

RECOGNIZING THE MARRIAGE OF JOSHUA DELGADO AND MARVIN TUCKER

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I recognize the marriage of two outstanding, loving Riverside residents, Joshua Delgado and Marvin Tucker, who have waited 19 years for their union to be recognized.

Shortly after the Supreme Court struck down Proposition 8, California's marriage equality ban, and the Defense of Marriage Act, the federal law that barred same-sex couples from receiving federal marriage benefits, Josh and Marvin decided to get married. Now, with the legal recognition of the State of California and the guarantee of federal protections, Josh and Marvin will be married equally, as their peers have been for years.

Serving the United States Air Force for more than thirty years, Marvin Tucker currently works as the Emergency Management at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, where he's served since 1997. Finding comfort in a familiar place, Josh and Marvin hosted their wedding at the March Air Reserve Base Chapel on August 3, 2013.

Although Josh and Marvin aren't the first same sex couple in the Air Force, their wedding is the first same sex union with the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, the first on March Air Reserve Base, and the first in the Air Force Reserve Command.

It is with great honor that I wish peace, joy, and happiness to Joshua Delgado and Marvin Tucker in matrimony.

RECOGNIZING THE TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, WATER FOR SOUTH SUDAN, FOR ITS EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE SOUTH SUDANESE PEOPLE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed honor to recognize the ten-year anniversary of the non-profit organization, Water for South Sudan, and commend this Rochester-based organization for its tireless efforts in the fight against contaminated water use in the South Sudan region. I also want to recognize and congratulate the founder of Water for South Sudan, Salva Dut, and his staff for drilling 177 wells in the South Sudan since October 2003. It is an honor to represent the district in which Water for South Sudan was founded.

Water for South Sudan has exhibited immense devotion to the Sudanese population over its ten-year history, and has served 400,000 people to date. Not only does Water for South Sudan provide clean water to the world's youngest nation, the organization also works to alleviate poverty and rebuild commu-

nities in one of the most economically depressed nations in the world.

Following a devastating twenty-year civil war, the South Sudanese were left without clean water and protection from deadly diseases, including malaria. With child mortality rates, poverty, and starvation at extreme highs, and educational levels and social and gender equality at extreme lows, there was a need for global action to help the South Sudanese people recover. When many only saw hopelessness in South Sudan, Salva Dut saw promise and stepped in to help lead his nation forward.

At the young age of 11, Salva Dut was forced to leave his family and flee South Sudan in an effort to escape the outbreak of violence and destruction resulting from the civil war. Facing rapidly spreading diseases, hunger, and the threat of attack, Dut's strength led himself and others away from imminent danger. During this time Dut showed admirable leadership by helping 1,500 "Lost Boys" like himself reach a United Nations-regulated camp. After more than half a decade living there, he was finally able, along with 3,800 other Lost Boys, to come to America. Dut settled in the welcoming community of Rochester, NY and established the roots that would become Water for South Sudan.

After being separated for 16 years, Dut was able to finally reconnect with his father in South Sudan in 2002. During that trip, he witnessed the devastating effects of parasite and disease-ridden water, as it took hold of his ill father. Dut then decided that he would dedicate his life to bringing clean water to the South Sudan region. This young man, who came to the United States with very little education and a language barrier, went on to become a college student, an American citizen, and the founder of one of the most respected charity organizations to date.

I am very proud of Water for South Sudan, its founder Salva Dut, his dedicated staff, and the supportive residents of the 25th Congressional district. Instead of walking away, Salva Dut and Water for South Sudan have marched forward, meeting the dire need for sustainable and safe water for the South Sudanese.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating, honoring, and thanking Water for South Sudan for its work. I am honored to represent an organization that inspires change on a global level.

HONORING JOHN HALLÉ

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Hallé, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cate Street Capital and recipient of Spurwink Services' 2013 Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Since 1987, Spurwink Services, a non-profit organization that provides mental health and educational services throughout New England, has presented its annual Humanitarian Award to an individual who works to improve the lives of others within the community and state of Maine. Spurwink made an excellent choice in presenting its 2013 Humanitarian of the Year award to John Hallé, who has displayed his

deep commitment to the health and wellbeing of the people of Maine through raising funds and awareness for this important organization.

