

HONORING FERNANDO "CHITO"
SALINAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Fernando "Chito" Salinas for his dedication and contributions to the City of Laredo and South Texas.

Mr. Salinas was born in 1924 in Laredo, Texas. "Chito", as he was known by friends, attended Christen Junior High School and later graduated from Martin High School in 1942. After he graduated, he attended Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He transferred to Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana where he pursued a medical career. However, he found that his true calling was in fashion and retail. After moving back to Laredo, he helped his father run the family retail business, Los Dos Laredos. In 1952, Mr. Salinas opened his own store, Don Antonio's Men's Wear. After a brief trip to Europe in the 1960s, Mr. Salinas added the Castilian room to Don Antonio's that would specialize in high-end styles and hats. He was known both locally and internationally for the quality of clothes, but especially for the unique hats that his store carried. Mr. Salinas would travel regularly around the world to fashion hot spots, such as New York, Los Angeles, and Europe, to bring high-end fashion back to southern Texas.

Aside from his impact on the fashion industry in Laredo, Mr. Salinas started the Fernando A. Salinas Charitable Trust in 2005 to benefit Laredo and Webb County. This Trust was designed to provide funding to charitable programs around Laredo and has made donations to over 75 different charitable organizations and government agencies. Mr. Salinas had a commitment to improve his community, especially its education, religion and health programs. The Trust has made it possible for the youth in Laredo to go to college through the scholarship portion and also provided healthcare services to the underserved. Javier B. Santos, trustee for the Salinas Trust on behalf of Fernando Salinas, will continue to provide services to Laredo and Webb County.

In December of 2008, Mr. Salinas was honored as a "Paul Harris Fellow". He also worked heavily with the South Texas Food Bank and helped start Kids Cafes in El Cenizo, Rio Bravo and at the Main Boys and Girls Club in Laredo. He renovated the main building and set up an endowment for its maintenance for one million dollars. He has continued his philanthropic efforts with all organizations and institutions qualifying as 501 agencies in the community and completed the renovation of the Saint Anthony de Padua Chapel at St. Augustine High School. In 2008, he pledged one million dollars to Texas A&M International University for its College of Business Administration.

At the time of his passing, his trust had initiated his contract for Laredo property that will serve as an off campus site of Laredo Community College. The property, a landmark home, will house special events, small classes and receptions, and allow for easier registration and information.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplish-

ments, and commitment of the late Fernando "Chito" Salinas.

HONORING NICOLLE AMOS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Nicolle Amos, a nurse practitioner in Mason City, Iowa. Nicolle was recently named the Iowa Nurse Practitioner of the Year by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

Established in 1985, the AANP was the first national organization to organize and advocate for issues affecting nurse practitioners. It currently serves eleven different regions and represents over 135,000 nurse practitioners in the United States. In addition to promoting education and research, the AANP advocates at all levels of government to shape various health policies and to recognize "NPs as providers of high-quality, cost-effective, and personalized healthcare." The AANP gives the Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award to a nurse practitioner in each state who demonstrates excellence in their area of practice.

Nicolle has a degree as a family nurse practitioner as well as a master's degree in nursing. She worked for seven years as a registered nurse before becoming a nurse practitioner. In November 2005, Nicolle opened her own practice, North Iowa Family Health Care. Although initially staffed only by herself, Nicolle now employs three other individuals—a receptionist, a medical assistant and a licensed practical nurse. She sees an average of 13–16 patients every day, and on Wednesdays she provides health services to local jail inmates. She believes that "God gives you a purpose in life," and that that purpose is to meet her patients' needs to the best of her ability.

I commend Nicolle on the hard work and quality of care she is providing to her patients in Iowa. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating her for the receipt of this award. I wish nothing but success and happiness to Nicolle, her husband Matt, and children Olivia and John.

RECOGNIZING PHARMACY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize pharmacy's contribution to the American health care system. This week, over 300 members of the pharmacy community—including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy leaders and pharmacy company executives—are here on Capitol Hill for the Third Annual National Association of Chain Drug Stores RxIMPACT Day.

