

the family of the late Anthony J. Delmonte, and join with me in honoring his life and legacy.

HONORING CHRIS LOWERY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Lowery of Batesville, Indiana on being selected by Governor Mike Pence to chair the Indiana Region 9 Works Council.

Chris has worked at Hillenbrand, Inc. for 19 years, currently as the Director of Public Policy and Engagement. A graduate of Indiana University, Chris previously was the Executive Director of the Association of Indiana Counties as well as an aide to former Indiana Governor Robert Orr and Senator Dan Quayle. Chris has also dedicated his time to education serving on the Batesville Community School Corporation's Board of Trustees as President and founding the Batesville Community Education Foundation.

Chris' leadership in business and education will greatly benefit Hoosiers as he serves as Chair of the Indiana Region 9 Works Council. The Indiana Works Council, created by Governor Pence, is responsible for submitting evaluations of the career, technical and vocational education opportunities that will be used to better prepare high school students for entering the workforce.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating Chris Lowery on having been selected to serve the State of Indiana as Chair of the Indiana Region 9 Works Council.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,747,370,534,090.62. We've added \$6,120,493,485,177.54 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.1 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful State and country, we welcome these heroes to the Nation's Capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Kenneth W. Jacobsen, U.S. Army Air Force; Raymond Smith, U.S. Army Air Force; Virgil E. Trick, U.S. Army Air Force; Charles Williamson, U.S. Army Air Force; Victor H. Banke, U.S. Army; David G. Blattner, U.S. Army; Merle L. Brandsrud, U.S. Army; Gerald J. Broadhurst, U.S. Army; Homer P. Farley, U.S. Army; Donald P. Hancock, U.S. Army; Donald E. Hill, U.S. Army; Arnold J. Jensen, U.S. Army; Ralph E. Johnson, U.S. Army; Jack P. Mills, U.S. Army; William E. Thompson, U.S. Army; William C. Upham, U.S. Army; William A. Vorisek, U.S. Army; Loyd A. Wiltermood, U.S. Army; Vincent R. Gersch, U.S. Marines; Richard R. Harlow, U.S. Marines; Edward L. Killeen, U.S. Marines; Robert J. Klink, U.S. Marines; Robert J. Pattock, U.S. Marines; Benjamin Asquith, Jr., U.S. Navy; Bruce Bennett, U.S. Navy; Louis W. Boesel, U.S. Navy; Eugene S. Clift, U.S. Navy; Rodney L. Downey, U.S. Navy; John B. Dowty, U.S. Navy; Warren J. Dunn, U.S. Navy; Joyce L. Evans, U.S. Navy; Ross H. Flintjer, U.S. Navy; Victor B. Fryer, U.S. Navy; Leonard S. Gisler, U.S. Navy; B. Bruce Huffman, U.S. Navy; Robert L. Jensen, U.S. Navy; Howard D. Kyle, U.S. Navy; Arthur E. Mosher, U.S. Navy; Theodore M. Phillips, U.S. Navy; Richard B. Royse, U.S. Navy; Willard G. Scott, U.S. Navy; Glenndon L. Stam, U.S. Navy; Raymond L. Tompkins, U.S. Navy; Richard H. Wemhoener, U.S. Navy; Charles R. Westerberg, U.S. Navy; Robert C. White, U.S. Navy; Frank L. Woodrum, U.S. Navy; Henry C. Zweigart, U.S. Navy; Richard W. Miller, U.S. Navy Reserves; Cherri P. Gregory, U.S. Navy—WAVES.

These 50 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home States to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Gail Yakopatz for her tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE FRESNO VETERANS HOME OF CALIFORNIA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Central California Veterans Home Support Foundation and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) upon the grand opening of the California Veterans Home in Fresno. This veterans' home is not simply a brick and mortar building. This home is a promise we have made to the veterans of the San Joaquin Val-

ley, and at long last we are keeping our promise.

