

HONORING ED GOTTHARDT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late Ed Gotthardt, former Mayor of Seguin, Texas. Mayor Gotthardt served the community through his distinguished business career and great service as mayor for two terms in Seguin, Texas.

Mayor Gotthardt was born on January 1929 in Galle, Texas and passed away of natural causes February 2010 in New Braunfels, Texas. His accomplished lifetime as a businessman and mayor stemmed from his humble beginnings. His childhood was spent on a farm in Galle in a town between Seguin and San Marcos where he learned about produce. He received his education in the public schools of Guadalupe County, where he graduated from high school. At the age of twenty-one, the late Gotthardt was hired as a produce worker at a local grocery store. With a twelfth grade education, he rose through the ranks to store manager, unit director, to the corporate office as a buyer and then as Vice President of Produce Marketing. In the 1980s, he retired having lived during his career throughout the area in Seguin, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi. The late Gotthardt had a thirty-seven year career in the grocery business before serving two three-year terms as Mayor. After his retirement, he later served as President of the H-E-B grocery store retirees' organization.

In 1990, Gotthardt announced that he planned to run for mayor of Seguin. He had not previously held any position in public office, but his involvement with the community and commitment to the people of Seguin aided to his election. His re-election was without opposition, serving as mayor until 1996. During his time in office, Mayor Gotthardt contributed to the city by ensuring that the Sebastopol State Historical Park in Seguin was renovated and dedicated much of his work for those who served their country in the military. He worked on the Veterans Memorial at the Guadalupe County Courthouse extensively. The late Mayor Gotthardt was recognized for his tireless efforts to ensure the community and people were provided the services needed.

Along with his business career and terms as Mayor of Seguin, the late Gotthardt was a member of Seguin Masonic Lodge AF&AM 109, Alzafar Shrine, Elks Lodge 1229, Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 555, the Seguin Chamber of Commerce, the Seguin Rotary Club and the Comal County Seniors Center. His leisure time was spent with the Seguin Chamber of Commerce, senior center, and with his family.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the late Ed Gotthardt, former Mayor of Seguin, Texas on his contributions to the community. I thank you for this time.

COMMENDING THE NORTH
CLACKAMAS CHAMBER COMMU-
NITY SAFETY HONOREES**HON. KURT SCHRADER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, for the third year, the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce in my district is holding a Community Safety Luncheon to recognize the members of the community whose actions have improved public safety in our local neighborhoods. For some of these men and women, they're first responders and public safety employees who regularly go above and beyond the call of duty in their jobs. For others, they are tireless volunteers, giving up hours of their free time to improve the lives of their neighbors. But all of them are being recognized today because of the importance of what they do and because the support of community members like these is key to the success of public safety departments throughout the country.

I'd like to take a minute to recognize the brave and selfless men, women and organizations who are being honored by the North Clackamas Chamber today:

American Medical Response River Rescue, which worked to turn a local community swimming hole on the Clackamas River from a dangerous site where drowning deaths were an all too regular occurrence to a safe swimming location for the community.

Amy Bullard, a retired teacher from the Oregon Trail School District, who helped train over 1,000 students at Sandy High School in lifesaving skills when she incorporated CPR and first aid training into the tenth grade health classes.

Damascus Community Church, which has hosted shelter trainings and been a leader in the community in emergency management operations with their participation in community safety events.

Angela Fox, publisher of the Clackamas Review and Oregon City News, who works to provide the community with in-depth reporting on public safety issues, using the media to educate and inform the public.

Olga Gerberg, a volunteer from Sandy who has coordinated bike helmet fitting and child safety seat inspection workshops for the local community and regularly reaches out to her neighbors to share safety information about available resources and services.

Tom Hogan, the volunteer coordinator for the Gladstone Emergency Management Support team who volunteers his time to improve emergency preparedness in the community, training other volunteers and working to bring grant funding to the community.

Dale Kim, with the Clackamas County Juvenile Department, who serves as the lead organizer for the Sandy Youth Service Team and whose work reaching out to at-risk youth and intervention and prevention services have helped countless community youth. The Milwaukie Public Safety Foundation, which has raised over \$20,000 to start a K-9 program for the Milwaukie Police Department and supports the department by conducting an annual Office of the Year function and a Parent Awareness Night.

