

He knew that real change does not come from on top from the elite but from the bottom, from the people. In 1968 it was senior and junior high school students who through Sal came to recognize that they were not the problem nor were their parents the problem for their lack of educational achievement. Sal helped open their eyes that it was the schools, too many teachers, too many principals, and too many members of the board of education who were the problem. Sal taught them that there was no "Mexican problem" but instead a racist problem as it affected the schools and the Mexican American community. Because of Sal, the students—the Blowout generation as Sal called them—empowered themselves. They were not going to accept anything now but a good education so that they could advance as far as their personal talents would take them. Sal knew he had achieved this change in consciousness as he saw hundreds of students walk out of Lincoln High School and Roosevelt High School and Garfield High School and Wilson High School, and Belmont High School and other high schools in other parts of Los Angeles. He knew that it would never be the same and he was right. With tears in his eyes and pride in his very being many years later he said of that day in 1968:

"As the bell rang, out they went, out into the streets. With their heads held high, with dignity. It was beautiful to be a Chicano that day."

In that first week of March, 1968 with thousands of high school students on strike, the students, the college students who helped, the brown berets who provided defense, and Sal made history. They brought the educational establishment to its knees. They showed what Chicano power meant.

Various reforms followed but they were never enough and still not enough even today. But Sal and the students showed that week that major social change can only happen when the people themselves realize that only they can make the changes that will improve their lives. This was the lesson of the Blowouts and the lessons of the Chicano movement. It was the lesson that Sal as a teacher taught that generation and continues to teach us today and in the future.

Sal Castro was first and foremost a teacher but as a teacher he made history not only through the Blowouts but by year after year producing students who would dedicate their lives in whatever profession they pursued to go out and fulfill the legacy of his blowout kids—to change the world. Sal never rested on his laurels. There were still too many kids that he needed to reach and which he did not only in his classes but through his unselfish work in inspiring new generations of future Chicano/Latino leaders by his Chicano Youth Leadership Conference.

Sal Castro is a giant in Chicano history and also needs to be recognized as a giant in American history. He showed us that real education is different from schooling. Schooling produces students who accept the status quo and never ask "why?" Education produces students who not only ask "why" but act on their question.

I personally will miss a colleague, a fellow teacher, and a dear friend. I will miss him coming to my classes as he did for many years never asking for compensation but always with the same passion wanting to share his story with students. I often joked that if Sal couldn't show up I could give Sal's talk because I had heard it so often. And now I will give that talk by myself but I also rededicate myself today to his mission in life and will teach others about Sal Castro and his place in history.

The last question I asked Sal is how do you wish to be remembered. He simply said: "I want my tombstone to read—Sal Castro a

teacher" and he added in concluding his story and he is saying this to us today:

"Que Dios les Bendiga y que La Virgen Morena les proteja."

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of efforts to fight sexual assault in the military. Sexual assault and rape are violent and horrific crimes, and they must be treated as serious offense, not—as Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS of Georgia has suggested—as a byproduct of "hormones."

According to Pentagon estimates, last year, over 70 service women and men were sexually assaulted every single day. The Department of Defense estimates that 26,000 sexual assaults occurred last year, an increase from the estimated 19,300 assaults in 2010. Yet only a fraction of those crimes are referred to courts martial.

We face an epidemic of sexual assault in the military. Because of a culture of intimidation and retaliation against victims, coupled with the low rate of prosecution and punishment, the vast majority of these crimes go unreported. In some instances, the victim seeks help but opts not to file a formal complaint.

The men and women of the armed services risk their lives to defend our country. Our military is built on the values of trust, discipline, and respect.

Despite growing discussion and awareness of the fact that sexual assault has become entrenched in our military culture, we've seen limited progress toward a solution. That's why I am proud to support provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that make progress toward combating military sexual assault. As currently written, the NDAA strips commanders of their ability to dismiss court martial convictions for serious offenders, and it prohibits commanders from reducing guilty findings for serious offenses. The NDAA requires that servicemembers found guilty of rape or sexual assault be punitively discharged from the military.

Among other provisions, the Defense Authorization bill we're considering today also lays out the rights of victims. It allows them to apply for a permanent change of station or unit transfer, ensuring they are not forced to continue to serve next to their assaulter.

However, I believe we need to go further. I am a cosponsor of Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER's legislation H.R. 1593, the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention (STOP) Act. The STOP Act would take the reporting, oversight, investigation and victim care of sexual assaults out of the hands of the military's normal chain of command and place jurisdiction in the newly-created, autonomous Sexual Assault Oversight and Response Office comprised of civilian and military experts.

In addition to the STOP Act, Congresswoman SPEIER has introduced an amendment—which I am proud to cosponsor—to the Defense Authorization bill taking the decision-making of whether to prosecute out of the chain of command and give discretion to trained prosecutors.

Mr. Speaker, service women and men who survive sexual violence should not have to choose between their careers and justice. They should not be afraid to report crimes perpetrated against them, and they should not face intimidation when seeking treatment and other services. I strongly believe we need to take action now to fundamentally change the way sexual assault is handled in the military by passing legislation to prevent and punish sexual assault and rape.

IN CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH IN MACON, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a longstanding tradition in Macon, Georgia, the 21st Annual Juneteenth Freedom Festival. Georgia Juneteenth Week spans from June 8, 2013 to June 15, 2013, culminating in the Juneteenth Freedom Festival on Saturday, June 15, 2013 from noon to sundown at Historic Tattnell Square Park in Macon, Georgia.

On June 19, 1865 in Galveston, Texas, two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Union Troops seized control of the area and declared all slaves free. Since then, Juneteenth has been nationally and internationally observed as Emancipation Day and the end of slavery in the United States for those who did not receive the news that the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863 until June, 1865.