Veterans in the San Joaquin Valley face great challenges every day. Tragically, more than 600 veterans in Fresno and Madera Counties go to sleep every night without a roof over their head. Guided by the belief that no man or woman who wore the uniform of the United States military should ever experience the scourge of homelessness, we set a goal of building a home to serve the needs of the veterans in the San Joaquin Valley.

Over the years, I have worked closely with the Central California Veterans Home Foundation (CCVHF), local veteran Charlie Waters and countless other volunteers and veteran advocates to plan, strategize, obtain funds and jump hurdles to be where we are today. Throughout the years, I have had many conversations with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to keep the funding in place for this home and with Cal Vet to break ground and begin construction.

This gorgeous home at 2811 West California Avenue is located in my 16th Congressional District in Southwest Fresno and is a 300 bed facility with state-of-the-art design and architecture. The facility is bringing employment to people in the Central Valley and security to our veterans who desire to live out the rest of their life with great honor and pride.

In May 2010 we were all at the future site of the home breaking ground on this beautiful piece of property. We shoveled dirt and we anxiously looked forward to this day with a great desire to quickly help the many veterans who would benefit from this home. However as we celebrate this grand occasion, we should pause to remember three dedicated veteran leaders from the foundation who were with us from the beginning and have since passed away. During the fight for the home, we lost George Sinopoli in 2006, Charles "Chuck" Parnell just a few months after we broke ground in 2010, and Bill Dietzel earlier this year. These great veterans worked closely with me and fought the great fight for this home. Their hard work and dedication will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, the opening of the California Veterans Home in Fresno is truly a long-awaited and special event. I rise today to commend and congratulate CalVet, the VA, the Central California Veterans Home Foundation and all the organizations and individuals that have made this the opening possible. I invite my colleagues to join in wishing the home and its future residents great success.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF TEÓFILO "AARÓN" VARGAS SEIN

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the life and service of Teófilo "Aarón" Vargas Sein, Spiritual Leader and President of the church Congregación Mita, Inc.

Aarón was born on October 23, 1921 in Hatillo, Puerto Rico. Before his birth, his mother, Concepción Sein, suffered from a difficult

pregnancy. She promised God that if he would grant her a good delivery and a healthy child, she would dedicate him entirely to His service. Later, her only son was born, healthy and strong, and she named him Teófilo, which means, "Loved by God."

Teófilo and his parents were part of the first group of eleven members who alongside Juanita García Peraza "Mita" founded the Congregación Mita Church in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. He began his Ministry at the age of 15 and Mita later changed his name to Aarón. Aarón managed the administration of the church's assets and was also the first preacher, the senior guard, and the lead percussionist of the church's band.

In 1970, when Juanita García Peraza passed away, AAarón accepted the leadership of the Congregation. Under his direction, there has been great expansion of Mita's work in Puerto Rico and in the United States, including New York, Florida, Texas, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Illinois, and North Carolina. Internationally, the church is established in Spain, the Dominican Republic, Canada, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador, and Mexico. In Florida, there are congregations in Orlando, Ocala, Miami, and Tampa.

In addition to the spiritual work carried out by AAarón, under his leadership, the church carries out many other social missions. AAarón founded several institutions and entities to provide assistance to members and non-members in every location where the church is established, including Orlando, FL. Among them are: the Colegio Congregación Mita, an elementary through high school established in Puerto Rico; El Paraíso Nursing Home, a center for seniors who are unable to care for themselves; and the Office for Counseling and Social Work.

I am happy to honor Teófilo "Aarón" Vargas Seín, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his dedication to the service of others.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MAURICE FERRE

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Maurice Ferre, a great Floridian.

Maurice A. Ferre was born on June 23, 1935, in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He was the son of businessman José Ferré and the nephew of the legendary Luis Ferré, Puerto Rico's Governor and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Honor.

