

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TERRI CRUZ AND HER MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF ARIZONA

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many achievements of Ms. Terri Cruz, my friend and a matriarch of the Hispanic community in Phoenix, who has advocated for the social well-being of thousands of Arizonans throughout her lifetime.

On March 28, 2012, Terri was recognized with an Arizona Latina Trailblazer Award presented by Phoenix College Raul H. Castro Institute and Latino Perspectives Magazine. Such an event provided the opportunity to reflect on her many contributions to the Latino community in Phoenix and Arizona.

More than 43 years ago, I met Ms. Cruz while she was working with the Migrant Opportunities Program and SER Jobs for Progress, two very important programs in our community. At the same time, Ms. Cruz was also serving as one of the founding board members of Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., a nonprofit agency based in Phoenix. Today that agency provides social services, education, economic development, and housing programs throughout Arizona. Terri's known trait of serving with compassion, professionalism, and dignity is apparent in all areas of CPLC's work.

For the past 20 plus years, Terri has worked as a social service provider with CPLC, the organization she helped start. Her small frame and friendly disposition is no match for her powerful advocacy skills, which has undoubtedly allowed her to effectively represent and advance the needs of countless Arizonans. In tribute, CPLC named one of its buildings for Ms. Cruz, and in 2008, she was quoted in The Arizona Republic as saying, "I learned that people are what's important. If people need help, you help them. If you have, you share."

As a child of the depression era, who lost both parents by the time she was six, Terri understood the value of hard work and the importance of caring for others. When she was old enough, she began working at a laundry, married at the age of 15, and became a mother to eight children. Terri assumed the challenge of being a single parent, while simultaneously beginning her work as an advocate for our community, and the issues most important to us. Despite her limited education, Terri's "can do" attitude led her to eventually pursue career opportunities as an office assistant, job developer, and a personnel manager.

Ms. Cruz has also encouraged civic participation and over the past two decades has been one of our most reliable volunteers at my annual Citizenship Day event, where she assists citizenship candidates in preparing their application packets.

Additionally, Ms. Cruz's leadership skills has benefited the many boards and commissions

on which she has served. In 1985, she was appointed by former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt to the Nursing Care Institution Administrators Board, while concurrently serving as the National Chairman of the Hispanic Senior Citizen Foundation Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Ms. Terri Cruz and her continued commitment and service to the people of Arizona.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ZEITA MERCHANT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Lieutenant Commander Zeita Merchant for her service to the country and her contributions to the work of the House of Representatives. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation during the last Congress, I was very fortunate to have her join our staff as a fellow in 2010. I was pleased that she agreed to continue her fellowship during this Congress with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Lieutenant Commander Merchant made invaluable contributions to our work. In particular, she assisted in organizing a forum I co-hosted on the military's efforts to address hazing, as well as recruitment, retention, and promotion challenges for women and minorities across the Armed Services. Her unique perspective and hard work were critical to the success of this event.

Lieutenant Commander Merchant also contributed her expertise on port security matters to our ongoing oversight of the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration.

In addition to her work in the homeland security area, Lieutenant Commander Merchant contributed to hearings on stimulus spending and the implementation of weatherization and green energy loan programs.

We were fortunate and blessed to have Lieutenant Commander Merchant join us for a term as a fellow. I wish her continued success in her next assignment as the Executive Officer of Marine Safety Unit Texas City and note that she will be the first African American woman to serve as the executive officer of a marine safety unit. I am certain that her crew members will benefit from her determination and her exceptional leadership.

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I thank Lieutenant Commander Merchant for her service and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME'S CLASS OF 2012

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I rise to commend five exceptional business leaders from Northwest Indiana who were recently honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame's Class of 2012. Created by The Times and BusiNess magazine, induction into the Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame is determined by a panel of local civic and business leaders. While there were many deserving nominees, the individuals selected as the 2012 Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame inductees are: Milford Christenson, Wil Davis, Linda Woloshansky, Tom Gryzbek, and Steve Pangere. For their many contributions to the enhancement of Northwest Indiana, these honorees were recognized at a ceremony that took place at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana, on Friday, March 9, 2012.

