

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING MR. WALLACE
"WALLY" EVANS, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness but profound respect that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, and a true champion of workers' rights, Wallace "Wally" Evans, Jr. Wally dedicated his life to serving the needs of members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), and he was tremendously successful in his efforts to improve the quality of life for workers in Northwest Indiana and across the nation. Mr. Evans passed away on Friday, November 29, 2013, but his legacy will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of the many people whose lives he touched.

Wally began his career in 1961 as a frozen foods manager at Burger's Supermarket in Munster, Indiana. In 1974, he became a full-time organizer and business representative for Local 1460 of the Retail Clerks Union, Lake County. Throughout the years, the UFCW began to grow and merge with other locals. Wally held numerous positions within the UFCW, including president of Local 1460, secretary/treasurer of Local 1550, and executive vice president and director of collective bargaining of Local 881. He also served as a union trustee for the UFCW Calumet Insurance Fund as well as the Chicago Midwest Pension and Health Funds, and as vice president of the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor AFL-CIO.

Mr. Evans also dedicated much of his time to many organizations and committees throughout his lifetime. Wally served as a Democratic precinct committeeman in Highland, was a member of various boards for the state of Indiana, served as a youth commissioner in Lansing, Illinois, and was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansing.

Wally leaves behind a loving family. He is survived by his wife, Sheila, his adoring sons, Steven and Jason, and their wives, Rachel and Andrea. Wally was also blessed with nine beloved grandchildren. He also leaves to cherish his memory many other dear friends and family members, as well as a saddened but grateful community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in remembering the great life of Mr. Wally Evans. His remarkable contributions to the Labor Movement, both locally and across the nation, are worthy of our deepest admiration. His life of service is to be commended, and his legacy serves as an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT
ALEX ANTHONY VIOLA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Staff Sergeant Alex Anthony Viola who was killed in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan on November 17, 2013 while serving with the 7th Special Forces Group at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Staff Sergeant Viola was born in New York and moved to Keller, Texas at the age of nine. He earned a degree in engineering from the University of North Texas before embarking on his lifelong goal to serve in an elite military unit.

Upon graduating from college he entered the Navy and was accepted for the elite Navy SEAL program. While injury prevented him from completing the program, he never gave up on his dream. Staff Sergeant Viola joined the Army National Guard in 2009 and began Special Forces training in the spring of 2010.

Staff Sergeant Viola lost his life to an improvised explosive device five weeks after starting his first deployment to Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Viola was a true patriot whose persistence and commitment are to be applauded. His mother said it best, "He was just a great guy and I'm not saying that because I'm his mother. This is what he wanted to do, and he kept trying and training. We were just in awe of him, his drive to do that."

I wish to extend my condolences to Staff Sergeant Viola's family and hope that they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on both his grateful country and his proud Special Forces family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RODNEY
FERNANDEZ

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the life of Rodney Fernandez, a pioneer of affordable housing in Ventura County, California. The impact that Mr. Fernandez made on the community is significant and noteworthy. Mr. Fernandez was the Founder of the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), a non-profit community development corporation and an affordable home builder, established in 1981, and served as Executive Director of CEDC until his retirement at the end of 2011.

In the mid-1970s through the Cabrillo Improvement Association, Mr. Fernandez assisted Latino farm workers living at Cabrillo Village in Satcoy to prevent the razing of their substandard homes and eviction by the farm's

owners. Under Rodney's guidance, the farmers pooled money to purchase the land where their homes were located. The group then formed a cooperative, redeveloped their community and ultimately became captains of their own economic destiny through homeownership.

This work gave birth to the non-profit organization, CEDC, as a means to continue to empower and provide housing for those who cannot afford market-rate homes. Under Rodney's leadership, CEDC has grown from a start-up non-profit focused on farm worker housing, to a full-service, diversified organization that develops and manages affordable housing as well as offers homeownership education and lending services, and resident leadership development opportunities. Over 32 years, CEDC has developed 1,465 units of safe, high-quality affordable for-sale and rental housing in eight cities within Ventura County for farm workers, persons with low incomes, minorities (mostly Latinos) and the elderly.

