

Navidad' one of the top 25 most frequently played and recorded Christmas songs worldwide. Mr. Feliciano has received numerous awards over the course of his career including nine Grammys, a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award. The City of New York also honored him by renaming Public School 155 in East Harlem, "The Jose Feliciano Performing Art School."

Mr. Feliciano is not only a talented musician, but also a humanitarian. He serves as the International Immigrants Foundation's Honorary Ambassador and Official Delegate before the United Nations. He also serves as a board member for New Hampshire's Association for the Blind. The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, an ancient and prestigious Papal Order of the Catholic Church, knighted Mr. Feliciano at St. Patrick's Cathedral. He also received a Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters from Sacred Heart University for his musical and humanitarian contributions to the world.

I am happy to honor Mr. Jose Feliciano, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his many contributions to music and humanity.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DENISE DIAZ

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize a hard-working community organizer, civil rights activist, and working mother of two.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Denise Diaz's parents raised her and her brother on the northwest side of Chicago. Her parents worked hard in the airline catering industry to provide a better life for their children. As union members, they instilled Denise with a strong sense of collective action and a passion for justice.

Denise Diaz received her BA in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her activism began in organizing on the South Side of Chicago. She later became a tenant rights organizer in immigrant communities outside of Washington, D.C.

In 2007, Denise moved to Central Florida to raise her two children and continue community organizing on workers' rights issues. Denise can often be seen picketing in front of major employers, meeting with workers, and leading community events with the support of her husband Mark and her two children, Zoe and Zion.

For over five years, Denise has served as the Executive Director of Central Florida Jobs with Justice. She is also a National Jobs with Justice board member and a board member of the Florida Institute for Reform and Empowerment (FIRE).

Denise's work with the Central Florida Jobs with Justice, a coalition of unions, community based groups, faith based and student groups that work together on economic justice campaigns, has empowered and improved the lives of working families in Orlando.

I am happy to honor Denise Diaz, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her incredible accomplishments on behalf of the working families in Central Florida.

#### RECOGNIZING JOSE F. MENDEZ FOR 40 YEARS OF EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the inspiring career of Jose F. Mendez. He has committed the last 40 years to expanding educational opportunities both in Puerto Rico and the United States.

Mr. Mendez has served as President of Ana G. Mendez University System (AGMUS) since 1974. In 1978, Mr. Mendez advocated for the creation of a Televised Study Center to make university education accessible to students who could not attend a traditional style university. Through his efforts, a televised education program was created and has since been utilized by thousands of students and the prison population of Puerto Rico. In 1985, under Mr. Mendez' stewardship, AGMUS founded Channel 40 (today, Sistema TV), Puerto Rico's first privately operated television station affiliated to PBS.

Mr. Mendez formed partnerships between universities in the United States and Puerto Rico to spark an interest in science and technology among minority groups. Under his leadership, AGMUS has grown to become the second largest private university in Puerto Rico. AGMUS also has three campuses in Florida, including one in my district, and one in Maryland.

Mr. Mendez has held various positions in educational leadership and received numerous awards. One of his crowning achievements was the creation of AGMUS's Permanent Fund for scholarships which provides education to talented students from low income areas.

Mr. Jose Mendez has focused his efforts on education because he believes that our ability to learn and to contribute to human progress is our greatest gift. I am happy to honor Jose F. Mendez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his unwavering commitment to expanding educational opportunities for all.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BETSY FRANCESCHINI

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the career of Betsy Franceschini. Mrs. Franceschini is a leader in both the Central Florida and national Hispanic community.

Mrs. Franceschini has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. She has received multiple awards and recognitions, including Magellan Media Corporation's Businesswoman of the Year Award in 2001, the Dove of Peace International Award in 2006 for her outstanding community leadership, the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund—Success Story Award, and the Entrepreneurial Excellence Award in 2008. Mrs. Franceschini was also recognized in 2012 as one of the Top 25 Most Influential Hispanics in Central Florida by Vision Magazine and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando.

Mrs. Franceschini has been extremely active in the community since moving to Florida in 1985, focusing on issues affecting minorities. In 2003, Mrs. Franceschini was appointed by Mayor Buddy Dyer to serve in the City of Orlando's Strategic Team and Transportation Committee. She also served on the Board of the Hispanic Initiative Business Fund from 1999 to 2006 and headed the Hispanic Task Force for the Census 2000 in Orange and Seminole Counties. Just before that, she served as President of the Asociación Borinqueña (Puerto Rican Association of Central Florida), from 1997 to 1999.

