

SAN DIEGO NORTH,  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
November 2, 2011.

Subject: Support of "HIRE Veterans Act of 2011"

Hon. BRIAN BILBRAY,  
U.S. Representative, 2410 Rayburn Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILBRAY: We, the San Diego North Chamber of Commerce, support your proposed legislation titled, "Help Inspire and Retrain our Exceptional Veterans Act of 2011." In a time of economic uncertainty and high unemployment, your legislation would allow for local chambers of commerce to provide assistance for those who have honorably served.

As organizations that are familiar with local employer needs and that are able to provide workforce training, Chambers of Commerce are a bridge between businesses with open positions and job seekers such as our returning military men and women. This bill will ensure that our veterans are better prepared for job opportunities in our communities by funding training workshops, résumé writing and interview classes, and career coaching.

In areas like San Diego, where returning military often choose to retire, our organizations hear from veterans on a constant basis looking for career development advice and jobs. This bill will allow these veterans to be better served and better prepared as they seek opportunities after their service.

This Act will help prepare our veterans and help local economies get back on their feet. For these reasons, the San Diego North Chamber of Commerce supports the "HIRE Veterans Act of 2011."

Sincerely,

DEBRA ROSEN,  
President and CEO,  
San Diego North Chamber of Commerce.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES B. RENACCI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 816, due to flight cancellation and subsequent delay traveling to Washington from my District, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN FOLKS OF  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. John Folks on being awarded Superintendent of the Year from the Texas Association of School Boards.

Dr. Folks has served as superintendent of the Northside Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas since 2002 and was selected from among the 1,000 eligible superintendents from across the state of Texas for this award. Dr. Folks has consistently advocated against budget cuts to education and schools, and during his time as superintendent, Northside ISD has become the larg-

est school district in Bexar County and has grown from 65,000 students to 97,500 students. Northside ISD is also the largest school district in Texas to be classified as a "recognized" school under the state's accountability system.

Dr. Folks has been instrumental in maintaining the quality of Texas public schools and has served as superintendent of Spring Independent School District in Houston and Mid-west City-Del City Public Schools in suburban Oklahoma City. He began his teaching career in Port Arthur, Texas and has remained an educator for 41 years. As Past President of the Texas Association of School Administrators, he has used his leadership skills to help school districts excel across the state of Texas. He is committed to doing what is right for Texas youth and understands that it takes a skilled team of dedicated educators to pave their road to success to prepare students to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

I would again ask you to congratulate Dr. John Folks on his recognition as Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Association of School Boards and acknowledge his fight for providing an exemplary education throughout our nation's public school systems.

HONORING DALLAS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER MICHELLE MOORE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michelle Moore, a distinguished Dallas County public defender from my district. After sixteen years with the Dallas County public defender's office, Ms. Moore will be leaving her current position to open the first public defender's office in Burnet County, Texas.

There are few people with as much capacity for compassion and as much dedication to her work as Ms. Moore has demonstrated throughout her term of public service. Her years of tireless work to help absolve innocent men of crimes they never committed have been critical to strengthening the integrity of our judicial system here in Texas and throughout the Nation.

Having helped to free eleven wrongfully-imprisoned men, Ms. Moore has contributed greatly to Dallas County's record as having more DNA exonerations than any other county in the Nation since Texas began permitting post-conviction DNA testing in 2001.

Ms. Moore has frequently gone above and beyond her normal scope of duty by making sure that exonerees had no trouble assimilating back into the lives that were taken from them, even regularly working off the clock and without charging her clients for legal advice.

Beyond the boundaries of this great State, her work has gone far to highlight the need for a closer examination of certain convictions and for stronger safeguards against wrongful imprisonment. Ms. Moore's contributions have undoubtedly not only changed the lives of those she directly represented, but also the vast others in similar circumstances throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we must see Ms. Moore go. However, I have

found relief in the fact that she is not leaving her work entirely and will instead be going on to serve the needs of other wrongfully convicted prisoners. I would like to end by wishing Ms. Moore the best of luck in her latest attempt to bring veritable justice to under or unserved areas in Texas.

