

## INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCESS TO BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Access to Books for Children Act. This bill would amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide a \$5 voucher to mothers for the purchase of educational books for infants and children participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, WIC.

As a lifelong advocate for reading and early education, I am introducing this bill to help provide nourishment for both the body and the mind to children who need it most. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommend daily reading to a child beginning when the child is 6 months old. The Access to Books for Children Act will make it easier for children in the WIC program to develop literacy skills by placing books in the hands of children who may not otherwise have their own books in the home. Children who are exposed to books and reading before they start school are much more likely to graduate from high school than those who are not. I urge you to support this bill to invest in early education by instilling the love of reading in all children during the formative years that matter the most.

## COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND CIVIL RIGHTS EQUALITY AMENDMENT ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating the one-year anniversary of the passage of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Rights Equality Amendment Act of 2009 (L18-0110).

One year ago, the District, led by the law's authors, D.C. Council member David Catania and then D.C. Council Chairman Vincent Gray, now the mayor of the District of Columbia, joined five states in affording full marriage equality to our residents. Our landmark marriage equality legislation is not the first time the District has led the country in enacting human rights legislation. The District's unique history makes our residents particularly sensitive to human rights, not only for themselves but for others, as well. Even though some of our residents do not favor same-sex marriage, there is among them a deep tradition of tolerance and respect for the rights of others that could serve as a model for other Americans.

It has been refreshing and heartwarming to see the happiness of our new same-sex marriages. Many have had wedding celebrations that have, in turn, brought great happiness to their families and friends. At the same time, the city's new law has benefited our local economy.

We celebrate the first year of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Rights

Equality Amendment Act for the many benefits it has brought to our city and our residents. I ask the House to join me in commemorating the one-year anniversary of the passage of the Religious Freedom and Civil Rights Equality Amendment Act.

## HONORING DAYMON DOSS

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daymon Doss and recognize his contribution to health care in Sonoma County California. Mr. Doss is retiring after forty-five years of leadership and collaboration in building a healthy community.

Daymon received his education in Sonoma County, attending middle school, high school, Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University. His work as a registered nurse and respiratory therapist greatly informed his career path and decisionmaking; he is known as an administrator who understands the needs of clinicians.

My hometown of Petaluma would be a very different place, were it not for Daymon's vision and sense of social justice years ago. He saw that people without health insurance were using the hospital Emergency Room as their means of obtaining health care. He knew they needed a medical home that offered a full range of care, and used his collaborative skills to establish the Petaluma Health Center. When Petaluma Valley Hospital was facing financial challenges, Daymon negotiated a contract with the St. Joseph Health System to run the hospital. When St. Joseph's threatened to close the OB section of the hospital, Daymon was instrumental in saving the department by bringing all stakeholders to the table to find a solution that worked.

You see Mr. Speaker, that is what Daymon Doss does best; he is a consensus builder, a facilitator, a communicator, an inspiration. Daymon knows and holds the respect of our community so that a call from him brings people to the table to find common goals and build workable solutions. An active member of the community, he has served on multiple boards, including Community Health Foundations, COTS, Healthy Community consortium, Sunrise Rotary of Petaluma, Housing Land Trust Sonoma County, and Partnership Health Plan. He has served in a variety of management positions at the Petaluma Health Care District and currently as the CEO.

Mr. Speaker, I have turned to Mr. Doss myself, for factual updates of events that unfold while I am working in Washington, DC. He does not color his words with his own opinion, but he does color them with optimism and a strong belief that there is a solution that will benefit everyone. It is appropriate at this time that we thank Mr. Daymon Doss for his many years of service on behalf of the people of Sonoma County. He has worked tirelessly to promote the health of our community; for this, he deserves our appreciation.

## TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JOSE S. MAYORGA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Major General Jose S. Mayorga, who is completing his service as the Adjutant General for the State of Texas and Commander of the Texas National Guard. General Mayorga has served our United States and the State of Texas for over 33 years in the Active Army Component, in the Army Reserve, and as a member of the Texas National Guard.

Jose Mayorga began his career on a Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship at Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. During his studies, he was recognized as a Distinguished Military Student and was inducted into the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society—an honor that acknowledged his distinguished scholarship and exemplary character.

He began his military service with four years on active duty as an Army Engineer Officer. In the following years, as a National Guard Officer, he held progressively more responsible command positions including Deputy Commanding General for United States Army South and Commander of the 36th Infantry Division. Among his many accomplishments was the advocacy of strong ties between the Texas National Guard and the Czech Republic and the Republic of Chile under the State Partnership Program. As Division Commander and Adjutant General he was responsible for deploying over 12,000 soldiers and airmen to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as, for the development of the first ever Joint Strategic Plan for the Texas National Guard.

General Mayorga has gone on to earn a Master of Business Administration from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

General Mayorga is the recipient of the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

In the true spirit of the citizen-warriors who make up our National Guard, General Mayorga, born in Brownsville, is a life long resident of Texas, where he and his wife, Maria, have raised their son, Jose, a recent proud graduate of Baylor University. General Mayorga, a registered Professional Engineer, also served the State for 27 years in the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission as a Petroleum Engineer and Director, responsible for plugging over 20,000 non-producing oil and gas wells.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, commitment, and leadership of the Adjutant General for the State of Texas, Major General Jose S. Mayorga.

IN HONOR OF FAUSTINO "MANG  
PEPING" BACLIG

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero, Faustino "Mang Peping" Baclig, who passed away Sunday, February 27, 2011. Family and friends will be gathering for a memorial service on March 4 in Los Angeles to honor his long and full life, which was marked by heroism, dedicated community service, and incredible friendships. We are comforted knowing that today he rests in peace.

