

the age of eighteen to work as a manual laborer under the Bracero Program. He spent long hours picking fruits and vegetables in fields from southern California to Washington for little pay and under harsh working conditions. Ever the entrepreneur, one day Jesus traded some tools for a pregnant pig, which he brought home to his wife Luz. From that beginning investment, Luz grew a small pig farm while Jesus continued to work in the fields. The couple began a small business by selling pork and poultry, as well as Luz's signature home-cooked food. Their steady efforts led them to open the first Cardenas Markets grocery store in Ontario, California in 1981.

Today, there are 29 Cardenas stores in cities throughout southern California, and in Las Vegas. In my district alone, there are 4 stores, which employ more than 500 people. Jesus extended the warmth and hospitality that made his grocery stores so popular to the communities they served. His business has established close to \$250,000 in scholarships, including a program in my district that helps students who live close to Cardenas stores to attend the local community college, College of the Desert. Jesus himself did not have the luxury of much education, but that did not stop him from providing it to others.

Jesus Cardenas is a model American, who started from humble beginnings and created his own success with hard work and a strong sense of both personal and social responsibility. His life's work will live on through the many people his stores and philanthropy have touched, and as an inspiration to people everywhere who seek to achieve the American Dream.

A TRIBUTE TO PAULA DEVINE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

Today, I stand to laud the tireless efforts of Paula Devine of Glendale, California. Upon her retirement from a 33-year teaching career, Paula remains a vibrant member of the Glendale community, where she volunteers as a women's advocate.

Paula's accomplishments in the community are many. She has served on the City of Glendale Commission on the Status of Women for seven years, where she has been both Vice Chair and Chairperson. Through her unparalleled leadership, the Commission has not only gained great status in the community, but has also raised significant funds through fundraisers and grants to support their programs. With the support of her colleagues, Paula developed a program called "Commission Status Rescue," which provides annual funds to the Glendale Police Department for offering temporary emergency shelter to individuals who have been victims of domestic violence. Paula is a member of the Board of Directors of Glendale Healthy Kids and the Glendale Police Foundation, and a member of

the Advisory Board of both the Glendale Adventist Medical Center and the Desi Geestman Foundation, which raises funds to help families deal with financial burdens while their children are receiving cancer treatment at the City of Hope in Duarte.

In addition to her leadership roles, Paula is a dedicated member and volunteer for organizations such as the Glendale Historical Society, Soroptimist of Glendale, Women's Civic League, and the Glendale Latino Association. Paula has been an influential member of the Bully Me Not Coalition and the Safe Family Task Force, and has worked on creating a Teen Dating Violence Curriculum in the Glendale secondary schools.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Paula Devine, for her exceptional service to the community.

COMMENDING JEANETTE GOBIN ON CELEBRATING HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to Mrs. Jeanette Gobin, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Tuesday, April 30, 2013. On this day, she will be honored with a birthday celebration at Savannah Court in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Born in Ontario, Canada on April 30, 1913 to Arthur and Clara DesRoches, Ms. Gobin is the eldest of two children. After completing her education, Ms. Gobin got married and relocated to Detroit, Michigan with her husband. Ms. Gobin developed a love for traveling. She went out on the road with her husband who was a sales representative for a major tool and die company. After Ms. Gobin and her husband retired, they relocated to Rivera Beach, Florida in the late 1970's. When not traveling, Ms. Gobin volunteered her time at local hospitals helping others.

She is a devoted catholic and said: "My life is an open book. I have lived for 100 years, and have seen almost everything." When asked for her secret to living a long life, she said that it is to live life to the fullest, enjoying each day, learn how to laugh and most importantly help others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding citizen and woman of faith, Ms. Jeanette Gobin, as she and her loved ones celebrate her 100th birthday.

HONORING LOU P. VINCENT

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Lou P. Vincent.

Lou dedicated her career to caring for patients and aiding them as best she could. A dedicated nurse, Lou worked for Dr. John

Grise for 9 years and for Dr. Mark Yurchisin for 22 years.

