

I ask my colleagues and our Nation to join me in this special Congressional Recognition on the 65th Anniversary of the Northside Center for Child Development, Inc.

IN HONOR OF DR. CHARLES
MACCORMACK

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many achievements of Dr. Charles MacCormack, whose tireless work to improve the lives of children around the world serves as an example to all of us.

As President and CEO of Save the Children, Dr. MacCormack has overseen humanitarian aid programs in more than 50 countries. In the wake of natural disasters and in regions of the world torn apart by war, Save the Children helps children avoid unbearable pain and suffering. Dr. MacCormack's retirement creates a void at Save the Children that will be difficult to fill and he will be missed by friends, colleagues and the countless children across the world whose lives are better, because of him.

As many as a billion children around the world go to sleep hungry each night. For nearly two decades, Dr. MacCormack has led a global organization that protects the most vulnerable children and creates real change in the lives of those most in need. Throughout his life, Dr. MacCormack has conducted research, taught, and led organizations that promote greater mutual understanding among cultures, provide basic necessities to those in need, and defend the defenseless.

Before joining Save the Children, Dr. MacCormack was President of World Learning, a non-profit organization that promotes understanding among people from diverse cultures through educational exchanges and research. He serves on the Board of InterAction, an association of more than 160 humanitarian and development organizations, and on the Boards of the Basic Education Coalition and the Campaign for Effective Global Leadership. Dr. MacCormack has taken leadership roles with the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, the Food Security Advisory Committee, and the Non-Governmental Committee on UNICEF and is a founding board member of Malaria No More.

Dr. MacCormack has enriched the lives of people around the world. But today, let us all turn our attention to him and express our gratitude for his lifetime of service. As a Representative, I am proud to honor him here today; and as a fellow citizen and friend. I am indebted to Charlie for all he has done and continues to do—for the children of the world.

ON THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE
FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY RE-
UNIFICATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce two versions of the Filipino Vet-

erans Family Reunification Act, both of which will provide for the expedited reunification of the families of our Filipino World War II veterans.

The first version I am introducing is a companion to S. 1141, a bill recently introduced by Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA. I am introducing this bill in acknowledgement of his leadership on this issue.

The second version I am introducing is identical to earlier versions of the bill that I have introduced in the 110th and 111th Congresses. S. 1141 differs from these earlier versions of the bill in that it provides that the petitions filed by the sponsoring Filipino veteran shall remain valid regardless of whether the petitioning parent is living or dead.

As you know, Filipino veterans are those that honorably answered the call of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and served alongside our armed forces during World War II. They fought shoulder to shoulder with American servicemen; they sacrificed for the same just cause. We made a promise to provide full veterans' benefits to those who served with our troops. And while we have recently made appreciable progress toward fulfilling that long-ignored promise, we have not yet achieved the full equity that the Filipino veterans deserve.

In 1990, the Congress recognized the courage and commitment of the Filipino World War II veterans by providing them with a waiver from certain naturalization requirements. Many veterans thereafter became proud United States citizens and residents of our country. However, allowances were not made for their children and many have been waiting decades for petition approval.

The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act would allow for the further recognition of the service of the veterans by granting their children a special immigration status that would allow them to immigrate to the United States and be reunified with their aging parents. It is important to note that the Filipino soldiers who fought under the command of General Douglas MacArthur at this critical time in our nation's history represent a unique category. These soldiers were members of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East. They were led to believe that at the end of the conflict they would be treated the same as American soldiers. It took more than sixty years to begin to make good on our commitment. The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act recognizes the special circumstances of this group of soldiers.

I look forward to working with my colleagues by providing for the reunification of our Filipino World War II veterans with their families.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT AARON J.
BLASJO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, United States Army Special Forces Sergeant Aaron J. Blasjo. Today I ask that the House of Representatives to join me to honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Aaron was born in Riverside, California and graduated from Ramona High School in 2004.

