving the lives of our children.

IN HONOR OF THE WORK OF
THORAYA AHMED OBAID, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE UNFPA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary leadership and work of Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director of the UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund.

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid will retire as Executive Director of the UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund, at the end of this year. For over a decade, Thoraya has been an exceptional and dynamic leader of this important U.N. agency and key partner to the United States.

Thoraya has had a remarkable life and career where she was often the "first" trailblazing a path for others. Born in Saudi Arabia, her father made sure that she received the same educational opportunities as her brothers—sending her at age 7 to a Christian boarding school in Cairo, Egypt. She excelled in her studies and became the "first" Saudi girl to receive a government scholarship to attend Mills College in California, where she graduated with distinction.

Thoraya became the "first" Saudi Arabian let alone Saudi woman to head a U.N. agency. At UNFPA, Thoraya has effectively implemented and advocated for UNFPA's global mandate to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV and AIDS, every girl, woman and young person is treated with dignity and respect, and that policies for poverty eradication are based on sound data.

Thoraya has played a pivotal role in promoting understanding of the close linkages between the implementation of the agenda of the International Conference on Population and

Development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the importance of respect for the human rights of women and greater investments in education and health for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. Moreover, she has a deep and abiding commitment to supporting and advocating gender equality and the empowerment of women, and giving voice to countless women, men and youth around the world to participate in enhancing their reproductive health and well-being.

Under Thoraya's leadership, UNFPA has been a model within the U.N. system on working in collaboration with civil society partners around the world to ensure that culture and rights are central to all development efforts. For example, under Thoraya's watch, UNFPA's Campaign to End Fistula is now working in over 47 countries with doctors, midwives, advocates, community leaders and policymakers to make obstetric fistula as rare in the developing world as it is in the United States.

Thoraya has accomplished much for the world's women and their families with grace, humility, compassion and professionalism. In retirement, she will be returning to the region of her birth to continue to be a vocal and passionate advocate for the most vulnerable and marginalized.

This remarkable and much admired leader will be greatly missed in the United Nations but I am confident we will continue to hear her strong and clear voice for women's well being for many years to come.

I personally thank Thoraya for her vast and tremendous contributions to the world's women.

KITTY PRING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kitty Pring for her service to our community.

Kitty balances her involvement in the community, her profession and her passions with skill and perfection. Professionally, she is a mediator and facilitator and is a Principal of ReSolutions Resources, which is an alternative dispute resolution practice. Kitty has been the recipient of many awards including Small Claims Mediator of the Year, Victim Offender Mediator of the Year and the Jefferson County Mediation Service Award.

Her dedication to the environment is evident through her work locally and globally. She co-authored the University of Denver Study Book, "Greening Justice: Creating and Improving Environmental Courts and Tribunals" which is a step by step guide provided at no cost.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kitty Pring for being honored by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.