[From dallasnews.com, Oct. 29, 2011]

PUBLIC DEFENDER WHO SPENT DECADE WORKING TO FREE THE INNOCENT IS LEAVING DALLAS COUNTY

(By Jennifer Emily)

For a decade, Dallas County public defender Michelle Moore has worked on and off the clock to free the innocent from prison and help them adjust to life on the outside once they're released.

This week, Moore, the face of the public defender's office, is leaving to open the first public defender's office in Burnet County, in the Hill Country.

Moore helped free 11 men from prison, appeared on a television documentary called Dallas DNA and helped change state laws to compensate exonerees and prevent wrongful convictions.

"It's tough to leave Dallas County and leave behind the exonerees," she said. "I'll still be in touch and help out."

Dallas County's exonerees are mostly excited about Moore's new opportunity, she said. But they still wish she would stay in Dallas County.

"A couple of the guys were 'Oh, yeah, that's cool,'" Moore said. "But a couple of the guys were like 'We'll never see you again.'"

Someone else will take over her job with the public defender's office, but the position has not yet been filled.

Christopher Scott, freed in October 2009 after spending 12 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, said that while behind bars, he saw Moore on television and hoped that one day she would be his attorney. He said he couldn't believe it when she was appointed to his case.

Scott said Moore not only works on cases in her job as a public defender but also regularly gives them free legal advice and makes sure they are adjusting well when freed from prison.

"Michelle is a princess to us," said Scott, who said he considers Moore both a friend and family. "A lot of people take advantage of exonerees—not Michelle. She gives us advice normally people would charge hundreds of dollars for."

James Hammond, a DA's office investigator who has worked on numerous claims of innocence, said Moore's dedication to her job extends far beyond regular hours.

"She's very compassionate toward the exonerees," he said. "Not just the legal side in the courtroom but that they had clothes and a place to stay. She made sure when they stepped out of the building, they had a parachute, that they had people interested in their interests."

Moore spent 16 years in the public defender's office. In 2001, when the state began allowing post-conviction DNA testing, Moore began working cases in which inmates requested DNA testing of old evidence to prove their innocence. Later, she worked similar cases where there was no DNA to test.

Dallas County has had 22 exonerations by DNA evidence and three, including Scott's, by other evidence. Since 2001, when Texas began allowing DNA testing and Moore began working on cases, the county has had more DNA exonerations than any other county in the nation.

Some DNA tests confirmed guilt and others were inconclusive. Moore was the lead attorney on nine cases in which inmates were freed, and she assisted on two others.

In Burnet County, she will oversee the public defender's office and hire two attorneys, an investigator and an office manager. The office is being created with a grant from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

"It's new territory," she said.

Dallas County prosecutor Cynthia R. Garza, who worked with Moore on several exonerations, said that Moore's efforts, along with those of the DA's conviction integrity unit, established in 2007 by District Attorney Craig Watkins, made an impact on how exonerations are seen locally and throughout the country.

"Her role was very important to her clients and to the whole movement" of post-conviction exonerations, said Garza. People are more open-minded now about exonerations, Garza said.

Moore also worked with legislators to bring about increased compensation for Texas exonerees and changes in eyewitness identification procedures.

"I was excited and relieved," Moore said about the changes to the law. "I'm proud to have been involved, however small, in changing the system."

AT A GLANCE—MICHELLE MOORE

Age: 46

Education: Law degree from University of Arkansas, 1990.

Career Highlights: Joined Dallas County public defenders office 16 years ago; has helped free 11 innocent Dallas County men from prison since 2001; former board president of the Innocence Project of Texas.

## OPPOSE THE SIERRA JUAREZ CROSS-BORDER TRANSMISSION LINE

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Energia Sierra Juarez cross-border transmission line between California and Mexico. I would like to insert into the RECORD Senate Joint Resolution 13, adopted by the California Senate.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13—RELATIVE  
TO CROSS-BORDER TRANSMISSION

[Filed with Secretary of State September 15,  
2011]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 13, Vargas. Public utilities: cross-border  
transmission lines.

This measure would call upon the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy to reject Semptra Energy's application to construct the Energia Sierra Juarez cross-border transmission line between Mexico and California in order to preserve jobs in California, promote energy independence, and uphold California's labor and environmental laws.