These important health care providers are here to urge Congress to recognize the value

of pharmacists and promote access to these medication experts throughout our health care delivery system.

Nearly all Americans live within five miles of a community pharmacy, making pharmacists one of our most accessible health care provider groups. As my colleagues know, one of the most important functions of local pharmacies is to assist individuals in the communities where they operate with their health care needs. While the convenient, safe and efficient dispensing of prescription medicines is a core function of the modern neighborhood pharmacy—and one they take very seriously—pharmacies do much more that positively impacts the lives of their customers and patients. Today's pharmacies offer a variety of preventive health care services including immunizations and vaccinations, health screening services, disease management services and routine advice on the best and most effective over-the-counter products for patients' specific needs. Americans trust their neighborhood pharmacies to provide these services, which is one reason pharmacists have ranked in the top three each of the past eight years in Gallup's annual survey of integrity across all professions.

As the face of neighborhood health care, pharmacies across the nation offer these and other cost-saving programs and services to help patients take medicines they need to achieve positive results from appropriate use of their medications.

Today, I celebrate the value of pharmacy and support efforts to protect access to neighborhood pharmacies and utilize pharmacies to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care.

CONGRATULATING THE STRAITS EXCHANGE FOUNDATION

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) of the Republic of China (Taiwan) as it marks its 20th anniversary.

Twenty years ago, the SEF was established as a semi-official organization with the mission of negotiating with mainland Chinese authorities. Soon thereafter, China established its own Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS). These two organizations have enabled officials from their respective governments to negotiate directly without affirming each other's sovereign status.

Despite the suspension of negotiations for nearly a decade, SEF-ARATS talks resumed in Beijing in June 2008. The subsequent talks held in Taipei, Nanjing, Taichung, and Chongqing resulted in several agreements designed to promote economic and social relations between the two sides. Taiwan and China established direct flights for shipping and postal services, built a framework for financial cooperation and investment, agreed to increase tourism, and enhanced law enforcement coordination.

I congratulate Taiwan for the achievements of the Straits Exchange Foundation. I look forward to the SEF's continued contributions in cultivating peace and prosperity across the Taiwan Strait for many years to come.

OBSTETRIC FISTULA PREVENTION,
TREATMENT, HOPE AND DIGNITY
RESTORATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representatives BALDWIN, HIRONO, MOORE, and STARK, I am reintroducing comprehensive legislation to both prevent new obstetric fistulas and treat existing ones. The "Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope and Dignity Restoration Act" will bring new hope and opportunities to finally end this preventable condition. On the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, this is a fitting bill that will help millions of women achieve their maximum potential.

Pregnancy shouldn't leave a woman with a disability and ostracized from her community. Congress should ensure investments for the more than two million women worldwide that have obstetric fistula and we do what we can to prevent new cases. Fistula results from prolonged labor without medical attention due to the pressure created internally from obstructed delivery, which kills tissue where a hole between the woman's vagina and rectum develops, leaving her without control of her bladder and/or bowels for the rest of her life if she goes untreated. It often results in the death of the infant. Many women with obstetric fistula are abandoned by their husbands and families because they are considered "unclean" due to leaking excrement. Left without support, the women are forced to beg or turn to sex work to survive.

Fistula was once common throughout the world, but over the last century has been eradicated in Europe and North America through medical care. For example, New York's hospital for fistula patients, now the site of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, closed in 1895 due to diminishing cases. But still in 2011, from Bangladesh to Botswana, women continue to face these challenging deliveries and the complications associated with them, including obstetric fistulas.

Fortunately, multilateral organizations such as UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, and its partners in the Campaign to End Fistula, as well as bilateral organizations such as USAID are working with partners on a global campaign to prevent and treat fistula with the goal of making the condition as rare in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia as it is in the United States. Being able to repair a fistula is life changing—and it will have a direct impact on a woman and her family if she is able to stay in her community, rather than to be shunned. At this point, the global community can do just that for about \$300 for each repair.