He was determined to be in the Special Forces and after graduation he promptly enlisted in the United States Army. Aaron was assigned to A Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His most recent deployment was his third tour in Afghanistan, where he served in the Special Forces canine unit. About Aaron, his grandfather, Wesley Blasjo, stated, "I think he wanted to do something for his country. He liked the camaraderie and all the things that go along with Special Forces."

Aaron was a member of the Palm Baptist Church and traveled to Africa on a short missionary trip to help others. A youth pastor at the church remembers Aaron as serious but caring member of their church community.

In 2009, he married Crystal Thompkins in Riverside. Two months ago, Aaron became a proud father to his son, Talon Blasjo, which was one of the highlights of Aaron's life. On May 29, 2011, the day before Memorial Day, Aaron was killed in action in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was 25 years old. In addition to his wife Crystal and son Talon, he also leaves behind his mother and father Daniel and Roberta Blasjo; and his extended family.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Aaron, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day they learned of Aaron's death was probably the hardest day the Blasjo family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain, and what words I offer only begin to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Sergeant Blasjo's wife, son and parents have all given a part of themselves with the loss of Aaron, and I hope they know that their husband, father, and son, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will always be remembered.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MRS.
HORTENSIA G. SILVA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 91st birthday of teacher and volunteer, Mrs. Hortensia G. Silva. She has dedicated her life assisting the south Texas community, educating and serving children.

Mrs. Silva was born on June 5, 1920 on a ranch located on the outskirts of Rio Grande City, Texas, to proud parents, Serapio and Martha Guerra. After the passing of her father in 1929, she began working in a local grocery store to help her mother provide for her three younger siblings. During World War II, telegrams were sent to the Juan B. Galindo Grocery Store and Mrs. Silva was often charged with delivering families the heart-wrenching message that their soldiers had fallen. One of the only people with the ability to read or write, Mrs. Silva often wrote catalog orders so

that neighborhood persons could acquire clothing and shoes. She attended school in Rio Grande City and graduated in the top ten percent of her class from the city's high school in 1939. She continued working in Galindo's grocery store until her marriage to Nicolas Silva, Jr. in 1947. The couple had two daughters and owned and operated a Texaco Service Station, where she served as the bookkeeper.

Mrs. Silva worked for Rio Grande City Independent School District as a teacher's aide in their pre-school department and continued to teach once the program was annexed by Headstart. She served on the South Texas Development Council until she retired at age 80, after 32 years of service. Throughout her career, she volunteered for her neighborhood's 4-H Youth Development Organization and frequently acted as judge in the program's float and craft competitions. Her dedication to children inspired her two daughters to emulate their mother's passion and attain masters degrees in Education.

In addition to her passion for children, Mrs. Silva was an avid arrowhead hunter—a passion her husband and children all enjoyed. The family has maintained, arguably, the largest personal collection in Texas, which was exhibited in the family's business. She is a faithful member of Immaculate Conception Church, and continues to dedicate her time to children, including her 4 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and others in her community. She is the beloved matriarch of her family and is sought for advice and guidance to her friends, family, and former students.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary commitment to education and the community exhibited by Mrs. Hortensia G. Silva, and I wish her the happiest of birthdays.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS H. DAVIS JR.—RETIREMENT FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of Thomas Davis Jr., a respected leader in his field and an outstanding citizen of Mobile, Alabama.

Mr. Davis recently retired as President and CEO of the nonprofit Community Foundation of South Alabama, an organization which has flourished under his guidance over the past 27 years. Beginning as the program's development director in 1984, Tom quickly rose to become its executive director in 1985 and went on to become the president of the foundation in 2008.

Under his direction, the foundation's assets increased from \$3 million to over \$50 million. Even more impressive is the growth of the foundation's charitable funds and endowments. By the time he left office, this number had gone from 60 funds and endowments to over 400.

Mr. Davis' success is the product of hard work, an exceptional work ethic and an unparalleled ability to lead, which proved handy during his oversight of foundation programs that

provided assistance to earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan as well as those recently affected by the Gulf oil spill. He was also instrumental in obtaining health insurance for local underprivileged children.

