

HONORING THE ORGANIZERS OF
THE LAC-MÉGANTIC BENEFIT
CONCERT AND THE AREA FIRST
RESPONDERS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of Farmington, Maine, who continue to aid and assist the residents of their "sister city," the town of Lac-Mégantic, a small town located near the Canadian border.

Early on the morning of July 6, 2013, a train derailment and horrendous explosion devastated the center of this scenic lake-side town of 6,000 residents. 40 buildings were destroyed, 47 people lost their lives, 2,000 residents were displaced and countless lives were forever changed. The heroism of the local fire department aided by fire crews from the Franklin County towns of Chesterville, Eustis, Farmington, New Vineyard, Phillips, Rangeley and Strong helped to avert an even greater tragedy.

In rural Maine, people know what it means to be a good neighbor, and I am heartened by the outpouring of support that has come from the local communities. Four days after the tragedy, local business leaders and municipalities joined together to launch the Lac-Mégantic Relief Fund, a fundraising campaign to assist the town to recover from this disaster. At last report, over \$32,000 has been raised, and I know that this generosity will help the town through this difficult time.

On Saturday, October 12, 2013, a benefit concert will be held in the University of Maine at Farmington's South Dining Hall, and the community will host Lac-Mégantie's mayor, police chief and head of the Chamber of Commerce. I want to thank Farmington Selectman Ryan Morgan, the Wilton Selectmen, and Maine State Senator Tom Saviello for their hard work in organizing what will be a wonderful evening of entertainment, fellowship and solidarity.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring all of the first-responder heroes who responded to the Lac-Mégantic tragedy and those fellow Mainers who continue to support this community as it rebuilds and recovers.

IN THE BATTLE IN HONOR OF A
REAL AMERICAN HERO SPC
COREY GARMON BRONCO TROOP
PLATOON THE UNITED STATES
ARMY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one America's and one of Alabama's most heroic sons, and his family. SPC Corey Garmon of Boaz and The United States Army. On July 11, 2012 while out on patrol in Kandahar Corey was almost killed in an IED blast. Losing both his legs and sustaining numerous other life threatening injuries he has battled back. Just recently he celebrated his alive date, marking the one year anniversary of brush with death. His lovely wife Megan has

been by his side from the beginning, giving him the love and support to help bring him through these darkest of all nights. They are about to have their first child. We are not sure if this is blast related or not, but one of Alabama's brightest sons is a Gator fan. We hope in the coming years once he gets back home we can make him see the light. I submit this poem penned by Albert Caswell in honor of his valor and courage and his family's.

IN THE BATTLE

(by Albert Carey Caswell)

In ...

In The Battle!

All In The Fight!

There are but all of those who but bring their light!

Men of honor!

And Men of might!

Who so march off to war with hearts and souls of steel so very bright!

To leave behind all that they so love and adore!

As where they go,

Angels so fear to tread so for sure!

For no day is so promised all in war!

All in this darkest of dread all the more ...

As all around them the red blood flows and pours!

Where it's, one for all ... and all for one!

A place to where fine hearts of Strength In Honor so run!

For these are America's greatest of all Daughters and Sons!

The Men and Women of Bronco Company, who for all of us so do what must so be done!

For they so live by a code!

As they so lock and load!

A Code of Honor!

A Code of Faith!

While, all around them such darkness waves!

As they so bravely stare death right in the face!

As upon each new morn as they awake,

not knowing if this is to be their last and final day!

While, thousands of miles away ...

their families now so cry and pray!

As they so ask our Lord,

to so let their loved ones live just one more day!

As somehow out into that darkness they make their ways!

To a way of honor!

To a way of faith!

To a way of courage,

that so makes the Angels pray!

As they do battle upon each new day!

As their families,

the tears in eyes they make!

And for all of those who upon battlefields of honor who've died!

It's for all of you and your families we now so cry

Because all in that Battle,

all of your promises you did so keep!

As you so pledged your fine lives away,

to all of your Brothers In Arms all in this bond which binds you so very deep!

For in The Battle,

there is something so magnificent of so to speak!

That Keeps Them Strong,

Them So Keeps!

That So Helps Them To So Fight On an On!

That which will not allow their most courageous hearts,

to so retreat!

All In This Battle,

This Battle Oh So Very Deep!

And one such Southern Son,

who to sweet home Alabama his fine heart so speaks!

Specialist Garmon,

whose heart so shines like the mid day sun!

This BO from BOAZ,

and he knows how to lock and load!

And so lives by such a code!

Who is but Army Strong!

Who all for his Country Tis of Thee,

his fine heart beats loud and long!