This bill authorizes the President to provide assistance to prevent and treat fistula. This legislation allows for a comprehensive, three pronged approach of prevention, treatment and reintegration which includes: increasing access to prenatal care, emergency obstetric care, postnatal care, and voluntary family planning; building local capacity and improving national health systems; addressing underlying social and economic inequities such as reducing the incidence of child marriage and increasing access to formal and informal education; and supporting reintegration and train-

ing programs to help women who have undergone treatment return to full and productive lives. These essential investments create a multiplier effect of benefits in the lives of women and their communities. The legislation also supports coordination among the community working to prevent and treat obstetric fistula through the International Obstetric Fistula Working Group. Support for monitoring, evaluation, and research to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of such programs throughout their planning and implementation phases will ensure the most efficient and effective use of U.S. foreign assistance dollars.

I urge my colleagues to support this important, meaningful legislation.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER FILLYAW

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 12-year-old Christopher Fillyaw, of Waterville, Maine, and his participation in Civic Day 2010 at the Alford Youth Center, in Waterville, Maine.

On Civic Day 2010, 8 students from Benton Elementary School shadowed civic leaders to learn about the important work that they do to serve their communities. I was very impressed with Christopher's comments during a ceremony honoring our troops and would like to enter his remarks into the RECORD:

I would like to start out by saying Thank You to all of our brave men and women and their families in the military. They risk their lives and the lives of their families and fight everyday to ensure the freedoms that we as Americans enjoy and sometimes take for granted. If it were not for these brave men and women who serve our country so well, who knows where we would be today.

We really owe them so much more than they receive, for every day is a struggle and the hardships they have to endure while they are in enemy's territory away from loved ones and unfamiliar grounds and then here at home getting readjusted to fit back into their own surroundings. There are no words to describe how important of a job they have and the sacrifices they have to make to do their jobs. It is really amazing. This is one of the hardest and most unbearable jobs in the world to risk the life of your own and the stability of your own family in hopes to save and secure the American way.

I hope that when I grow up I can pay a little something back in some way to show how much I thank them for making my life and my family's life safer.

Chris's comments ring true and showcase the next generation's respect for the sacrifice made by those who keep all of us safe here at home.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the words of Christopher Fillyaw and his commitment to public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN AND THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK CITY BRANCH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the American Association of University Women New York City Branch. Since 1881 the American Association of University Women, AAUW, has been the nation's leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls. Through its vital nationwide network, AAUW influences public debate on critical social issues such as education, civil rights, and health care.

AAUW sponsors community programs; publishes groundbreaking research on women, girls and education; provides the world's largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women; and fights sex discrimination in education. AAUW's work extends globally through its membership in the International Federation of University Women, 72 national federations and associations worldwide.

The New York City Branch was founded in 1886 and is the second oldest established Chapter in the nation. In 1949, the New York City chapter purchased their Victorian Italianate Brownstone headquarters at 111 East 37th Street in the historic Murray Hill district of Manhattan. Under the leadership of President Dr. Nkechi Agwu, the Association continues to carry out the mission, value statement, vision and diversity of this great institution.

In 1951, under the Presidency of Dr. Ruth Wright, the New York City Branch began to honor women who have contributed immensely to the city, nation and the world. These were women who made outstanding contributions in many fields—education, the arts, business, science, medicine, anthropology, law and journalism. Some notable past "Woman of Achievement" honorees include African American trailblazing history makers like operatic and concert singer, Marian Anderson; American journalist and former foreign news correspondent, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, who was also one of the first Black students to attend the University of Georgia and graduate; and "The Mother of Medicine in Harlem," Dr. Muriel Petioni, who founded the Susan Smith McKinney Steward Medical Society for Black women physicians.

This year's theme, "She Touched Me," will salute distinguished women who have played an important role in spearheading women and girl issues throughout this Nation and around the world. Please join in recognizing the 130th Anniversary of the American Association of University Women and the 125th Anniversary of the New York City Branch Chapter.