

HONORING THE MEXICAN
AMERICAN COUNCIL**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary organization that has touched the lives of innumerable people in South Florida, and continues to shine light on the economic, educational, and social issues many Latino Americans face.

For over three decades, Mexican American Council, led by Maria Garza, has served as an organization dedicated to bettering the lives of Mexican American migrants otherwise facing great adversity in their communities. This organization started as a organization serving South Dade County, Florida, and now serves as a national model for serving members of the Latino community. Focusing on everything from raising Mexican American cultural awareness to providing scholastic and scholarship assistance to children of farmworkers, Maria Garza and the Mexican American Council have managed to assist community members encountering increasingly varied obstacles and continues to reach them in meaningful ways.

Under the leadership of Maria Garza, the Mexican American Council serves as an exemplary organization for social service, cultural inclusion, and community engagement, and has undoubtedly earned our respect, admiration, and gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH
SHERMAN**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Elizabeth Sherman, a resident of Sandwich, Massachusetts, who celebrates her 100th birthday today.

Elizabeth, or Betty as her family and friends know her, was born on May 3, 1913, to the Burns family. She later married Alvin Sherman of Brookline, Massachusetts. Betty and Alvin would go on to raise their five children together: Ann, Bud, Mary, Jeanie, and Elaine. The Sherman family later settled in Arlington, outside Boston. Betty, a dedicated and caring mother, also helped support her family by working as a secretary at Harvard University and the Chase Brass & Copper Company.

The Shermans enjoyed many summers at their vacation home on the Cape, and Betty and Alvin would later retire to Sagamore Beach. Though Alvin passed away in 1995, Betty's loving family has grown to include six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Elizabeth Sherman on this joyous occasion of her 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING THE LADIES IN WHITE

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of women who have worked tirelessly towards the advancement of human rights in Cuba, and continue to shine a light on an imperative cause for freedom right in our backyard.

For the past 10 years, the Ladies in White has served as a leading pro-democracy organization of the Cuban human rights movement. Known for being white-clad in symbolization of peace, the women of this organization are all relatives of political prisoners and have remained steadfast in their fight for freedom. They are renowned for their weekly, non-violent, silent protests, and just yesterday received the Salcharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in an award ceremony delayed eight years because of oppressive travel restrictions.

The women of the Ladies in White continue to fight with courage and dignity for the betterment of the lives of the millions of people who call Cuba home, and have undoubtedly earned our profound respect and admiration.

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN VIRGINIA
FAMILY SERVICE'S 2013
COMMUNITY CHAMPION AND
LEGENDS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Lizama as this year's Northern Virginia Family Services Community Champion and also to honor Earle and June Williams who have been named the 2013 Northern Virginia Family Services Legends of Northern Virginia.

Since its founding in 1924, Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) has addressed the growing needs of families throughout our region. NVFS works to improve its clients' lives through a variety of programs in five mission initiatives: housing, child and family enrichment, health access, emergency assistance, and workforce development. Today, 33,000 individuals and families receive assistance each year.

The Community Champion Award is a recognition given each year to someone who has made immeasurable contributions to children and families in Northern Virginia. More than 25 years ago, George Lizama founded Production Solutions and PS Digital, one of the country's largest mail and digital marketing firms providing services to numerous nonprofit organizations, such as the American Heart Association, Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, Capital Area Food Bank, and Human Rights Campaign.

Whether he's in a march for the homeless or cleaning up a park, George carries a strong sense of duty and gains a great deal of reward in volunteering. He embodies passion around the clock. In fact, one cannot distin-

guish the "business George" from the "volunteer George."

During his 14-year involvement with NVFS, George served on the Board of Directors for 11 years and chaired the Gala Sponsorship and Auction Committees. George is receiving NVFS' Community Champion Award this year in recognition of his unwavering sense of excellence in service to his company, his industry, his community, but most of all because George is "passion personified" and one of the most dedicated volunteers you will ever encounter.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams have lived in Northern Virginia since 1970 when Earle's company, BDM International, Inc. relocated to McLean. In 1972, he became President and CEO of BDM, where he served until his retirement in 1992. Under his leadership, BDM's employment grew tenfold to 4,300 and annual revenue grew 550% to \$424 million.

Earle is an Emeritus Director and Past Chairman of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Emeritus Director and Past Chairman of the Business/Industry Political Action Committee, past Chairman of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, past Chairman of the Naval Research Advisory Committee, a Permanent Director and Past International Chairman of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, and former member of the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges.

In addition to being involved in her husband's work at BDM, June became deeply involved in the community. She participated in a major way in the George Mason University annual Arts Gala, joined the Capital Speakers Club, became involved in P.E.O. (a philanthropic educational women's organization), joined Achievement Rewards for College Scientists, and served on the Board of the Fairfax Symphony.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending NVFS for 89 years of service to our region's most vulnerable families and congratulating this year's deserving honorees. I also thank the staff, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners for their dedication and ongoing support of NVFS.

HONORING RICHARD BLANCO

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary person who has made incomparable use of poetry as a canvass for activism and exaltation, and remains a mantel of inspiration for the innumerable people who encounter his work.

