

HONORING THE APPRENTICE
GRADUATES OF THE SHEET
METAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION
20

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, October 21, 2011, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 honored the apprentice graduates from the years 2005 to 2011 at the Sheet Metal Banquet, which was held at Ambassador Banquets in Hobart, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 recognized and honored Apprentice graduates from 2005 to 2011. The individuals who completed their apprentice training in 2005 are: Kevin L. Anderson, Michael G. Bowman, Jerry W. Bryan, Jr., Richard W. Call, Paul J. Chulpacek, Percy L. Davis, Jr., Jonathan T. Drake, Eric D. Heckman, Raymond E. Hoover, Matthew D. Hoppe, Michael J. Janickovic, Robert C. Joy, James M. Ligda, and Jeff M. Sako. The 2006 apprentice graduates are: Kenneth J. Bastasich, Jr., Lavert Combs, Greg W. Cwetna, Kevin P. Harder, Adam J. Jackson, Tim L. Krebs, Kevin S. Puchaven, and Kevin L. Watts. Apprentice graduates from 2007 are: Tom H. Feneck, Fred J. Hernandez, Timothy M. Holding, David M. Horbovetz, John R. Kane, Matthew J. Koehler, Joshua J. Neeley, James C. Rossi, Nicholas S. Scott, and William A. Smith. Individuals from the apprentice graduating class of 2008 are: Todd A. Goldie, Kreg R. Homoky, Kevin L. LaPorte, Brad N. Martin, Patrick M. Phegley, and Thomas M. Styborski, Jr. The 2009 apprenticeship graduates are: David H. Ballinger, Chuck B. Flick, Mitchell E. Gutyan, Jon P. Holding, Noah D. Hoppe, Vince J. Macielewicz, Jr., Kyle T. Melnyk, Jeffrey A. Pavey, Cary Allan Schnick, and Leonard J. Stringer. The apprentice graduates from 2010 are: John P. Cantu, Don E. Clinton III, Ronald D. Coleman, Douglas J. Edwards III, Eric F. Gann, Matt S. Koontz, Jeffrey A. Koss, Nathan A. Lovas, Christopher W. Marshall, Johnnie L. Parker, and Douglas J. Sills, and lastly, the individuals who completed their apprentice training in 2011 are: Matthew D. Bishop, Shane W. Crowley, Christopher W. Geruska, Brandon W. Gilbert, Jacob A. Goldie, Andy J. Kadziolka, Angel E. Mercado, Clifton E. Perry, Michael E. Polak, Michael J. Torres, Robert C. Wernersbach, Jr., and Adam J. Wotherspoon.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty among its tradesmen. These graduates are outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF FREEMASON ELM-
HURST LODGE 941, A.F. & A.M.

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941, which has served the residents of Elmhurst, Illinois, since 1911.

The Freemasons are a fraternal organization that was established in the late 16th century, with its primary values being hope, faith, and charity. Noteworthy Masons include George Washington, Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, and many other influential figures in politics, business, and entertainment.

In the years since its founding, many organizations have benefitted from the charity of the Elmhurst Lodge, including the Illinois Masonic Children's Home in La Grange, American Cancer Society, Salvation Army, Alzheimer's Foundation, ALS Foundation, Elmhurst Children's Assistance Foundation, and more.

Over the past century, Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941 has established an important legacy of service in the Elmhurst community.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941, the Masons of this lodge, and the citizens of Elmhurst in wishing them happiness on this special occasion.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST RICARDO CERROS JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros Jr., 24, of Salinas, California, who died in a firefight on October 8, 2011 in Logar Province, Afghanistan. His last act of courage was to pull a fellow soldier to safety and shield him from enemy fire. He is a hero to the people of the United States and we express our gratitude for his service to our country. His selfless act is one that will never be forgotten.

Ricardo "Rick" Cerros Jr. was born November 2, 1986 in Fort Ord, California to Ricardo Cerros and Marguerite Quiroz. He spent some time in Indiana before returning to California's Central Coast when he was 8 years old. Rick attended Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas, California. There he followed his interest in service by joining the school's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. His leadership and dedication led him to become the commanding officer of the program. Moreover, I was honored to nominate Rick to the United States Service Academies in 2004.