Faustino Baclig was born in the Philippines on February 14, 1922 to Irene Imperio Baclig and Fermin Gonzales Baclig. Known as Cabugao's town scholar, he completed his primary schooling in four years, skipped two grades and went on to study law at Lyceum of the Philippines University. He also received his Bachelor of Science in Political Science at the University of the Philippines and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the Philippine College of Arts and Trade. After finishing his education by age 17, he began his military career at Camp John Hay in Baguio City, Philippines.

In 1941, by military order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, all members of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines were inducted into the United States military. Faustino Baclig was among those who served and fought heroically under the American flag in World War II. He survived the Death March of Bataan in 1942, the 61 mile forced trek where 75,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war suffered inhumanities and only 54,000 reached their destination alive.

After World War II and the liberation of the Philippines, Faustino Baclig met the love of his life, Francisca, and they married in 1952. They were blessed with two children, Frejie Maria and Filomin "Omi" Antonio. In the Philippines, Faustino Baclig enjoyed a successful career as a college professor, vice president of Provident Memorial Life Plans and as a principal in the family business.

In 1986, at the age of 64, Faustino, known to all as Mang Peping for the respect and honor he had earned, immigrated to the United States with his family. Soon after, he took the United States Oath of Allegiance and became a U.S. citizen. He spent his later years advocating for the issues that he most cherished and volunteered in the community. Mang Peping served as a commissioner on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' Adult Day Health Care Planning Council, co-founded the Golden Agers of Los Angeles, and served as a board member for People's Core, a local community organizing agency. He also was a member of the Filipino American Service Group (FASGI) and Fil-Am Vote.

In 1993, Mang Peping began a historic journey for Filipino veteran justice in 1993, when he convened the first Southern California Veterans Conference. This important meeting brought together hundreds of Filipino veterans to advocate for recognition, justice and equity for those who fought bravely alongside American soldiers in World War II. For while Mang Peping and Filipino soldiers had sworn allegiance to the United States flag and helped

America defeat the Axis powers in 1945, the U.S. Congress committed an enormous injustice one year later when it passed the Rescission Act of 1946. This act intentionally stripped Filipino veterans of the benefit they had earned as soldiers fighting under General Douglas MacArthur.

This is how I was first introduced to Mang Peping. He personally took on the struggle for justice for all Filipino veterans and became an inspiration for my work in the House of Representatives for Filipino veteran equity. Our country owes an invaluable debt of gratitude to veterans like Mang Peping who risked their lives on battlefields throughout this world to protect the basic freedoms that Americans enjoy today. At its very core, the exclusion and discrimination against Filipino veterans by the Rescission Act of 1946 was a supreme injustice.

In 2009, after more than 60 years of waiting, the Filipino Veteran Equity Compensation Fund became law. Filipino veterans finally received compensation for their courageous service during World War II. Because of the heroic work of individuals like Mang Peping, Filipino veterans not only received just compensation but the overdue recognition for their contributions to America's stand for freedom and democracy.

I have never been more certain about anything as this: Mang Peping's leadership and his fighting spirit will never be forgotten. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his loving wife Francisca; children, Frejie and Filomin "Omi" and their families, on the passing of their champion for dignity and humanity.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep affection and heartfelt sorrow, yet with great pride and abundant admiration that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Faustino "Mang Peping" Baclig, an American hero and a man I was honored to call my friend. May he rest in peace.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,178,525,108,267.60.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,540,099,361,973.80 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION  
EXTENSION ACT OF 2011**

SPEECH OF

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2011*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 662—The Sur-

face Transportation Extension Act of 2011. This bill provides much needed funding to keep the transportation projects in our nation going and provides assurance to State Departments of Transportation that vital infrastructure projects can continue without delay. Additionally, this bill buys the House time to put together a comprehensive, longer term surface transportation bill that can adequately address the needs and challenges facing this nation.

I look forward to working on a new surface transportation bill with Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman DUNCAN and with Chairman MICA's leadership along with our colleagues on the full Committee.

I am confident that our Committee will put together a bill that will meet the serious challenges we face in maintaining and improving our infrastructure. I am also confident that we will have the appropriate focus on what we must do to help move our economy forward and the elimination of earmarks will allow us to develop strong legislation that focuses more on need instead of narrow interests.

Throughout history economic growth has followed our transportation grid. Whether it was sea routes, canals, wagon trains, rail, roads and airlinks, growth in our economy has always been dependent on our transportation infrastructure.

I believe this will help to ensure that the most needed projects get funding and help to eliminate any unnecessary projects.

Madam Speaker, it is critical that we make sure that spending stays in line with revenues, and one way in which to do this is to prevent the use of "donor states," or states that give more to the Highway Trust Fund than they receive. My home state of Michigan is such a donor state, and we and other donor states have for too long been at the short end of funding for projects.

My state of Michigan has been ground zero for this difficult economy. We have had among the highest unemployment rates for many years and it is simply unacceptable that hard-working Michigan taxpayers are asked to subsidize transportation funding for states that have not been nearly as hard hit.

This extension is our first step in the process and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation so that we can continue our important work to develop the best transportation network in the world.

**HONORING CONSTANCE H. LAU AS  
A RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 WOMEN'S  
COUNCIL ON ENERGY AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT WOMAN OF  
THE YEAR AWARD**

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Constance Lau for being recognized as the 2011 Woman of the Year by the Women's Council on Energy and the Environment.

As President and CEO of Hawaiian Electric Industries, Hawaii's largest public company, and Chairman of the Board of Hawaii Electric Company (which serves 95 percent of the state), Connie Lau has played a critical role in helping Hawaii—the most oil-dependent state