Known for his poetic ingenuity and having served as the inaugural poet at the 57th Presidential Inauguration, Richard Blanco joins the ranks of venerated artists and activists as Maya Angelou and Robert Frost. As the first immigrant, first Latino, and first openly gay person to serve in said role, Richard remains a beacon of hope for increasingly diverse individuals in our community and beyond. Further, as an alumnus of Christopher Columbus High School and Florida International University, Richard serves as a special source of delectation for the millions of people who call South Florida home—many of whom I represent.

Richard Blanco continues to grace the world with his unparalleled artistic vision, poetic genius, and social consciousness, and has undoubtedly earned our profound respect and admiration.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated staff of Sacred Heart Hospital as they continue to celebrate Sacred Heart's 100th year of providing dedicated service to the community.

Sacred Heart Hospital started in 1912 in response to a diphtheria outbreak when the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart arrived in Allentown to render nursing service to the diphtheria patients of the Sacred Heart Parish. Since that time, Sacred Heart has answered each and every call from the community.

When Sacred Heart Hospital made a commitment to the Allentown community over 100 years ago, the hospital was a draw to the city and, as a result, a neighborhood took shape. Sacred Heart's response to this neighborhood and beyond has always been simple—they are there to serve. Sacred Heart is personal, different and it is a unique place to heal as a patient. The hospital is also a special, caring place to work each day, with staff and employees who truly believe in the mission of providing nurturing care. Catholic beliefs inspire the Sacred Heart's philosophy of patient care by creating balanced and compassionate paths to well-being. Sacred Heart is focused on providing all persons the personalized approach to medical care they deserve.

Sacred Heart holds the firm belief that it is their responsibility to care for those in need, to promote and to defend the human dignity of each patient, and to create an environment that promotes healing and compassion. These values, and a tradition of commitment to the community, are used to guide the team of nearly 1,300 physicians and medical support staff every day.

Sacred Heart was established as an institution that was truly focused on the patient and that focus will never change. On a personal note, I was born at Sacred Heart Hospital and so were my three children.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Sacred Heart remains a vital part of our community far into the future. I offer my heartfelt congratulations and thanks to the people that make Sacred Heart such a great asset to our community and I wish them continued success and growth.

HONORING THE SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL PARKS TRUST

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary organization that

has consistently worked to better the South Florida community and the lives of the countless people who call it home, and continues to shine a light on the cause for environmentalism, sustainable living, and conservation.

For over a decade, the South Florida National Parks Trust has worked to support South Florida's national parks and to perpetuate the livelihood of our landscape and wildlife. This organization has directly bettered our community through its support for South Florida's four national parks, and indirectly through its promotion of community involvement and environmentalism. The work of the South Florida National Parks Trust allows members of our community to visit better-preserved parks today, and helps to ensure our children continue to have the opportunity to visit parks tomorrow.

The South Florida National Parks Trust serves as an exemplary organization for conservation and environmentalism, and has undoubtedly earned our community's admiration, respect, and gratitude.

NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason. The American Humanist Association has issued a statement, which I submit on their behalf.

"The National Day of Reason celebrates the application of reason and the positive impact it has had on humanity. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm the constitutional separation of church and state in an age where the line between religion and government is increasingly blurred.

"The National Day of Reason is also an opportunity for nonreligious and secular Americans to get out and help local communities. Community service events, such as food and blood drives, are some of the ways that people have worked to help those in need on the Day of Reason and during the rest of the year.

"Therefore, I encourage all citizens to join in observing this day, focusing on the employment of reason, critical thought, the scientific method, and free inquiry to the resolution of problems for the welfare of humanity."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason.

HONORING YOANI SÁNCHEZ

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a courageous woman whose work on behalf of the advancement of human rights has inspired millions around the world and continues to shine a light on the cause of freedom just 90 miles from our shores.

For over 10 years, Yoani Sánchez has documented the realities of life in Cuba through

her blog, Generacion Y, and drawn worldwide attention to Cuba's civil society. Her riveting accounts detailing human rights violations and other injustices have earned her praise and recognition throughout the world. She has been named as one of Time magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World" and won the prestigious El País 2008 Ortega y Gasset Prize for Digital Journalism.

Yoani stands as a beacon of hope for Cuba's future, and her strength in the face of incredible odds has earned our community's profound admiration and respect. If my colleagues would indulge me, I would like to say a few words in Spanish.

Es un gran honor reconocer la valentía de Yoani Sánchez quien es una fuente de inspiración para los millones alrededor del mundo que buscan la libertad y los derechos humanos. Yoani estará con nosotros aquí en el Capitolio la semana que viene e invite a todos mis colegas que vengan a conocerla para aprender sobre las realidades de Cuba y rendirle un homenaje a ella y la causa de los derechos humanos.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today, in recognition of the National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man, created in 1975 to remember the victims of inhumanity, specifically the Armenian people who lost their lives in the early part of the 20th century, I would like to note its importance to our nation.

Nearly 100 years ago, the hatred of one race toward another spilled over from politics into the murder of more than 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of Ottoman soldiers. This day not only recognizes those murdered in that genocide, but also the staggering inhumanity and atrocious acts of violence committed so often throughout human history. This day should serve to not only remind us of millions of lives lost, but that we must act with vigilance to ensure that atrocities are not allowed to ever occur again.

As we remember this dark period in history, we should remain hopeful, because goodness exists and that it is possible to prevent such horrific losses. I stand united with the Armenian people and the rest of America to take up that challenge.

RECOGNIZING THE 2013 PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2013 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards. The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put