After high school, Rick attended the University of California, Irvine and was active with the school's Taekwondo club, becoming the first member to achieve a black belt rating. After graduating in 2010, Rick enlisted in the United States Army. He would go on and join our nation's finest as an Army Ranger assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

October 8, 2011 was Rick's first combat mission. During that night raid, an enemy combatant rushed his platoon, wounding Sergeant Moore. Instinctively, Rick ran to the wounded platoon sergeant and pulled him to safety. Then he performed a heroic act by placing himself between the sergeant and the enemy. Sergeant Moore lives today because of Rick's sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire House, I would like to extend the nation's deepest sympathies to Rick's mother Marguerite Quiroz, his father and stepmother Ricardo and Deborah Cerros, and his siblings Nicholas, Theresa and Marko Cerros. Specialist Ricardo Cerros Jr. served his nation honorably, and sacrificed his life to save a fellow comrade. He is an American hero.

RECOGNIZING FRISCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Frisco Economic Development Corporation. Since their establishment in 1991 the Frisco EDC has recruited over 200 companies to the Frisco area which has resulted in over 24,000 jobs and over \$2.8 billion in capital investments. This is creating an environment ripe for opportunity in the Frisco community and the surrounding areas.

The work done by the Frisco EDC has caused the city of Frisco to be one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. The population has grown over 210 percent since 2000. The Frisco EDC is not only helping to bring in quality new jobs of all levels to the community, but they are also raising the standard of living for the residents of Frisco. The Frisco EDC is doing this by cultivating entrepreneurship and creating an innovative atmosphere that makes Frisco an attractive place to live, work, play, and grow. I know that they will continue to bring diverse new businesses and responsible economic development to Frisco in the years to come.

This anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the Frisco EDC and its members for all that they have done for the Frisco community and its surrounding areas. I am proud to recognize the Frisco EDC on their 20th anniversary, and I know the Frisco community appreciates their many years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARE- NESS PREVENTION

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to speak about one of the most significant issues facing us today: domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is both unacceptable and intolerable.

As a legal domestic violence counselor, I have had the opportunity to offer pro bono

legal services through Vera House in Syracuse, New York to help victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. Vera House provides services for women, children and men, as well as domestic violence prevention programs for the Central New York region. Through my work at Vera House, I have seen how domestic abuse affects people of all ages, races, religions, socio-economic conditions.

Domestic violence is known by many titles: domestic abuse, spousal abuse, family violence, and intimate partner violence. It also takes many forms from physical violence involving such things as hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, or restraining. It can be emotional or verbal abuse which manifests in many types of behavior—controlling, domineering, threatening, or humiliating.

Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is a problem facing every community in America. According to the Centers for Disease Control, domestic violence is a public health problem affecting over 32 million Americans, or 10 percent of the population. The effects of domestic abuse are staggering. Physical abuse can be bruises, broken bones, head injuries, lacerations. But those are just the external physical wounds. Internal bleeding and chronic health conditions such as arthritis, irritable bowel syndrome, ulcers, migraines, and miscarriages can also be linked to physical abuse in abuse victims.

Not only is domestic abuse physically dangerous, it also takes a psychological toll. The damage from this kind of abuse is not limited solely to survivors. It extends to their children, family, and community.

All Americans have a moral obligation to stand up against those who commit violence against women, men, and children. We must be able to both recognize and prevent domestic abuse. We must come together to support survivors of abuse, while providing alternatives to this destructive cycle. As a country, we are equal to the task of fighting domestic abuse and sexual assault if we put our minds and spirits to it.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is unacceptable that today, in this country, three women and one man will die at the hands of an intimate partner. One in four women will experience some sort of domestic violence in her lifetime. Fifteen and a half million children will witness domestic violence this year. In the face of such overwhelming statistics, it is in our moral fabric as a nation that we act to protect victims of domestic violence in our country.