Whereas, Cross-border transmission lines between California and Mexico would facilitate the exportation of American jobs by enabling energy companies to import electricity into the United States instead of building energy projects here, where the energy is being used, and thereby move our economy in the wrong direction at a time when we should be putting Americans back to work; and

Whereas, The Obama administration has emphasized the need for our nation to reduce our dependence on imported energy because our nation's economic future and security depend on developing energy infrastructure within our own borders; and

Whereas, A core component of President Obama's electoral campaign was his commitment to a green energy economy, which would usher in a period of environmental advancement and economic prosperity; and

Whereas, Constructing cross-border transmission lines would undermine the President's vision by enabling energy companies to deliver electricity to the United States from foreign facilities not built to American labor or environmental standards; and

Whereas, If we are to reclaim America's middle class, our nation must eliminate opportunities for corporations to export jobs, exploit workers, or raid natural resources: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature, to preserve jobs in California, promote energy independence, and uphold California's exemplary labor and environmental laws, calls upon the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy to reject Semptra Energy's application for a Presidential permit to construct the Energia Sierra Juarez cross-border transmission line between Mexico and San Diego County, California; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to the Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor, and to the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy.

## CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE ST. PETERS- BURG, FLORIDA ELK LODGE 1224

### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of St. Petersburg, Florida Elks Lodge 124 which was established on February 16, 1911. Forty-two members started what would become the second Elks Lodge along the west coast of Florida.

By 1926, with a new three story clubhouse in downtown St. Petersburg, Lodge 1224 became the largest Elk's Lodge in Florida with 1,750 members. Throughout the years, the Lodge has moved several times but in 1970, under a stronger leadership, the post significantly grew and was able to purchase the building it now occupies on 66th Street in St. Petersburg.

Today with nearly 1000 members, the Lodge is very active in a number of important activities throughout the community. Along with many other Florida lodges, Lodge 1224 supports the Children's Physical Therapy Services Program. This program consists of 22 vans driven by physical therapists who offer free services to any child in need. The Lodge also welcomes our nation's veterans with open arms, proudly offering entertainment and meals in their lodge twice a month.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 100 years the members of the Elk's Lodge 1224 have seen the city of St. Petersburg grow from a sleepy

little town of 8,000 to a bustling city of nearly 250,000. Like all Americans, they suffered through the Great Depression, comforted a community through two World Wars, and they continue to serve the community today by proudly offering essential services to our children and veterans. It is my hope that my colleagues will join me this afternoon in recognizing the 100th anniversary of Elks Lodge 1224 and their century of service to our community.

## IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE OF DR. RICHARD LEON HOOKS

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Richard Leon Hooks who passed away on October 29, 2011.

Dr. Hooks was born in Montgomery, Alabama, in August of 1943, and graduated from Alabama State University with a degree in Secondary Education. Dr. Hooks also attended the University of Alabama, where he earned a Masters of Arts and Doctorate of Philosophy in Education.

Dr. Hooks began teaching in 1963 at Cobb High School in Anniston, Alabama. Later in his career, in 1980, he began administrative work with Anniston City Schools. In 2003, he retired and in 2008, was elected to serve on the Anniston City Board of Education. He served two years as the school board president.

It is a sad day in Alabama as we have lost one of our great educators. We honor the memory of Dr. Richard Leon Hooks today.

## TRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL PAT- TON MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND THE WORLD WAR II DESERT TRAINING CENTER

### HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the General Patton Memorial Museum located in the 45th Congressional District and in the center of the historic military landscape—General Patton's World War II Desert Training Center.

Through the hard work and dedication of local supporters, volunteers and donors, the museum preserves artifacts from the major conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries and serves an important role educating the public on U.S. military history. In cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, this historically significant land will be protected for future generations to enjoy.

I want to especially thank Margit Chiriaco Rusche and her family who have given selflessly of their time, energy and finances to preserve the memory of General Patton's presence in our community. Generations of American families have been rewarded with a glimpse of America's military history through this unique facility, and our community has been enriched by the one-of-a-kind historical artifacts preserved at this site.