Rodney dedicated his career with CEDC to increasing the supply of affordable housing, while empowering community leaders and being a leading advocate for economic development in the process. CEDC has received honors from various organizations over the years, including the American Institute of Architects, the American Planning Association and other professional groups, including the prestigious "Affordable Builder of the Year" award from Build It Green in 2012.

Rodney was especially committed to seeing that youth and residents in CEDC-built communities and the surrounding neighborhoods excelled at home and in life. In 2011, CEDC's Board of Directors established the Rodney Fernandez Community Building Fund to assist in cultivating the leadership capacity of CEDC residents to attain their goals and empower themselves to take action and improve the quality of life in their communities.

In heartfelt recognition and appreciation of the tremendous, far-reaching and impactful contributions that Mr. Fernandez made to Ventura County and beyond, I wish to send my sincere condolences to his wife, Melinda, his immediate family, and to all who knew him. His work and legacy are valued, and his presence in the community will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATING THE
ISHPEMING HEMATITES ON
THEIR 2013 DIVISION 7 HIGH
SCHOOL FOOTBALL STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ishpeming High School Hematites in earning the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Division 7 Championship this last Saturday, November 30, 2013, at Ford Field in Detroit.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The Hematites earned this distinction by going undefeated during the regular season, winning all nine games. Ishpeming also defeated Mancelona, West Iron County, Lake City, and Harbor Beach to advance to the state championship in Detroit. The Hematites earned their second consecutive championship by defeating the Detroit Loyola Bulldogs 22 to 12. This is the fourth championship earned by the Hematites in school history.

After facing adversity and challenging circumstances last year, the Hematites were able to overcome these daunting circumstances and win the Division 7 championship. I am proud that Ishpeming High School has been able to repeat their stellar performance. On behalf of the residents of Michigan's First Congressional District, I salute the team and its players: Dominic Suardini, Kyle Selmsner, Ozzie Hakkarinen, Tyrus Millimaki, Derek DeCaire, Thomas Finegan, Alex Briones, Noah Olgren, Bobby Zhulkie, Nick Comment, Nate Meyer, Adam Prisk, Dylan Giuchin, Halen Carello, Marcus Antilla, Ozzy Corp, Shawn Peterson, Matt Malone, Mitch Laurin, Jeffrey Matthews, Benjamin Hilliger, Luke Kuliu, Dylan Sundberg, Chandler Nault, Dan Thornton, Jordan Tounsignant, Christian Tounsignant, Isaac Olson, Jordan Burton, Nick Bertucci, David Simula, Joseph Nault, Jake Quayle, Andrew Bennett, Alec VanHorn, Cody Johnson, Devin Kent, Austin Hanninen, Gage Laitinen, Brandon Steve, Arnold Coffie, Hunter Schultz, and Fred Sidh.

Also to be commended are head coach Jeff Olson, assistant coaches Scott Syrjala, Brad Waters, and Tony Marietti, the dedicated parents and all who made the long days of training and travel possible, Ishpeming High School, and the city of Ishpeming on winning the championship for a second consecutive year. Their hard work and determination stand as examples for all citizens of Northern Michigan.

THE PRIMITIVE QUARTET

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six outstanding constituents who together form the vocal ensemble the Primitive Quartet. The Primitive Quartet is a gospel music group formed by two sets of brothers in 1973.

The quartet is currently comprised of Reagan, Larry and Mike Riddle; Norman Wilson; Randy Fox; and Jeff Tolbert. Together they play over 150 shows per year spanning more than 50,000 miles. The Primitive Quartet's contributions to blue grass and gospel music in Buncombe County span forty years. To celebrate this anniversary, the Board of Commissioners in Buncombe County, North Carolina, proclaimed October 12, 2013 to be "Primitive Quartet Day".

