

campaigns for state Senators and Commissioners. Zulma also served as the feminine voice on the first non-partisan radio program in Osceola County directed toward educating the Spanish speaking Community on political issues. She has also worked as a volunteer on the presidential, gubernatorial, congressional, and state representative election campaigns as well. She was elected Secretary of the Osceola County Democratic Party, and is an active member of the Orange County Democratic Party.

Zulma has been honored with awards from Estrellas Cristianas Ministries for Chaplain of the Year, Tu Revista Mujer as one of the "Eleven Most Distinguished Women," the Florida Department of Children and Families for Community Partnership, Impacto Newspaper as a "Pioneer of the Past Shining Today," Hispanic Women Assembly, LULAC, United Third Bridge, and the Santa Maria Municipality of Peru for Outstanding Service with Twin Cities Development.

I am happy to honor Zulma Velez-Estrada, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her service to the Central Florida Hispanic community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOSE LA LUZ

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize Jose La Luz, an educator and an advocate for workers' rights.

A native of Santurce, Puerto Rico, La Luz comes from a working-class family and spent his primary years living on the Island. La Luz credits his grandfather, a self-made merchant in the mountain town of Ciales, and his mother, a rural school teacher who nurtured and educated poor children in nearby barrios, with being his role models and instilling a sense of compassion and justice in him. They inspired La Luz to advocate for workers' rights such as better wages and working conditions as an adult.

While growing up in Puerto Rico in the 1950s and 1960s, La Luz's grandfather used to take him to the tobacco, coffee and sugar-cane fields in Puerto Rico where he witnessed firsthand the plight of poor Puerto Ricans who were toiling these fields to earn their meager livelihoods. Having seen the poor conditions under which workers lived and worked, La Luz began to understand the importance of advocating for the human rights of those who had no voice. The fight for basic rights and justice for all people, no matter who they are or where they are from became his life's passion.

La Luz attended the University of Puerto Rico where he studied social sciences before receiving a sports scholarship from the YMCA and transferring to Springfield College in Massachusetts. He is a graduate of SUNY's Empire State College with a Bachelor's degree in Labor Studies. He also has a Master's Degree in labor studies from Rutgers University.

Widely recognized as a labor strategist and intellectual, La Luz has served as a Visiting Labor Leader in residence at Cornell University. He has also written white papers on organizing strategies in labor unions, and served as an instructor in the Labor Studies Programs at Michigan State and Rutgers University. He became a Wurf Fellow in the Kennedy School State and Local Government Program at Harvard University in 2007. In 2011, La Luz received a lifetime award for his distinguished career as one of America's outstanding labor educators from the United Association for Labor Education.

During his college years, La Luz was involved in the Students for a Democratic Society, and spoke out on issues such as the Vietnam War. He also became involved with local Puerto Rican Farm Workers organizations in the Tobacco Valley in Connecticut and Massachusetts. As a community organizer, La Luz helped secure new rights for migrant workers in the area by putting public pressure on the Labor Department of Puerto Rico and denouncing the deplorable conditions that the migrant workers were working under. He also helped merge the local farm workers with Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers of America.

Among La Luz's most recent achievements is the restoration on May 17, 2011 of public worker rights in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico Law 45 had been nullified by the passage of a new fiscal austerity law, Law 7. Law 7 effectively suspended collective agreement clauses in an effort to repress public employees and strip them of collective bargaining rights. Law 7 also caused the layoffs of over 19,000 public sector employees in Puerto Rico and aggravated an already dismal unemployment rate. La Luz was fundamental in speaking out against the injustices by insisting on the need to restore bargaining rights for public workers. La Luz made the case for the restoration of rights as he led a grassroots lobbying campaign along with other union leaders and the President of Puerto Rico's Senate. His efforts resulted in the passage of Law 73 which restored the employee contracts and rights that had been suspended by Law 7.

It is with great honor and pride that I honor Jose La Luz's exemplary contributions to workers' rights and the Hispanic community.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE TO RICK CRAIG AND LAURA DYBERG

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the incredible job Rick Craig and Laura Dyberg have done as board members of the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District. Both of these individuals have enriched and fulfilled the lives of the citizens they have worked for.

Rick Craig served four years on the Board of Directors and three of those four years, as chairman. During his tenure with the board, he served on the Planning and Facilities Committee and was instrumental in helping their "Measure N" program to succeed.

Laura Dyberg served on the board since 2005 and was the Board Secretary for many years. She served on the Planning and Facilities, Personal and Public Relations and Program Committees. She was instrumental in finding a qualified general manager, in the dedication of Harich Field, and with the renaming of the Twin Peaks Recreation complex.

Luckily for the community, both of these exceptional individuals will continue their service in various capacities for the betterment of the recreational community. I wish both of them well and look forward to hearing about their new accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD G. RAJARATNAM

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, California are exceptional. Riverside County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Richard G. Rajaratnam, MD, FRCS, FACS, is one of these individuals. This year, Dr. Rajaratnam will end his tenure as Medical Director for the Kaiser Permanente Riverside Medical Center.

Dr. Rajaratnam has managed and led the Kaiser Permanente Riverside Service Area as Area Medical Director for the Southern California Permanente Medical Group. He has been instrumental in achieving breakthroughs in research and medical advancements. These breakthroughs include the A.L.L. program, Diabetes Care advancement, Choosing Wisely, Patient-Centered Medical Home, and the development of the UCR Medical School to create physician leaders for tomorrow. Dr. Rajaratnam has embraced advancements in technology and science to improve the health of the over 370,000 Kaiser Permanente members in Riverside County.