It would be a hard task to designate one of his many achievements as being his greatest, for Tom accomplished so much throughout his tenure. However, the nonprofit's recognition as a "Partnership to Build Community Capital" by the Kresge Foundation is a distinct honor, placing the Community Foundation of South Alabama in an elite group of which there are only six such programs nationally.

On behalf of the people of Mobile, I want to thank Tom Davis for his service and wish him—and his family—continued success in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. KATHLEEN BATEMAN

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Kentuckian, Mrs. Kathleen Bateman. After 33 years of teaching, Mrs. Bateman will retire leaving behind a legacy of dedication to her students and her community.

Mrs. Bateman graduated from Murray State University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and earned her Master's in Counseling from Western Kentucky University in 1986. She obtained her Rank I in Art through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in 1990.

Mrs. Bateman's most recent position was at East Hardin Middle School, but she has touched the lives of countless students throughout her career while teaching at several elementary and middle schools in the Commonwealth.

A great teacher has the power to affect students throughout their academic journey, opening new horizons and starting them on a positive path with high expectations for the future.

Mrs. Bateman did just that with the unwavering commitment she gave her students. It takes a special person and a tremendous level of perseverance to be an educator—qualities that Ms. Bateman exuded throughout her years of hard work.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Kathleen Bateman for her many great contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and for contributing to the success of many young people in our community.

INTRODUCING THE "SALMON SOLUTIONS AND PLANNING ACT"

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, salmon are one of America's most precious but delicate resources. Since the construction of four Federal dams on the lower Snake River in Washington State, certain salmon species have become extinct. Others continue to see drastic

declines in number. Today, thirteen salmon and steelhead species in the Columbia and Snake River Basin are listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. If we do not act now, we stand to lose this valuable resource forever, which is why I am reintroducing the Salmon Solutions Planning Act.

Salmon and steelhead populations have major economic, environmental and cultural significance to the Pacific Northwest. Generations of fishermen have relied on salmon as an integral part of their communities along the west coast. Today, even at their current depressed levels, salmon add hundreds of millions of dollars to the American economy and remain an essential part of communities around the Northwest. If we restore these populations to their original levels their economic benefits will reach well into the billions and these communities will be able to continue their rich traditions.

Already we recognize the importance of preserving this precious resource. The Federal Government and ratepayers in the Pacific Northwest have spent more than \$10 billion in salmon recovery efforts on the Columbia and Snake River Basin. These efforts, while commendable, have done little to help salmon populations recover. This legislation commissions studies to focus our efforts so that all factors are taken into account when considering removal. It is critical that our salmon recovery efforts be informed, cost effective, and successful.

Without action, scientists estimate that several of the salmon populations could be extinct in less than 20 years. The time to act is now. Salmon are the lifeblood of the Pacific Northwest, and we, as a country, cannot afford to lose this national treasure.

CONGRATULATING NORB ASCHOM FOR EXCELLENCE IN RADIO BROADCASTING

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Norb Aschom for 50 years of excellence in radio broadcasting. Norb has been news director of WPRE-AM and WQPC-FM radio stations since 1962. Throughout his time at the station, Norb has served a critical role by providing this tight knit town with the news each day, installing a sense of community through the airwaves.

Norb is a fixture in the Prairie du Chien community, a town in southwestern Wisconsin on the banks of the Mississippi River. At 71 years of age, Norb has worked in the same building every day for 50 years. While his broadcasting home on St. Feriole Island in Prairie du Chien was recently flooded, he was forced, along with the rest of the station staff, out of their office and into a temporary workspace in the local Police Department. After a two week hiatus, Norb was able to return to his normal office on April 23. Throughout his time working out of the police department he never veered from his commitment to bring the news to the people of Prairie du Chien.

In his 50 years, Norb has interviewed everyone from former First Ladies Johnson and Carter, to fellow radio personality Paul Harvey.