I am very proud of the progress we have made as a country since the Violence Against Women Act was first signed into law in 1994. VAWA was an historic step forward in our nation's response to sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and other forms of violence against women. Thanks to programs estab-

lished by VAWA to respond to the needs of women who had been or could be victimized by violence, women are safer, perpetrators are held accountable, and society is less tolerant of violence against women. Over 60,000 victims of domestic violence receive services every day.

VAWA-funded programs have unquestionably improved the national response to domestic violence. Since VAWA was first passed in 1994:

More victims are coming forward and receiving lifesaving services to help them move from crisis to stability. There has been as much as a 51% increase in reporting by women and a 37% increase in reporting by men.

The number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 34% for women and 57% for men and the rate of non-fatal intimate partner violence against women has decreased 53%.

States have passed more than 660 laws to combat domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Staying at a shelter or working with a domestic violence advocate significantly reduces the likelihood that a victim will be abused again and improves the victim's quality of life.

VAWA not only saves lives, it also saves money. In its first six years alone, VAWA saved taxpayers at least \$14.8 billion in net averted social costs.

A recent study found that civil protection orders saved one state (Kentucky) on average \$85 million in a single year.

We have come so far. But we must keep going. Reauthorizations of VAWA have addressed the unique needs of battered immigrants, sexual assault survivors, victims of dating violence, youth, elders, Indian women, individuals with disabilities, and child witnesses of violence. Now, VAWA needs to be reauthorized and updated again to better respond to the needs of women seeking health care treatment from domestic violence.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), intimate partner violence costs the health care system over \$8.3 billion annually. Approximately 37% of women seeking injury-related treatment in hospital emergency rooms were there because of injuries inflicted by a current or former spouse or partner.

VAWA has begun to address this issue—in the past two years, over 3,000 providers from 100 clinical sites serving over 175,000 women have received training through VAWA to integrate assessment for abuse into health care settings. However, more can be done.

These routine assessments need to be expanded so that providers no longer discharge a woman with only the presenting injuries being treated, leaving the underlying cause of those injuries unaddressed.

It is also vital that we focus on researching the most effective interventions to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault, and improve the safety and health of individuals who are victimized. We must understand what makes health care interventions effective, what the factors are that increase resiliency for children exposed to violence and individuals who have lifetime exposure to violence and abuse; and which interventions work best within community health centers and adolescent health settings.

When it comes to domestic violence, it is literally an issue of life or death. Thanks to

strong action by past sessions of Congress, we have helped reduce the prevalence of domestic violence across the United States. Some may say the progress we have made over the years is "good enough." However, "good enough" is neither "good" nor "enough."

Currently, girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 are experiencing the highest rate of intimate partner violence, and one in three teens endure some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships. We cannot let our children and young adults face a life of domestic violence. By strengthening federal laws like VAWA, we can continue to help victims of domestic violence and do all that we can to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence in the United States.

RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH/ WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES INITIATIVE

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence happens all too frequently and affects thousands of Texas families in profound ways. As leaders we must take a more active role in providing targeted assistance to victims of domestic abuse to empower them to overcome abusive relationships.

According to a survey by the Texas Council On Family Violence, TCFV, 74 percent of Texans, including 77 percent of Hispanics, reported that either they, a family member and/or a friend have experienced some form of domestic violence. Additionally, TCFV's survey indicates that nearly two out of every five Hispanic females, 39 percent, in Texas reported personal experience with severe abuse. These revealing statistics clearly show that domestic violence is not a rare occurrence, but a widespread, social ill that must be addressed.

Since the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1987, great strides have been made, resulting in a steady decrease in domestic violence in the last few decades, but much work remains to be done. I have personally remained engaged on this topic and have supported the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region which is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

In fact, I am proud to note that I am a strong supporter of YWCA's "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" initiative, which asks men in our community to literally walk a mile in red high heels to promote awareness of sexual violence issues and raise funds for local domestic violence shelters. This is an innovative way to express solidarity with domestic violence victims and those who come to their aid. During this month, let us consider the plight of the thousands of victims of domestic violence in our country, and show our support through actions of awareness and advocacy.