In February 2011, Mrs. Franceschini was one of 15 Latino leaders selected by the White House to meet with President Obama to discuss issues important to the Hispanic commu-

nity. In addition, she successfully organized and executed the first ever White House Hispanic Summit in Central Florida. In March 2011, she was appointed as the first Hispanic Outreach Director for the Florida Democratic Party and successfully accomplished the goal of increasing Hispanic voter participation in Central Florida.

Mrs. Franceschini recently worked as the Deputy District Director and Hispanic Outreach Coordinator for my office in Orlando. On July 1, 2013, the Governor of Puerto Rico, Alejandro Garcia Padilla, appointed her as the Florida Regional Director for the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration. Over twenty-eight years of dedication and commitment has earned her a high level of respect, support, and admiration as a national Hispanic leader in public service.

I am happy to honor Betsy Franceschini, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her outstanding accomplishments and service to the Hispanic community.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION CHAPTER OF B'NAI B'RITH FOR 170 YEARS OF ADVOCACY FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as B'nai B'rith International celebrates 170 years of advocacy and leadership in support of the security of Jewish people around the world, including the Jewish State of Israel, and to recognize its local chapter for the Great Lakes region.

When it was founded in 1843, the members B'nai B'rith set out to create a support network for newly arriving Jewish immigrants in the United States. Among its first actions, B'nai B'rith created an insurance policy to provide members' widows with resources to cover the cost of funeral services and a weekly stipend for the remainder of their lives. It also provided a stipend to each member's children and assured male children that they would be taught a trade. From these initial programs, which were an immediate response to the living conditions of Jewish immigrants in New York, B'nai B'rith rapidly grew, with many fraternal lodges and chapters in the United States and around the world.

As it grew, B'nai B'rith quickly became involved in international affairs which became necessary to respond to rising anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe. As part of its response, the United States opened its first Consulate General in Romania, expanding the reach of American diplomacy. From this initial foray into foreign policy, B'nai B'rith has developed into a global voice for the safety and security of the Jewish people and their homeland.

In addition, to its international initiatives, B'nai B'rith has cultivated and maintained a number of programs to address the changing needs of the Jewish American population. As the Jewish population in the United States has aged, B'nai B'rith has responded to the needs of seniors, opening its first senior residence in 1971 which has grown into an international network of forty residences worldwide. The

array of services offered by B'nai B'rith now includes programs for youth, seniors, humanitarian aid and young professionals, as well as programs that are designed to foster cross-cultural dialogue.

In the Great Lakes region, we are fortunate to have an active and dedicated local chapter of B'nai B'rith which is celebrating its 156th year of service to communities across the upper Midwest. Among the local programs it supports are scholarships for college-bound students, Project H.O.P.E. to provide special kosher food to seniors and community members in-need during Passover, and countless cultural events that share the richness of Jewish traditions with the community at-large.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the outstanding advocacy and leadership that B'nai B'rith has displayed in the last 170 years on behalf of the Jewish people and the Jewish State of Israel. I am further pleased to congratulate B'nai B'rith's local Great Lakes chapter for its incredible work, not only as a leading voice for the Jewish community of the Greater Detroit, but as an important partner that enables cross-cultural dialogue that strengthens the region. I congratulate all of my friends in the Great Lakes chapter of B'nai B'rith and I wish them success as they continue to be a clear and passionate voice for the Jewish communities in the Midwest and around the world.

CONGRATULATING 2013 HONOREES  
OF THE TOLEDO AFRICAN AMERICAN  
LEGACY PROJECT

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2013*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate fifteen individuals who were recently recognized for outstanding achievement by the Toledo African American Legacy Project. The Toledo African American Legacy Project is dedicated to bringing together people to document and preserve the history of Northwest Ohio's African American communities and to celebrate their impact and influence upon Toledo and the greater world community. The organization honored six people, as well as two posthumously and eight upcoming residents during its ninth annual celebration.