Who so came out of death to rebuild his life just like a song!

While, all in those moments between life and death ...

As upon him he could so feel but that hand of death!

As it was in that moment Corey,

when to yourself you so made a pledge!

To win this new battle that which to you this war had left!

With your two strong legs now gone,

your most courageous heart would crest!

As somehow it so helped you to move on only with what you had so left!

As it was Life or it was Death,

as you got up and out of the bed to our hearts catch!

All at speed,

as this Bama would not so rest, would not so heed!

For you had mountains to so climb!

And people to so inspire all in your time!

And a great wife named Megan,

so divine!

And with the help of your fine wife,

as she so stood by her man, so by your side!

As together you've so passed one of the greatest tests of time!

In our times, and in our lives ...

There are Battles that we must fight!

Will we so find the strength and the courage, to somehow deep down inside all of our hearts to so nourish!

The strength to so find!

Or in a town called pity will we now so reside,

and feel so sorry for our selves and begin to cry?

Or will we like Corey,

get up and so begin our climb?

All with hearts of courage full,

to once again to do Battle one more time!

For moments,

are all that we all so have!

To change the world!

To so make the good from out of the bad!

To make a difference with it all!

To so teach us!

To so beseech us!

To against all odds in the end still so standing tall!

But your not perfect Corey,

because you're one of the biggest Florida Gator fans of all!

I wonder if that sticks in coach SABANNNNN'S crawl!

Why you won't roll with The Tide at all?

I'm sorry Lou,

but out to this hero The Gator calls!

And when you get back to Bama,

there's work to be done!

We've got to get you to roll with The Tide, or as a War Eagle fly high my son!

Corey my son,

you are just a young man!

But already,

look at what all in your short life what you have done!

More than most anyone!

And up ahead,

there's so much more for you my son!

Better to live life like a hero,

all in your most heroic sun!

Than to die in the darkness of a life,

of which nothing you have done!

Because, we will all die some day ...

but only heroes up in Heaven will so run!

For life is but a Battle,

that only with but hearts of courage full can so be won!

And Corey, you are one of America's and Alabama's ...

Most Heroic of all Sons

In life and in War ...
 All In That Battle,
 will we be the ones to so bravely march
 forth?
 All in our most selfless quests, to ourselves
 to so ignore!
 Is that not who Heaven is for?
 Specialist Gorman,
 you are a real American Hero so for sure!
 For only The Few,
 will In The Battle so march off to war to so
 answer that call!
 And the last time I saw Specialist Gorman,
 he was walking tall!

HONORING JOSEPH ACABA FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HIS- PANIC COMMUNITY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Joseph Acaba's inspiring career as an astronaut, hydrogeologist, serviceman, and an educator.

Mr. Acaba received his Bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of California, Santa Barbara and his Master's degree in Geology from the University of Arizona. Mr. Acaba was a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps Reserves where he served for six years. He also worked as a hydrogeologist in Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Acaba spent two years in the United States Peace Corps and trained over 300 teachers in the Dominican Republic in modern teaching methodologies. He then served as Island Manager of the Caribbean Marine Research at Lee Stocking Island in The Exumas, Bahamas. Upon his return to the United States, Mr. Acaba moved to Florida where he became the Shoreline Revegetation Coordinator for Vero Beach. He also taught science and math at Melbourne High School and taught for four years at Dunnellon Middle School.

On May 6, 2004, Joseph Acaba became the first person of Puerto Rican heritage to be selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA. After completing training, Mr. Acaba was selected as an Educator Mission Specialist and assigned to the crew of space shuttle Discovery's mission which launched on March 15, 2009. Mr. Acaba, carried a Puerto Rican flag with him and requested that the crew be awakened on March 19 to the Puerto Rico folklore song "Que Bonita Bandera." During his mission, Mr. Acaba performed a spacewalk that successfully unfurled the final "wings" of the solar array that will augment power to the International Space Station.

Mr. Acaba was also a crewmember aboard the Soyuz spacecraft which launched from Kazakhstan and docked with the International Space station in May of 2012. He and the crew spent 30 days at the International Space Station before returning to Earth on September 17, 2012.

Mr. Acaba has received numerous awards recognizing his accomplishments including the Ana G. Mendez University System Presidential Medal, an honorary Doctorate from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, and recognition from the Senate of Puerto Rico.