Milford Christenson, of Highland, is the president of Christenson Chevrolet. For decades he has been a leader in the philanthropic community of Northwest Indiana. Milford served in the United States Army during World War II as a member of General Patton's Third Army and earned a Bronze Star for his service. A 1947 graduate of Indiana University, he is a proud member of the Indiana University Alumni Association. In 1951, Mr. Christenson and his family purchased a Chevrolet dealership in Griffith and, twelve years later, moved to their current location on Indianapolis Boulevard in Highland. Christenson Chevrolet was named Indiana Dealer of the Year by Time magazine in 2001. Milford Christenson's story is proof that with hard work and determination, anything is possible.

Wil Davis, of Gary, is the owner/operator of the Gary Jet Center, located at the Gary/Chicago International Airport. A Brooklyn native, Wil graduated from Cornell University and later entered the United States Navy. After serving on active duty during the Vietnam War, Mr. Davis joined the Navy Reserve and served until 1987. In 1989, he visited the Gary Airport, and one year later, Wil and his wife, Jean, along with two partners, purchased a small regional airline and moved its base of operations to Gary. Since then, he has developed the Gary Jet Center into a growing and thriving business, which is a tremendous benefit to the citizens of Northwest Indiana.

Linda Woloshansky, of Ogden Dunes, is the president and chief executive officer of The Center of Workforce Innovations in Valparaiso. An East Chicago native, Ms. Woloshansky graduated from Andrean High School and Indiana University. Linda learned early on that good employment opportunities allow people

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to obtain a better quality of life. Her career has been dedicated to the service of others by improving the educational attainment, workforce viability, and economic development of Northwest Indiana.

Tom Gryzbek, of Dyer, is the president of Franciscan Saint Margaret Health in Hammond and Dyer. Mr. Gryzbek earned a degree from the University of Illinois in 1974. Mr. Gryzbek has also earned a master's degree in business administration from Indiana University Northwest and a law degree from DePaul University College of Law. Soon after graduating, he joined the former Saint Margaret Hospital as a suggestion plan manager. Tom has since made his way up the ranks of the organization, serving in numerous capacities, including executive vice president and chief operating officer of Saint Margaret Mercy. In 2004, Tom was deservedly appointed to his current position. He also serves the religious community of Northwest Indiana as a Gary Diocese deacon at Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish in Merrillville.

Steve Pangere, of Crown Point, is the president and chief executive officer of The Pangere Corporation and Culver Roofing Incorporated, both located in Gary. The Pangere Corporation was founded by Steve's grandfather, John Pangere, who opened the company in Gary after arriving to the Calumet Region from Greece in 1905. Steve Pangere hopes his sons, Nick and Tony, will someday take over the company, making it a fourth generation family business. Steve Pangere has managed to lead a successful corporation while battling the effects of progressive vision loss due to Rod-Cone Dystrophy. He is an advocate and an inspiration to the visually impaired and has contributed to many worthy causes around the Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana region.

Mr. Speaker, the lives of every citizen living in Northwest Indiana has been enriched because of the selfless good work of these five extraordinary individuals. I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding leaders on their induction into the Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. These individuals are most deserving of being named the Class of 2012, and for their leadership and commitment to the Northwest Indiana community, each of them is worthy of our respect and admiration.

**HONORING DAVID SMITH ON HIS
DISTINGUISHED CAREER**

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the long public service career of Mr. David Smith, who is retiring this month as Maricopa County Manager after more than 17 years as the county's top appointed official.

Mr. Smith's career dates back to 1968, when he served three years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, including two years in Vietnam. Since this time, Mr. Smith has received countless recognitions for his work, including the honor of being named Governing Magazine's "Public Official of the Year" in 2001.