In addition to his outstanding fundraising efforts, John has positively impacted the state of Maine through his business ventures and forward-looking vision. In 2009, after 25 years with a number of high-growth financial companies, John founded Cate Street Capital, which invests in sustainable and innovative technologies that not only create jobs but also help to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.

More recently, John and Cate Street Capital have focused much of their efforts on reviving Great Northern Paper in East Millinocket, Maine. John's efforts have helped restore one of Maine's proudest and most iconic industries and led to the creation of more than 250 jobs.

On November 9, 2013, John Hallé will be honored as Spurwink Services' 2013 Humanitarian of the Year at a dinner gala and award ceremony at the Portland Marriott at Sable Oaks in South Portland, Maine. I am looking forward to being in attendance as John receives this much deserved award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating John Hallé on being named Spurwink Services' Humanitarian of the Year and recognizing his tremendous contributions to the state of Maine.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEITH SHAPIRO'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keith Shapiro for his outstanding legal career, but more importantly, his leadership and service to the Jewish community.

Keith's legal career speaks for itself. Having practiced in Chicago for 30 years, Keith is the Chairman and Co-Founder of the Chicago office of Greenberg Traurig and serves as the Vice President of the 1,750-lawyer worldwide firm. His success as an attorney in the practice of global business reorganization and financial restructuring earned him recognition as one of America's 100 Top Global Turnaround Professionals. He continues to serve the legal community as part of the Law Advisory Board of the Emory University School of Law. However, his legal career may only be surpassed by his service to his community.

On November 4, 2013, the American Jewish Committee will award Keith with the Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award, given annually to a person who, in the words of Judge Hand, does not "ration justice," thereby safeguarding the rights of individuals in our democracy.

I could think of no more deserving recipient, as Keith Shapiro exemplifies service through action. A strong advocate for U.S.-Israel relations, Keith has served on the Executive Council of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee for many years. For over a decade, he has served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. His is a member of the Board of Trustees of The Jewish Theological Seminary, Vice Chairman of The Anti-Defamation League's Midwest Region, and Chairman of the Anti-

Defamation League's Jerold Solovy First Amendment Freedom Award event.

A proud husband and father, Keith continues to pass along his spirit of service to his three sons and future generations. Keith Shapiro is a model public servant and is deserving of this prestigious honor. Congratulations, Keith.

EL CONCILIO'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 45th anniversary of El Concilio, Council for the Spanish Speaking. Since 1968, El Concilio has worked in Stockton, California, and throughout the San Joaquin Valley to provide assistance to the Spanish-speaking community. El Concilio offers programs that assist with a wide range of services, including immigration assistance, education, English language skills, and financial literacy.

El Concilio is the perfect example of an organization that is committed to working with and for the community to improve the lives of others. By partnering with local and corporate businesses and other organizations, El Concilio is able to engage with the public on a large scale and focus its efforts where they are needed most.

El Concilio's efforts and influence have been instrumental in assisting the Spanish-speaking community. El Concilio has helped unite neighborhoods, foster communication, and provide an anchor in the community where families can receive trustworthy advice and support. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing El Concilio and its staff for their invaluable contributions over the past 45 years.

HONORING THE WORK OF HARKER HEIGHTS, TX MAYOR MIKE AYCOCK

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Harker Heights, TX Mayor Mike Aycock. He's proudly carrying on his family's contributions to public service.

Harker Heights, just over 50 years old, is part of the larger Fort Hood community. One of the fastest growing cities in Texas, Harker Heights offers numerous recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The son of Bell County Commissioner Joe Aycock, Mike is part of a proud family that's been in Bell County since after the Civil War. Mike settled for good in Harker Heights after college. Nurtured by citizen activists and former mayor Ed Mullen, Aycock rose to the mayor's post and has developed a reputation as a courteous and dedicated public servant who remains focused on doing what's right for Harker Heights.

The relatively young city of Harker Heights deserves a mayor with energy and enthusiasm to tackle the challenges of the future. It has

one in Mike Aycock. I'm glad he's there and I look forward to seeing great things happen for Harker Heights.