I am happy to honor Joseph Acaba, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his contributions

to the Hispanic community and his many achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LEO LAMOS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Leo Lamos for his service to Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

Mr. Lamos is a tireless and devoted public servant who has continuously given back to his community. One of Central Florida's great music educators, Leo serves a crucial role in the south Orlando community as the Director of Bands at Cypress Creek High School. As a former student at Cypress Creek High School and later a student at the University of Central Florida, Leo has brought his talents and leadership to a community with which he is very familiar. Under his direction, Cypress Creek's band program has continued to uphold its tradition of excellence by bringing national attention to its burgeoning group of music students.

In order for public school bands to travel, perform and compete on a national level, involvement and sponsorship from the community is crucial. Encouraging partnerships and sponsorships from locally owned businesses, Mr. Lamos has been tireless in his efforts to create an unparalleled musical experience for his over 100 students. Mr. Lamos's efforts in mentoring and educating his students have produced promising young musicians that have gone on to study at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music and several other universities.

I am happy to honor Leo Lamos, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his dedication and service to the students of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF ELIAS "RICO" PICCARD

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Elias "Rico" Piccard for his service to our country and to my district.

Rico Piccard, born Elias Piccard, was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico in 1946. In 1966, he left the island and relocated to New York City. A year later was drafted by the U.S. Army to serve during the Vietnam War. After his honorable discharge, Piccard attended the Hostos Community College in the Bronx, NY, where he graduated with an Associates of Arts degree and completed his Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts. He later went on to attend Columbia University, where he completed a Master's Degree in Social Work.

Piccard's career is characterized by his selfless dedication to help others. During his career he worked as a Social Worker for Volunteers of America and spent ten years working at the Montifiore Hospital in New York City's Rikers Island assisting inmates with mental health issues.

In 1994, Piccard left his position at Montifiore Hospital and moved to Orlando, FL. In Orlando, he became a community leader and helped organize multiple rallies and marches in the Hispanic community. In 2000, he started a new tourist transportation company called Rico Transportation.

Piccard began writing a column called "Rico Informa," Rico Informs, for Puerto Rico's El Nuevo Dia newspaper to describe issues affecting Puerto Ricans living in Central Florida. In 2009, Piccard helped create United Front 436, Frente Unido 436, a community organization formed by a group of neighbors concerned with the physical deterioration and lack of security in the east side of Orange County and Orlando.

I am happy to honor Elias "Rico" Piccard, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his tireless service to his community.

RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF PALMIRA UBINAS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize Palmira Ubinas. Mrs. Ubinas has made invaluable contributions to the arts and Puerto Rican culture.

Mrs. Ubinas has mastered many art forms and uses them to represent her heritage and traditions as a Puerto Rican American. She currently serves as the President and Founder of the Hispanic Arts and Culture International Association (ALPEH), as well as the Co-Chair for the 500th Florida Discovery Council Round Table.

A native of Puerto Rico, Mrs. Ubinas received a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Puerto Rico in Psychology and Political Science. Later, she completed her post-graduate studies in Communications, Public Relations, and Hispanic Literature. Mrs. Ubinas has showcased the talents she obtained through her childhood in Puerto Rico and her university education in her various professional positions. As a journalist, event coordinator, editor, TV and radio host, Mrs. Ubinas has been able to represent her culture and heritage proudly. She has earned several awards and recognitions and served as the Educational Specialist and Commerce Development Officer for the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration.

I am happy to honor Palmira Ubinas, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her continuous service to the arts and commitment to the Hispanic community.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MARYTZA SANZ

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the accomplishments of one of Orlando's true leaders, Marytza Sanz.

As founding President and CEO of Latino Leadership, Inc., Marytza Sanz has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of families in Central Florida. Through Latino Leadership, Mrs. Sanz has implemented social enrichment programs that incorporate leadership development and empowerment, education advancement, and economic community development. Her contribution to our community has helped pave the way for young Hispanics to succeed and become leaders in their own right. Mrs. Sanz truly understands the need to invest in future generations.

Mrs. Sanz lends her expertise to the University of Central Florida President's Minority Advisory Board, the Homeless Coalition Board of Directors, and Florida Devereux Board of Directors. Her work in voter engagement and health education has received national and statewide coverage from media outlets such as CNN, Univision, Telemundo, the St. Petersburg Times, NPR News and the San Juan Star. Mrs. Sanz can be heard on her radio program, Al Oido de la Comunidad.

Mrs. Sanz is a leader and staunch supporter of minority representation. Her work to ensure fairly drawn electoral districts in Orange County has been celebrated in the Hispanic community. Ms. Sanz's work against voter suppression has helped protect the integrity of the democratic process in Central Florida and empower our citizens and families.

Before founding Latino Leadership, Mrs. Sanz worked for the Census Bureau and