Through his leadership, Dr. Rajaratnam has led the Kaiser Permanente Riverside Medical Center to be the recipient of multiple prestigious awards, including Leapfrog, California Award for Performance Excellence (CAPE—Baldridge Criteria), Independent Health Care Association for Excellence in Medical Groups, Medicare 5-Star status, and the Office of Patient Advocate in the State of California maximum four-star rating for quality excellence. He is a vital member of the local medical community, having served as a Board Member of Riverside County Health Foundation, California Delegate to the American Medical Association, CMRI Physician Reviewer for the state of California, Board member of Inland Empire Health Information Exchange, Past President of the Riverside County Medical Association, UCR School of Medicine Graduate Medical Education Committee as well as Community Advisory Board.

While retiring from his current position as Medical Director, Dr. Rajaratnam will continue to be a participant in the medical field and contribute his experience, knowledge and expertise to his peers and future physicians.

In light of all Dr. Rajaratnam has done for Riverside County, it is only fitting that he be honored for his many years of dedicated service. Dr. Rajaratnam's tireless passion for the industry in which he serves has contributed immensely to the betterment of Riverside County and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I commend Dr. Rajaratnam for his tireless work with the Kaiser Permanente Riverside Medical Center and express sincere thanks and appreciation for his years of dedication to health care advancements, research, and the overall health of his fellow citizens. I know that many are grateful for his service and salute him as he prepares to end his tenure later this year.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN ELDRIDGE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Justin Eldridge, a former Marine from Waterford, Connecticut whom we lost on October 28, 2013.

Born and raised in eastern Connecticut, Justin served in the Marine Corps from 2001 to 2008. During his time in the Marines, he served a tour in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2005. After being honorably discharged and medically retired in 2008, Justin went on to take an active part in his community—particularly in serving the needs of fellow veterans and their families. Justin was instrumental in the formation of the Thames River Marine Corps Detachment that formed in 2009. During the nearly four years that Justin served as the organization's Commandant he grew the membership to more than 40 people. The Detachment annually participated in Toys for Tots drive and in 2012 distributed more than 2,000 toys to local children.

Like so many of our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, Justin struggled with traumatic brain injury that occurred during his Afghanistan deployment and post-traumatic stress disorder upon returning home. Justin's passing is a reminder that our nation must continue to do all it can to care for the men and women who have served our country and return home with wounds—both visible and invisible.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Justin and his dedicated service to our nation, his community and his fellow veterans, and extending our thoughts and prayers to his family in this difficult time.

TO CONGRATULATE HENRY ROSENBERGER ON RECEIVING PENN FOUNDATION'S ADVENTURES IN EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Henry Rosenberger on receiv-

ing Penn Foundation's prestigious Adventures in Excellence Award, which is presented to a respected local leader who promotes the Foundation's charitable mission.

Mr. Rosenberger has a commitment to excellence and is a community volunteer, who serves on the Board of Directors of Living Branches, Living Hope Farm. In presenting the award, the Penn Foundation highlighted his entrepreneurship, community leadership, service and philanthropy.

Henry and his wife, Charlotte, operate Tussock Sedge Farm in Upper Bucks County, where they have preserved more than half the farm's 450 acres as open space through the Bucks County Farmland Preservation Program. In 2007, they preserved an additional 140 acres in perpetuity.

With our best wishes for continued good works, we acknowledge Henry Rosenberger as a committed leader and respected member of the Bucks County community who has set an outstanding example for others to follow.

HONORING YOUNG KIM

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a former member of my staff, Young Kim, who recently left my office to pursue her passion for public service. Young has had an exceptional career, representing Orange County through my office for over 20 years.

After graduating from the University of Southern California and a stint in the private sector, Young began working for me in 1990, while I was a California State Senator. She continued working with me when I was elected as a U.S. Representative in 1992.

As my congressional staff member, Young served as District Representative and Director of Asian Community Affairs. In her capacity, she was a liaison to the cities within my district, advised me on issues pertaining to the Asian community, and helped keep the community involved and informed about my legislative priorities.

Young also helped to establish the Asian Pacific Congressional Advisory Council (APCAC) to foster a better relationship be-

tween the Asian-American community and the U.S. Congress and served as the APCAC Coordinator.

She also assisted me with my work on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. She traveled to Washington, DC, and Asia to coordinate the activities of the U.S.-Republic of Korea Interparliamentary Exchange (USROKIE) and the International Parliamentarians Coalition on North Korean Refugees and Human Rights (IPCNKR). Through USROKIE and IPCNKR, Young played a key role in addressing the issues affecting U.S.-Korea relations, including human rights, comfort women and trade.

Outside of work, Young has always been very active in the local community. Young is most proud of her involvement with the Orange County Chapter of the Korean American Coalition (KAC-OC), having served as President, Treasurer, and a member of the Board of Directors. Young played an instrumental role in establishing KAC's presence in Orange County.

Young also is a well-known Television Talk Show Host, and radio commentator. She hosted Season 2 episodes of REAL TALK on Arirang-TV, produced and hosted LA Seoul on KSCI-TV Channel 18, and KTE Journal on Korean Television Enterprise. Since July 2007, Young has provided weekly commentaries on political and public affairs through the 24-hour Radio Seoul, 1650 AM.

Young's dedication to community service has earned her many honors, including the distinction of "Rising Asian Woman" by the World Affairs Council, and "Community Bridge Builder" by the Korean American Federation. She has been presented with the prestigious American Marshall Memorial Fellowship (AMMF) by the German Marshall Fund, the "Advocate for Asians Dedicated to the Community through Political Empowerment" Award from the Asian Business Association of Orange County, and the "International Leadership" Award by the International Leadership Foundation.

One of Young's greatest joys is her family. She is married to Charles Kim. They reside in Fullerton and have raised four wonderful children. On behalf of California's 39th Congressional District, thank you Young for your service, and best wishes in your future endeavors.