Jeff Oliver, with the Lake Oswego Police Department, who volunteers to assist at the

monthly Child Safety Seat Fitting Station and has trained, certified, and re-certified 36 CPS technicians in North Clackamas County.

Portland Mountain Rescue, a volunteer organization that provides specialized search and rescue services to Mt. Hood and other areas in the region and participated in 10 mountain rescues in 2008, in addition to providing outdoor and wilderness safety training to the community.

And Larry Alexander, from the Boring Water District, who is the first recipient of the North Clackamas Chamber's Shining Star Safety Award, for his work in securing funding for the water district as well as his work in establishing an effective notification system to notify all Boring Water customers of an emergency in under one minute. He's also been an active volunteer in his home community, starting a neighborhood watch with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office.

To these men and women as well as every other community safety volunteer who does their part to keep our neighborhoods safe, I say thank you for all that you do.

RECOGNIZING THE DIFFICULT CHALLENGES AND HEROISM OF BLACK VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the challenges and difficulties that our Black veterans encounter as they embark on reintegrating to civilian life. I would also like to commend the Honorable LARRY KISSELL for introducing H. Con. Res. 238, and his conviction on recognizing the importance of their military sacrifices and patriotism.

The story of the African American soldier is one of extraordinary faith, hope and determination in the face of bitter disappointment over denial of their well-earned rights to full citizenship. It is a story of inspiration, leadership and a refusal to accept "no" for an answer. Ultimately, it is a story of their victory over legal segregation and discrimination. Their story speaks of their long struggle for equality and willingness, in each instance, to forsake violence in their struggle for justice.

Black Americans have fought for their country going back to the Revolutionary War when 5,000 Black men risked their lives in the cause of independence. Serving in the Continental Army, mostly as infantry and artillerymen, they fought in the first battles at Lexington and Concord, and crossed the Delaware with George Washington. Overwhelmingly, they resisted the enticements of the British enemy, who offered promises of freedom if they would join the Redcoats. Yet, after the victory, the first of Black America's military heroes were met, not with parades or accolades, but with whips and chains as they as they surrendered their weapons for bondage on the plantation.

African Americans also served in the War of 1812 when the Battalion of Free Men of Color helped to save New Orleans in a counter-attack against the British invaders. The nation reneged on the rhetoric of General and later president Andrew Jackson who told the Black fighters, "You surprised my hopes. The nation will applaud your valor."

Fifty years later, in the Civil War, 200,000 Black men took up arms and manned military vessels, one out of ten of the entire Union army. Among the most famous was the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, which gained its modern-day fame in "Glory," a movie depiction of their heroic attack in the first wave of the assault on the beaches of Charleston. The regiment was wiped out.

Black soldiers not only had fought well, they provided the margin for victory when finally called upon as reinforcements by President Lincoln to bolster the devastated Union army. But even following this victory in the Civil War, when they fought not just to preserve the Union but to end slavery in the existing states, the nation went back on its promises. While Emancipation had ended the evil practice of legal slavery and allowed a short breathing space of freedom and political participation, less than two decades later Black Americans were bound by the new set of legal shackles of Reconstruction and Jim Crow.

Regardless of these negative circumstances, Black troops broke the societal constraints. One such group, the 369th Harlem Hellfighters, was the first African American Regiment during World War I. Faced with surmounting discrimination and rabid racism in the U.S., they were sent to fight with the French troops against the Germans. Not only did these Black troops serve the longest stretch in battle without replacement, 191 days, they did not lose ground or men to enemy capture. This all Black unit earned the Croix de Guerre, France's highest military honor, yet upon returning to their homes in the U.S., they were vilified and discriminated against as they had been before the war.

Again, during World War II, our Black soldiers proved their loyalty and commitment to the United States. The Tuskegee Airmen, America's first Black military airmen, helped break through the constraints of a segregated military when, inspired by their bravery and achievements, President Truman promulgated Executive Order Number 9981 in 1948. Many of these Black veterans fueled the Civil Rights movement through their courage and strength to change the status quo and fight for equality.

Black Veterans have time and time again proven their loyalty and patriotism to a country they were instrumental in building. They have led the charge in breaking the shackles of slavery and discrimination. We must stand in support of our brave men and women in the Armed Forces as they return in increasing numbers to find that their employment prospects are limited. Others are suffering the detrimental effect of multiple deployments and PTSD.