Mr. Ferre served in the Florida House of Representatives from 1967–68 where he was a strong voice for Hispanics and helped create an ever-lasting legacy as a pioneer for the middle class. Maurice Ferre is the highly regarded former Mayor of Miami, where he was elected to six terms serving from 1973–1985. As Mayor, he led Miami through some of its most tumultuous and prosperous times. As the first Puerto Rican born mayor of a U.S. city and the first Hispanic Mayor of Miami, he helped build a world class city and international destination.

From 1993 to 1996, Mr. Ferre was Vice-Chairman of the Dade County Board of Commissioners. He has been active in national political campaigns and was a member of several presidential advisory boards.

Mr. Ferre is currently a Fellow at Princeton University and is writing a book about Hispanic contributions to American culture. Mr. Ferre is one of the driving forces behind the international-domestic, or "intermestic," dia-

logue, attempting to reach a consensus regarding Puerto Rico's political status from an "international" as well as "domestic" point of view.

I am happy to honor Maurice Ferre, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his visionary leadership and his contributions to the state of Florida and the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALEX RIVERA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the important contributions of Alex Rivera, a Walmart worker who has made huge sacrifices to help working families in Central Florida. Alex Rivera is a 30-year-old former Walmart worker. He is married with two children, Leah and Alexa.

Alex began working for Walmart in Orlando, Florida, on October 28, 2008. It was only part time, but he was very excited to be working for a major company that promised its employees a great future. He began working in the grocery department for \$7.50 an hour. He was happy the first year and learned a lot. His wife also worked at Walmart part time as a Customer Service Manager. During his first evaluation he received a \$.50 cent raise and was eventually offered a full-time position.

When Walmart began to drastically cut workers' hours, Alex found it hard to provide for his family. He picked up a second job at a local 7–11 and had to work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Walmart and then 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at his second job. His increased hours conflicted with his Walmart schedule, and his manager told him his Walmart job came first.

Alex and his wife had to apply for food stamps and Medicaid due to the low pay and limited hours offered at Walmart. Alex began searching online for other workers that shared these same difficulties. He found OUR Walmart and was connected with OUR Walmart leaders. Alex became a member of OUR Walmart and participated in an event at his store in July 2012.

He began organizing in the store and educating workers on their rights. Management spoke to him and told Alex he was not allowed to do this. Alex felt he was being harassed for his organizing efforts.

In September 2012, Walmart fired Alex in retaliation for his activism. Since then, Alex continues to stand up for Walmart workers. He knows the struggles workers face and wants to ensure that Walmart makes the positive changes needed for current and future workers.

I am happy to honor Alex Rivera, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his sacrifice on behalf of those workers who still struggle for their rights.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THE BORIQUEÑEERS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the 65th Infantry Regiment of the Third Division in the United States Army, "the Boriqueñeers." This all-volunteer Puerto Rican unit was nicknamed "the Borinqueñeers," from the name Borinquen given to Puerto Rico by its original inhabitants, the Taino Indians.

Puerto Ricans have fought for the United States as far back as the American Revolution. When Puerto Rico became a U.S. Territory after the 1898 Treaty of Paris, a military governor was appointed and soon the United States Army established itself in San Juan. The first body of native troops was authorized in 1898 and on June 30, 1901, the Porto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry was organized.

After their return from duty in Panama in March 1919, the Porto Rico Regiment of Infantry was renamed "the 65th Infantry Regiment." During this period, the first Puerto Rican to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point, Major Luis R. Esteves, was sent to Camp Las Casas to train Puerto Rican officers.

Over 62,000 Puerto Ricans joined the military during World War II, and over 43,000 Puerto Ricans served in the Korean War. Perhaps the Borinqueñeers most noteworthy moment was during the Korean War. In August, 1950, the Borinqueñeers landed in the port city of Pusan on the southeastern tip of Korea. They were sent into action immediately and joined U.S. forces holding a perimeter against the Communist North Korean invaders. The Borinqueñeers played an active role in the U.S. breakout and drive to the north.

While in Korea, the Borinqueñeers served in nine separate military campaigns, with hundreds of men giving their lives to serve their country. Once back home, the regiment won four Distinguished Service Crosses, 125 Silver Stars, and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citations and the Greek Gold Medal for Bravery.