Specifically, Lou helped deliver my three children: Caroline, Robby and Elizabeth. Lou's smile comforted me as my wife was prepped for each delivery and her comforting persona helped both of us through the process.

My family and I will forever be grateful for her service and thank her once again for helping us welcome our three amazing children into the world. It has been a pleasure knowing Lou and seeing her in the Bowling Green community. She will certainly be missed.

Lou was present on three of the best days of my life, and my wife and I will always consider her a part of our family.

KAREN BORQUEZ-DIAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karen Borquez-Diaz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Karen Borquez-Diaz is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Karen Borquez-Diaz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Karen Borquez-Diaz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE WASHINGTON BALALAIKA SOCIETY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Washington Balalaika Society. The Washington Balalaika Society is a Russian folk orchestra founded in 1988. They are a group of musicians dedicated to studying and performing the rich musical heritage of Russia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe on traditional instruments and in national costume. Today, it is one of the largest and most active of the Russian folk orchestras outside of Russia and performs often in the Northern Virginia—Greater Washington area.

The orchestra is celebrating both its 25th year, and also the 10th anniversary of its conductor, Svetlana Nikonova and her family, emigrating from St. Petersburg, Russia to the United States. In 2006, Ms. Nikonova was granted permanent residency in the United States as an "artist of extraordinary ability." Her family performs with the orchestra, her husband on the bayan (Russian accordion), her daughter on the flute and percussion and

her son, studying music composition at James Madison University, composes music for the orchestra.

The Society's initial membership of eight has grown to more than 55 musicians and it is now the largest of its kind in America, with musicians from in their teens to those in their 90s. It includes several orchestra musician ensembles that present educational and cultural outreach programs in schools, parks, retirement communities and for charitable events in the United States and Russia.

The Russian folk orchestra was founded in St. Petersburg, Russia in the late 1800's by Vasily Andreyev when he realized that the balalaika's unique and inimitable sound needed to receive greater recognition, moving this initial peasant class instrument to the concert stage. The orchestra is organized in instrumental sections similar to a symphony orchestra and under the direction of a conductor. Its principal instruments are the triangular-shaped balalaikas and oval-shaped domras and the "shimmering" sound is produced by the rapid plucking of the strings of the balalaikas, the domras, a gusli (table-harp) and supplemented with accordions, woodwinds and percussion.

It is mystical and enchanting musical sound is patterned after the traditional Russian folk orchestras. Moscow Channel 1 Television, the largest television station in Russia, filmed the orchestra's rehearsal at Rock Spring Church and concert at Kenmore Auditorium, both in my district, and a video-clip was shown on Russian television. It showed Moscow viewers a large and well-developed Russian folk orchestra in America.

"Alive at Twenty-Five, a Silver Anniversary Celebration," concerts will be presented on May 18 and 19, featuring Alexander Tsygankov, Russia's premier domra soloist, and Andrei Saveliev, America's balalaika virtuoso. We're proud the Virginia concert will be held in my district at Yorktown High School, in Arlington.

The Washington Balalaika Society's goal is to expand awareness and appreciation of this musical art form by performing in a broad range of audiences in a variety of venues. It has performed at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall with the Paul Hill Chorale and The Chorale Arts Society, Carnegie Hall in New York, the Embassy of the Russian Federation, and the Smithsonian Institution. It has been the guest of the Andreyev Musical Foundation at concerts in New Jersey. Russian Soprano Olga Orlovskaya, great grand-daughter of the famous Russian basso, Feodor Chaliapan, is often a featured soloist.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to recognize the Balalaika Society, both for their cultural mission spreading news of this art form and the wonderful music they perform in Virginia and around the world.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations and the honorees of its 63rd Annual Awards Banquet.

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations is a coalition of civic and homeowners associations from across Fairfax County. Each year, the Federation honors a select few individuals for their extraordinary contributions to our community.