HONORING PALMER PLACE RESTAURANT & BIERGARTEN'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Palmer Place Restaurant & Biergarten in La Grange, Illinois on its 30th Anniversary. For the past three decades, Palmer Place has been the keystone of downtown La Grange as it has grown into one of the most vibrant communities in suburban Chicago. Since its founding, Palmer Place has served delicious food and quality beers in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

In 1982, Ruth Palmer returned home from a trip to Germany with the inspiration to open what would be the first Biergarten in Chicago's western suburbs. Despite the risky business circumstances, in 1983, Ruth and Mike Palmer founded Palmer Place Restaurant & Biergarten. In the past 30 years the Palmer family has been monumental in reviving downtown La Grange, and helping to make it the thriving business district it is today.

Though the restaurant has grown from 8 employees to 126, Palmer Place remains family owned and operated by Ruth Palmer, and after the passing of Mike Palmer in 1990, their sons Phil and Steve Palmer. Now, the third generation of Palmer's has begun work in the family business: Kyle Palmer, Merle Palmer, and Robert Palmer. The family's commitment to the community has been extraordinary over the past 30 years. In 2012 alone, Palmer Place donated over \$50,000 in gift-certificates to local charities in addition to the family conducting and contributing to numerous charitable events. The family's commitment is further illustrated in the active role they have played in the La Grange Business Association, West Suburban Chamber of Commerce, and the Illinois Restaurant Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Palmer Place Restaurant & Biergarten on its 30th Anniversary. The Palmer Family's flourishing restaurant is a shining example of the positive influence that local businesses can have on their communities. May it continue to thrive in La Grange and serve as an example to all small business entrepreneurs.

HONORING W. BARTON WEITZENBERG

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor W. Barton Weitzenberg, who, along with his law partners at Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery, is a recipient of the Sonoma County Bar Association's 2013 Career of Distinction Award. This is the highest honor presented by the Association and it is, indeed, well deserved.

Mr. Weitzenberg has been a practicing attorney in Sonoma County for 35 years and he, along with his law firm, has won more large recoveries for his clients than any other attorney in Sonoma County. Mr. Weitzenberg specializes in representing individuals in their claims against insurance companies and large corporations.

For his work, Mr. Weitzenberg has consistently been recognized as a Northern California Super Lawyer. Super Lawyers is a rating service that selects outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

He is also recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America according to Best Lawyers, the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. A listing in Best Lawyers conferred on a lawyer by his or her peers is widely regarded by both clients and legal professionals as a significant honor.

Mr. Weitzenberg has served as President of the Redwood Empire Trial Lawyers Association, the Sonoma County Trial Lawyers Association, the Consumer Attorneys of Sonoma County, the Richard Sangster Inn of American Inns of Court and has been a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

He is an instructor in Trial Advocacy with the Stanford School of Law and the Empire School of Law in Santa Rosa, California.

Mr. Weitzenberg's community involvement includes board membership on the Sonoma County YMCA, the Redwood Empire Blood Bank and the California Water Fowl Association.

Mr. Speaker, Barton Weitzenberg has been an outstanding attorney in Sonoma County for 35 years. He is respected and held in high esteem by his peers as is reflected in the honor he has received from the Sonoma County Bar Association. It is therefore appropriate that we honor him today.

RECOGNIZING FARMEDHERE FOR BEING NAMED A TOP 10 "UP-AND-COMER" FOR THE 12TH ANNUAL CHICAGO INNOVATION AWARDS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize FarmedHere, a revolutionary vertical farming facility in Bedford Park, IL for being named a Top 10 "Up-and-Comer" for the 12th Annual Chicago Innovation Awards.

In March 2013, FarmedHere opened the world's largest indoor vertical farming operation. At a repurposed warehouse, FarmedHere uses cutting-edge technological advances in aquaponics and aeroponics to supply Chicagoland residents and restaurants with chemical-, herbicide- and pesticide-free herbs, vegetables, and fish. As FarmedHere's operation continues to expand and become more efficient, they are proving that sustainable urban farming is a viable option for Chicagoans.