It is our duty as a nation to assist those who have so valiantly fought for our freedoms by providing the tools necessary for them to fairly compete in the job market whether it is psychological counseling for trauma experienced while in combat or job training to bolster the unique skill sets they have acquired during their time in the service.

HONORING JAMES CARELLO

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to a fine Amer-

ican, James Carello, on an occasion when he and his business have received a prestigious honor: the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the International dealer organization of Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Mr. Carello's business, Regional International Corporation, is headquartered in Henrietta, New York. Under his leadership, it has grown into one of the preeminent truck dealerships in western New York, with 160 employees and two secondary locations in Buffalo and Geneva. Jim is a recognized leader in the industry, as Regional spent six years on the Rochester Top 100, a listing of privately-owned companies recognized in the area. With this most recent award, Regional International has now received the Circle of Excellence Award a total of seven times.

An International dealer since 1989, Jim is a member of International's Dealer Development and Systems Advisory Board. Jim has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through years of hard work and service to his industry and community. An avid sports fan, Jim can frequently be found cheering for his favorite NASCAR driver or the Buffalo Bills. He also has a keen interest in a variety of other vehicles, including a 1934 Ford roadster, a customized motorcycle and two show trucks called Mayhem and Bad Habit. Both of his children, Jason and Gina, are now active in running the business, becoming the next generation of participants. Jim and his wife Lyn dote on their two grandchildren.

Through his dedication, hard work and outstanding customer service, he has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. On behalf of the 111th United States Congress, I congratulate Mr. James Carello for his record of accomplishment.

THE TEJANO MUSIC INDUSTRY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of 30 years of honors by the Texas Talent Musician's Association. This San Antonio-based non-profit organization promotes excellence in the Tejano Music Industry.

Tejano music is known for its modern sound with influences from cumbia, rock and blues. This type of music originated along the Mexico-Texas border during the time of the Mexican-American Revolution in the 1840s. Not only is it a combination of different sounds, but also a fusion of Mexican, Texan, and even Eastern European cultures. Songs within Tejano music are known to be passed down from generation to generation, making sure those epic stories about political leaders, history, and current times are consistently being told through song. Tejano Music is truly an original American art form.

It is impossible to talk about Tejano music without mentioning Selena Quintanilla Perez,

the "Queen of Tejano Music." Selena was a proud Mexican-American woman who was born and raised in Texas. Although she did not speak Spanish, most of her music was in Spanish. She performed from the age of 8 until her death at the age of 23. In 1987 she won Female Vocalist of the Year at the Tejano Music Awards. Selena's contributions to the music industry are legendary and are commendable.

The Texas Talent Musicians Association has hosted the Tejano Music Awards every year since 1980. This year the 30th annual Tejano Music Awards will take place on July 11th in San Antonio, Texas, proudly known as the "Tejano Music Capital of the World".

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Tejano Music as truly an original American art form, Selena Quintanilla Perez as a legend of Tejano Music, and the Texas Talent Musician's Association for their international promotion of Tejano Music.

TRIBUTE TO DEMERY ORMROD OF ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Demery Ormrod of Orange, Connecticut, a young woman from my district who, by virtue of her strong commitment to volunteer service, has been named a winner of a 2010 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

An eighth grader at Amity Middle School, Demery raised more than \$20,000 to help provide cleft palate and lip surgeries for 86 children through the charitable organization Smile Train. She began these efforts while still in elementary school, making bookmarks, lollipops, cookies, and jewelry with her friends, which she then sold at her family's restaurant.

When news of Demery's good works spread throughout the community, other schools got involved, local businesses offered matching funds, and strangers sent along checks, all to help the cause. The playwright Henrik Ibsen once said that "A community is like a ship—Everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm." And that is exactly what Demery has accomplished here. Because she was moved to help children less fortunate than herself, and because she took the extra step to get involved on their behalf, Demery took the helm of her community, and ignited the whole State of Connecticut behind her efforts.

Demery is a perfect candidate for this Spirit of Community Award, and a great representative for the importance of volunteers. Created by Prudential Financial, in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, in 1995, to reward youths who give their time and talents back to their community, this award has honored nearly 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state, and national levels over the past 15 years.

I applaud Demery's good works and Prudential's commitment to recognizing her and other students like her. I congratulate her on this award, and I very much hope she continues to give back to the community in the years to come.