Five individuals are being recognized for their dedication and years of service to the residents of Fairfax County. As a former two-term President of the Federation, as well as the former president of my own civic association in Mantua, I understand that those who volunteer their time, energies, and talents to civic activities play a role in why Fairfax County is ranked as one of the best communities in the nation to live, work and raise a family. I am honored to recognize the following individuals for their service to the community:

2012 Lifetime Achievement Award: Katherine Hanley for nearly 40 years of tireless efforts at every level of public service ranging from her local homeowners association board, to Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, to Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Ms. Hanley's leadership has been pivotal in transforming Northern Virginia into a community that is envied and used as a model throughout the country. She has devoted herself to causes such as human services, homeless prevention, education, health care services, arts, education, and reduction of gang activity. She has also been a leader in the areas of transportation and the transformation of Tysons. Under her leadership as Chairman, Fairfax County was named "Best Managed County". Ms. Hanley was also named a "Washingtonian of the Year" in 2000 by Washingtonian Magazine; and in 2002, she received the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington.

2012 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year: Peter Murphy for his 30 years of service on the Fairfax County Planning Commission, 25 of which he has served as Chairman. During this time Mr. Murphy has been responsible for overseeing enormous growth and development and implementation of management policies and procedures. In recognition of his contributions, Mr. Murphy has received numerous awards including the Department of the Army Commander's Award (Medal) for Public Service (2009); the 2007 Lawrence V. Fowler Award, the 2006 Katherine K. Hanley Public Service Award from Leadership Fairfax, Inc.; and the Times Courier Citizen of the Year Award.

2012 Citation of Merit: Rose Chu for her decades of service in the areas of health care, senior citizen assistance, and issues of importance to the Asian community. Since 1987, Ms. Chu has served on the Fairfax County Health Care Advisory Board. Ms. Chu is also Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Community Advisory Committee for the Community Health Care Network which provides primary health care serves for 20,000 Northern Virginia residents. In addition, Ms. Chu is one of the founders of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia, CAPAVA, and currently serves as its Secretary.

2012 Citation of Merit: Phyllis Payne for her fervent work as an advocate for our children. Ms. Payne is a co-founder of Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal, SLEEP, which she represents on the Northern Virginia Healthy Kids Coalition and the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax. She is a founding member

in the Fairfax Education Coalition and has served with PTA and PTSA/PTSO organizations. Ms. Payne was an at-large representative for the Fairfax County Public Schools, FCPS, School Health Advisory Committee, and a member of the FCPS Transportation Task Force. All children who have attended public school in Fairfax County have benefited from her efforts on their behalf.

2012 Special Gratitude Award: Kyle Talente for his dedication and contributions to Fairfax County's community revitalization efforts. Mr. Talente served on the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, SFDC, Board of Directors for eight years, the final three as President. After stepping down in 2012, he continued to serve the SFDC on the Advisory Committee. Mr. Talente has also served on the Fairfax County Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Advisory Group and on the Hopkins House Academy Budget and Personnel Policy Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these incredible individuals and in congratulating them on being honored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Civic engagement is the root of a community, and due to these individuals, Fairfax County residents can enjoy an excellent quality of life. The contributions and leadership of these honorees have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

A TRIBUTE TO MEL CULPEPPER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an exceptional woman, Mel Culpepper of Los Angeles, who for many years has worked with non-profit organizations and has made a profound impact on the families in our community.

Ms. Culpepper has served as the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Hollywood, BGCH, since 2007, where she manages the Club's annual budget, spearheads fundraising efforts, and serves as the liaison to government and community agencies. During her time as Executive Director, Mel has introduced development strategies and cost-saving concepts that have greatly contributed to the success of the organization.

Prior to Ms. Culpepper's work for the BGCH, she worked as Director of Residential Treatment Services for Stanford Home for Children in Sacramento, where she managed the budget and developed new programs for children with mental illnesses. Prior to that, she served as the Executive Director of the Central YMCA of San Francisco.

Mel has contributed to our community by creating partnerships and relationships with other Hollywood businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals, which benefit the Club and its members and the community. For example, she created a partnership with the Hollywood Community Housing Corporation,