Beginning first as a lobbyist for Westchester County, NY, it was there, that he first learned the art of the legislative process and the nuances of federal, state and local governance. In December 1994, he arrived in Phoenix in the midst of a fiscal crisis. In response, he fashioned a strategic plan based on realistic economic analysis, accurate forecasts, smart budgeting, continuous fiscal oversight, and a relentless quest for service improvement. His efforts have in turn helped Maricopa County establish a Triple A bond rating, no general obligation debt, a structurally balanced budget, and more Arizona Quality Awards than any other public or private entity in the state.

Through Mr. Smith's fiscal discipline, Maricopa County was able to build satellite facilities, correction centers, and courthouses with cash reserves, saving hundreds of millions in interest payments that bonding would incur. Also, due in large part to his guidance, Maricopa County's adult probation department is considered a national leader in evidence-based practices and reducing recidivism.

Noting the fiscal challenges associated with rising health care costs, Mr. Smith pushed the county to invest in public health programs. As such, more Arizonans are able to take advantage of health screenings and assessments and the county will also soon open a clinic for integrative medicine, utilizing alternative therapies.

Like many urban centers, downtown Phoenix has needed to address the concerns of chronically homeless adults. Therefore, Mr. Smith proposed a one-stop service center and organized a public-private response with county government taking the lead. Today, the Human Service Campus provides its clients with professional support and resources, and uniquely, through its establishment, has helped spur private economic investment in downtown Phoenix.

Mr. Smith is retiring from county government, but his leadership, vision, and focus will surely have a lasting impact in Maricopa County. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking Mr. Smith for his work and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement as Maricopa County Manager.

JIM COLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Jim Cole on the occasion of his retirement after 23 years of service to the State of Missouri and our veterans.

Jim began his career as a Local Veterans Employment Representative for the Missouri Career Center in 1989, and in the 23 years that have passed since then, he has worked tirelessly to help our veterans find employment. Jim helps coordinate the largest career fair in the northwest region of Missouri, which is held in St. Joseph every year. In 2006, Jim was able to visit Washington, D.C. to receive the State Veteran Services Award from the Department of Labor for his hard work.

Jim is also a veteran himself. Before he began his work for the Missouri Career Cen-

ter, he served in the United States Navy two different times, first serving from 1972–1976, then again from 1977–1981. Jim worked as an Aviation Structural Mechanic repairing A-7 aircraft carrier planes. His life's dedication and hard work should serve as an example of how we can better serve each other and our great nation.

Now that Jim will be retired, he will have more time for his other passions in life, namely, motorcycles. The biker dude will finally be able to ride into the sunset on his new Harley Softail, and take long camping trips with his wife, Elizabeth. As I understand it, Jim was hit by an older driver while driving a motorcycle as a teenager, and thought it would be funny to pretend to be in serious pain to scare the old man. Now that he will be the retired driver, I send him best wishes on avoiding a replay of that day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Jim Cole for his dedicated service to Missouri's veterans. I know Jim's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

**CONGRATULATING THE 2012 MAKE
A DIFFERENCE DAY WINNERS
FROM LAS VEGAS**

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the great work of the volunteers of Las Vegas, Nevada, involved with the 13th annual Make A Difference Day food drive. These volunteers from Las Vegas have been selected as national 2012 Make a Difference Day winners. Make a Difference Day is a celebration of the power of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA Weekend, Make a Difference Day is an annual day of service that mobilizes more than three million volunteers to create change in their community.

This group of outstanding volunteers from Las Vegas has made a substantial impact on our community by collecting 3,500 pounds of canned food. For the past 13 years on Make a Difference day, publicist Mary Vail has teamed up with local grocery stores and encouraged shoppers to buy just one extra can of food to donate. This year, the Smith's Food and Drug store in the Summerlin community served as the event's host location. Volunteers included Mayor Pro Tem Stavros Anthony, TV talent show contestants, and local news personalities who came by to support Mary Vail and her 22 volunteers. Throughout the 13 years Mary Vail has been holding these food drives, she has collected 22.3 tons of food and toiletries for the Salvation Army.

I want to congratulate these outstanding Nevadans for their leadership and great work in the community. I am proud they will be honored here in Washington during National Volunteer Week for their service at the Points of Light event, Celebrating People in Action, on April 19.