Yet, while the Third Division received a presidential citation, the 65th Infantry Regiment did not, and none of its members were awarded the Medal of Honor. In 2013, two bills have been introduced, in the House of Representatives, that would confer the Congressional Gold Medal on the 65th Infantry Regiment.

I am happy to honor the 65th Infantry Regiment, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for its historic service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROBERTO CLEMENTE

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage month, to recognize Roberto Clemente for his outstanding athletic achievements and humanitarian contributions.

As the first Puerto Rican to achieve baseball stardom, Clemente worked hard at the game. In his 18 seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates, "The Great One" proved to be an all-around outstanding player, winning four National League batting titles and leading National League outfielders in assists for four seasons. He was awarded 12 Gold Gloves, selected as the 1966 National League MVP, and named the 1971 World Series MVP. Clemente was also the 11th Major League player to record 3,000 hits.

Clemente's accomplishments raised him to stardom, yet he never forgot his heritage and the prejudice he had faced. He fought for the recognition of his fellow Latino ballplayers, becoming a union leader for the baseball players association and speaking out about civil injustices. He was also involved in many community outreach programs to help inner city kids in Pittsburgh, and in the off season, he held free baseball clinics for kids in his home town.

Clemente began managing a Puerto Rican all-star team in Managua, Nicaragua. When an earthquake struck, he began organizing aid and supplies. He died at the age of 37 in a plane crash delivering relief supplies to Nicaragua. Roberto Clemente was posthumously presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Roberto Clemente Walker Congressional Gold Medal, and the first Presidential Citizen's Medal. Each year, Major League Baseball gives out the Roberto Clemente Award to a

player that demonstrates the humanitarian spirit embodied by Roberto Clemente.

I am happy to honor Roberto Clemente, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his achievements on and off the baseball field.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SONIA SOTOMAYOR

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the achievements of the first Latina Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor.

Justice Sotomayor graduated *summa cum laude* from Princeton University in 1976. While she was at Princeton she received the Pyne Prize, the highest academic award given to an undergraduate at the University. She continued on to Yale Law School where she was the editor of the Yale Law Journal. Sotomayor graduated from Yale Law School in 1979 and passed the bar in 1980. She immediately began working as the Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan.

In 1984, Sotomayor entered private practice, making partner in 1988 at a firm that specialized in intellectual property litigation. While working at the firm she also served on the board of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, the New York City Campaign Finance Board, and the State of New York Mortgage Agency.

Her pro bono work at the agencies caught the attention of New York Senator Moynihan who recommended her for a seat on the New York district court. In 1992, President George H.W. Bush nominated her for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and she was unanimously confirmed by the Senate. In June of 1997, President Clinton nominated Sotomayor for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and she was confirmed to that seat in 1998. While serving in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, Sotomayor began teaching as an adjunct professor of law at New York University and Columbia Law School, while also serving on the Board of Trustees for Princeton University.

On May 26, 2009, President Obama nominated Sonia Sotomayor for appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. Her confirmation by the Senate in August of 2009 made Sonia Sotomayor the first Latina Supreme Court Justice.

As our country continues to become more diverse, Justice Sotomayor serves as a powerful role model for women and Latinos in the U.S. I am happy to honor Sonia Sotomayor, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her many outstanding achievements.

HONORING THE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUAN PONCE DE LEON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the extraordinary life of Juan Ponce de Leon, Spanish explorer, first Governor of Puerto Rico and discoverer of the great state of Florida.

Ponce de Leon grew up in a small provincial town in Spain. Seeking adventure, he became a member of Christopher Columbus' second voyage to the New World. During that expedition, Ponce de Leon rose quickly in prominence and was soon commissioned by the Spanish King as the First Governor of the newly discovered Puerto Rico. As Governor, he helped to nurture the new and growing island that is now home to so many hard-working Americans.