The six people receiving honors this year were: Myra Waters, who graduated from Toledo's Libbey High School and is now the Director of the Counseling Center and Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of Baltimore. Samuel L. Price, a Scott High School graduate, is a respected businessman and restaurateur. Joseph Sommerville is a Professor Emeritus in the University of Toledo's College of Education. Lola Glover is a champion for our region's marginalized residents and founder of the Coalition for Quality Education. Dr. Crystal Ellis, a Springfield High School graduate, is an educator who became the first African-American superintendent of the Toledo Public Schools. Wilma Brown, also a graduate of Toledo's Scott High School and the first African-American to become president of the Toledo City Council, served the citizens of Toledo in elected office.

The Toledo African American Legacy Project also posthumously recognized Daniel

Mack, who owned and operated the highly regarded Candlelight Café and Robert Powell who owned Toledo's iconic Powell's Beauty and Barbershop.

In addition to honoring current leaders from northwest Ohio's African American community, the Toledo African American Legacy Project also highlights young, emerging African American leaders from the region. This year, eight people were recognized for their efforts: Kenyetta Jones an autoworker from Toledo who last year introduced President Obama in Ohio and later addressed the Democratic National Convention; Alicia Smith, an educational coordinator at Toledo's Padua Center; Hope Bland, a field instructor at the University of Toledo and Wayne State University School of Social Work; Merdia Allen, Associate Director of the Office of EXCELLENCE and Multicultural Student Success programs and part-time instructor at the University of Toledo; Joshua Peterson, an associate at Eastman & Smith Attorneys at Law; William Pierce, Interim Director of Undergraduate Admission at the University of Toledo; Rodney Eason, Jr., Director of Human Resources at The Andersons; and Keith Jordan, President of the Toledo Board of Community Relations.

I join our community in congratulating this year's African American Legacy Project honorees. Each person's contributions have made us stronger and bettered the lives of many in our region. We salute the efforts of each honoree.

IN MEMORY OF FIRST LIEUTENANT  
JENNIFER MORENO AND  
HER SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2013*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of First Lieutenant Jennifer Moreno who died on October 6, 2013 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. Lieutenant Moreno died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near her dismounted patrol. Lieutenant Moreno was a member of the Cultural Support Team supporting a Joint Special Operations Task Force for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. Born and raised in San Diego, Lieutenant Moreno graduated from San Diego High School and went on to receive a bachelor degree in Nursing from the University of San Francisco. She was commissioned to the U.S. Army as a Nurse Corps Officer where she served as a Clinical Staff Nurse on a medical surgical unit. The Commander of the Ranger battalion, Lt. Col Patrick Ellis, said: "She was a talented member of our team who lost her life while serving her country in one of the most dangerous environments in the world. Her bravery and self-sacrifice were in keeping with the highest traditions of the 75th Ranger Regiment." Her awards and decorations are numerous, including being awarded the Bronze Star posthumously. Mr. Speaker, I know we all extend our deepest condolences to her family and friends who have suffered this tragic loss. Her loved ones will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING RONALD D. MCINROY  
AND THE NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS  
FEDERATION OF LABOR,  
AFL-CIO

**HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2013*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ronald D. McInroy, Director of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Region 4, on being named the Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor's Person of the Year, and also to recognize the positive impact and advocacy of the Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

Director McInroy was elected in 2010 by his peers to lead UAW Region 4, which includes many of the Great Lakes and Great Plains states. He was chosen on the basis of more than 30 years of active membership and leadership in the union. From his earliest affiliation with UAW, dating back to his membership in Local 838 as a John Deere employee, Director McInroy has been a strong and effective advocate for his fellow workers and his union.

Today, Director McInroy services more than 180 locals and 200 collective bargaining agreements within Region 4. The Region is committed to maintaining and strengthening the system of checks and balances that has defined our economy following the labor movement, empowering both employers and employees to create the most dynamic and productive economy the world has ever known.

Through more than classic advocacy, Region 4 and Director McInroy have demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of its members and their families. Region 4 is the country's only UAW Region with a free-standing education center, which I am proud to say is in my great state of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Director McInroy for receiving this great honor, and I would also like to recognize the entire Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor for the outstanding and important work it does. In a democratic society, the interests and views of all people must be heard and considered. The Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor works tirelessly to improve the lives of working families and ensure their voices are heard loud and clear. I thank the members of the Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor for their advocacy, for their dedication, and most of all, for the good they have done on behalf of working people everywhere.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS  
RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 9, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, once again we are considering a piecemeal bill to fund just one part of the federal government while ignoring every other priority. Speaker BOEHNER continues to prevent this House from working its will and passing a clean CR that