The Quartet's commitment to excellence and passion for spreading the Gospel should be commended. As such, I am proud to honor the Primitive Quartet and its members, both past and present.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF CHAD PREGRACKE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chad Pregracke of East Moline, Illinois, who was recently named CNN's "Hero of the Year."

Chad grew up in the Quad-Cities, only 15 feet from the Mississippi River. He spent his free time on the river with his family and worked as a shell diver and fisherman during summer breaks, where he was struck by the amount of waste and debris he saw on the river. In 1998, when Chad was 23, he founded Living Lands & Waters to clean up and support the nation's waterways. Over the last 15 years, Chad has worked with 70,000 volunteers to remove 7 million pounds of debris from rivers all over the country. Additionally, Living Lands & Waters organizes floating classrooms, bringing high school students to rivers and teaching them about the importance of river ecosystems and the damage pollution causes. They are also halfway through their goal of planting one million trees along Midwestern rivers.

Chad Pregracke has received many awards for his work, notably the Jefferson Award in 2002, which was created to be an American Nobel Prize for community and public service. In 2011, Chad was recognized as a Service Hero and invited to speak to all four living ex-U.S. Presidents at the Points of Light Tribute in Washington, D.C. He was chosen CNN's "Hero of the Year" this November by a public vote, winning a \$250,000 award for Living Lands & Waters to continue its important work. Chad has also pledged a portion of his prize to the other people in CNN's "Hero of the Year" top ten to support their worthy programs.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Chad Pregracke for his extraordinary work in our community and across the country, and I am proud that Illinois celebrated Chad Pregracke Day this December 1st.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, 2013, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall vote 597.

Had I been present for rollcall vote 597, on agreeing to the Amendment offered by Representative POLIS to H.R. 1965, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING JOSE ORTEGA ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Jose Ortega on his retirement and

to congratulate him on a career spanning 40 years of both military and federal civil service.

Mr. Ortega's service began in September 1972 with the United States Army. After 20 years of exemplary active duty military service, Mr. Ortega continued making contributions to this country's defense with an additional 20 years in support of the Department of the Army as a civilian employee. As an Information Technology expert for the Department of Defense, Mr. Ortega has been dedicated to supporting several highly complex programs that will have a lasting impact on the readiness of the Army.

In his final assignment as Technical Director for the Product Director of Enterprise Email, Mr. Ortega provided acquisition oversight of Enterprise Email, the Army's number-one IT initiative. Enterprise Email is a service that provides cloud-based email to the Department of Defense. While allowing agencies to share information easily and effectively, Enterprise Email also reduces the cost of operations and maintenance. During Mr. Ortega's two years as Technical Director, the Army successfully migrated over 1.6 million classified and unclassified users from legacy email systems to the Department of Defense Enterprise Email service. Mr. Ortega has played an instrumental role in keeping the operations of DoD agencies secure and is recognized not only for overcoming obstacles and setting specific objectives in his work, but also for displaying exceptional character and serving as a mentor to others. In recognition of his many accomplishments, I am pleased to say that Mr. Ortega has been recommended for the Superior Civilian Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Jose Ortega for his dedication and service. I also thank his family—his wife Sharon and son William—for their support and sacrifices, which have enabled Jose to contribute so greatly to our country.

RECOGNIZING PUEBLO OF ACOMA CODE TALKERS

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, November is Native American Heritage Month, and I rise today to honor the many contributions that Native Americans have made—and continue to make—to our nation's proud history and culture.

Earlier today, we awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to 25 tribes whose members served as Code Talkers during World War I and World War II, including the Pueblo of Acoma, which is one of 22 Native American tribes that call New Mexico home.

The Pueblo of Acoma has been in existence for over 800 years and their original village, known as "Sky City," sits atop a breathtaking mesa west of Albuquerque. To commemorate the Pueblo of Acoma's service, the United States Mint has produced a specially-designed gold coin. One side depicts Code Talkers carrying out communications tasks, while the other side features the Pueblo of Acoma flag.

The Code Talkers proudly served our country with great honor and distinction. They