The adventurous spirit of Ponce de Leon did not die with his appointment as Governor to

Puerto Rico. In 1513 he set out on what was to be his most important journey. Traveling with a crew of 200, Ponce de Leon arrived at and named Florida on April 2, 1513. As he continued his journey, Ponce de Leon became the first European to have extensive contact and knowledge of the Floridian peninsula and discovered many of the sights and wonders that Floridians treasure to this day. The discoveries and numerous accomplishments of Ponce de Leon laid the foundation for both my great state of Florida as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

I am pleased to honor Juan Ponce de Leon, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his historic contributions to the state of Florida.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RITA MORENO

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the inspiring career and numerous accomplishments of Rita Moreno.

Rita Moreno has broken new ground for Latinos in the field of entertainment throughout her career. In 1961, she became the first Hispanic actress to win the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in the movie *West Side Story*. Ms. Moreno is also one of only eleven entertainers in Hollywood to have received all four major entertainment honors: Emmy, Oscar, Tony and Grammy awards.

In addition to film, stage, television and concert commitments, Ms. Moreno fills her spare time by lecturing to various organizations and university audiences on such topics as *The Value of Diversity to our Culture*, *The Power of Language*, and *A History of the Arts in Film, TV and Theatre*. She is also involved with a number of civic and charitable organizations.

Ms. Moreno has served on The National Endowment for the Arts and as a Commissioner on The President's Commission on White House Fellowships. She has also served as a member of The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

In June 2004, Ms. Moreno was awarded The Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush. In 2007, Ms. Moreno was inducted into the California Hall of Fame by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. In 2010, she was awarded The National Medal of Arts by President Obama, as well as the Here I Stand Award for activism in the arts, and the Hispanic Organization of Latin Actresses (HOLA) Lifetime Achievement Award.

I am happy to honor Rita Moreno, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her numerous contributions to the performing arts.

IN RECOGNITION OF MISS AUBURN TARA JONES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to honor a special young lady in my district, Tara Jones, who is serving as Miss Auburn at Auburn University.

Miss Jones grew up in Kennesaw, Georgia and was crowned as Miss Auburn in February 2013. She ran her campaign on a platform for clean water for third-world nations and was elected to serve in this position by the student body. Tara also had fun with her campaign by doing the "Harlem Shake" to help spread her message. Jones is in her senior year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Tara Jones being named Miss Auburn. Her dedication to those less fortunate should be an example to us all, and I am honored today to help pay recognition to it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on October 8, 2013, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 531 and 532. I was organizing voters on immigration reform. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on both.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD G. "IKE" MCLEESE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous leader in South Carolina's capital city as he prepares to step down as president and CEO of the Greater Columbia Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Donald G. "Ike" McLeese has led the Columbia Chamber for 19 years, and has done a remarkable job encouraging cooperation among business, civic, and governmental leaders. His service is greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed.

Ike McLeese is a native of Anderson, South Carolina and earned an associate's degree from Anderson University in 1964 and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of South Carolina in 1967.

He began his career in the political arena working on the staff of the venerable U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings. I got to know Ike when we were both young men working for South Carolina Governor John West in the early 1970s. He was the governor's Commissioner of Narcotics and Controlled Substances, and was one of the youngest commissioners in the State's history, and I was the first African American to serve as an aide to a sitting South Carolina governor. We were idealists hoping to make our mark on the world, and I am pleased to say that Ike did just that.

As a government insider, his knowledge was in demand. After the West administration ended he served as vice president for Marketing and Government Relations for the architectural and engineering firm LBC&W. Ike then worked for two Columbia public relations firms: Cook & Ruef, Inc. and Newman Saylor & Gregory, and ran political campaigns locally and around the country.

In September 1994, he was tapped to lead the Greater Columbia Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. At the time, the chamber was \$3.2 million in debt. He turned the organization around and made it a vital part of the capital city's power structure.

Ike played a key role in protecting Fort Jackson, McEntire Air National Guard Base and Shaw Air Force Base from the base realignment taking place in Congress, and instead helped those bases grow as other military installations were closing. He cites those