Whether it is a day, week, or month-long celebration, Juneteenth brings people of all walks of life together for remembrance of a dark period in our Nation's history, to rejoice at how far we have come as a society, and to reflect upon how far we have yet to go.

For the past 21 years, Torchlight Academy, Inc. and Kwanzaa Cultural Access Center have partnered to organize the Juneteenth celebrations in Macon, Georgia. The Juneteenth Freedom Festival has been one of the most innovative, vibrant and enjoyable displays of Afro-centric art, talent and culture in Middle Georgia. With agricultural education exhibits; live jazz, soul and hip hop music; modern and African dance; delicious food; live history exhibits; children's games; and storytelling, this partnership has fostered the spirit of community that is so deeply anchored in our ancestral roots.

Macon's oldest continuous African-American community-based festival, the Juneteenth celebrations and annual Freedom Festival unite Middle Georgians to honor the struggle, sacrifice and success of our ancestors.

This year's local Juneteenth festivities included a "Salute to Freedom" 5k Run/Walk for Health and Peace, the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Reunion, Heritage Discovery Walk, Macon Black Heritage Tours, and the Real Talk Hip Hop Summit of Youth Awareness and Responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting Mr. George A. Fadil Muhammad, Torchlight Academy, Inc., Kwanzaa Cultural Access Center, the residents of Macon, Georgia and the surrounding communities as

they come together to celebrate Juneteenth. This spirited celebration is an annual reminder of the valiant souls of our Nation's history to whom we owe so much. Let us also use this occasion to reflect upon ourselves and how we can each lead a life that honors the sacrifice of our ancestors.

RECOGNIZING DIEGO ARENCÓN ON FATHER'S DAY

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Father's Day is a time for families to come together, a time to honor the role of fathers in our lives, and a time to count our blessings. But for many Americans, this Sunday will be the first Father's Day where they won't be able to hug their dad tight. And for fathers who have lost a child in the past year, this will be the first Father's Day where they can't look into their son's or daughter's eyes and tell them how much joy they bring them every day.

This Father's Day, I would like to honor one of my constituents, Diego Arencón, who has sadly lost both his father and his son in the past year. A dedicated public servant, Diego is a member of the Albuquerque Fire Department and is President of the Albuquerque Area Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 244. He has selflessly risked his life to keep the residents of Albuquerque safe. He is an effective advocate for his fellow firefighters, an accomplished jazz drummer, and I'm proud to be counted among those who call Diego a friend.

Diego and his continued commitment to his wife, Lupe, and to his surviving children, Santiago, Loliana and Diego, is an inspiration to all who know him.

In early January of this year, Diego's father, Jose "Pelete" Arencón, passed away. A prominent gypsy flamenco singer, Jose was known for his compelling voice. He began singing as a child, and became a professional singer as a teenager. Born in Spain, he moved to Albuquerque with his wife in 1975, bringing the traditional roots of flamenco to the Duke City.

Diego's son, Nikolas Ventura-Arencón, was only 14 when he tragically passed away the day before Thanksgiving last year. Even at his young age, Nikolas had ambitions to serve his community and his country just like his father. Nikolas was a member of the Los Alamos High School ROTC and had dreams of attending the New Mexico Military Institute to become a Marine. He also wanted to follow in his father's footsteps by becoming a firefighter. Within their ranks, New Mexico firefighters say Nikolas Ventura-Arencón was "one of us."

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2013 H.R. 2217

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Department of Home-

land Security Appropriations Act of 2013 (H.R. 2217).

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, we passed a bipartisan Homeland Security appropriations bill. I believe, that legislation would have passed the House by an overwhelming margin.

Unfortunately, an amendment offered by Representative STEVE KING of Iowa was added to the bill on the floor; it is a poison pill for any member who cares about advancing comprehensive immigration reform. The King amendment terminates specific Obama Administration policies on immigration, including deferred action for childhood arrivals, supporting prosecutor discretion for victims of crimes, and prioritizing the deportation of violent criminals. The King amendment was adopted in a highly partisan vote of 224–201, with 221 Republicans voting for this anti-immigrant measure.

Specifically, the King amendment would mean that young people, who were brought here as children by their parents and grew up in America, will face deportation from the country they consider their own. It means victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking could face deportation for reporting their abusers.

Prioritizing public safety is only common sense. Immigration officials should be focused on deporting dangerous individuals, not working families or victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Denying law enforcement officials the ability to use their discretion is not only a foolish and ineffective method of directing our resources, but inhumane.

I strongly support the Obama Administration policies that the King amendment eliminates. As a co-sponsor of the DREAM Act in the 111th and 112th Congress, I am appalled that House Republicans would support eliminating this policy and forcing these young people to live with the fear of being deported. Dreamers want and deserve the chance to earn American citizenship so they can fully contribute to the country they have always viewed as their own.

The King amendment will have a chilling effect on the movement for comprehensive immigration reform. The Senate is making real progress in negotiations, but this anti-immigrant amendment suggests that House Republicans have no interest in the real reform needed to fix our broken immigration system.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,708,293,971.53. We've added \$6,111,831,245,058.45 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Chair, the Federal Government is facing some of the most complex challenges in our Nation's history and dealing with serious budget constraints. In order to do more with less, it is critical that we have a first class Federal workforce. The government must make the proper investments in its employees and take the steps necessary to recruit, retain, and develop its talent.

The media often focuses on what goes wrong in government, but today I want to take a moment to recognize the important work of the more than 800,000 Department of Defense of Defense (DoD) civil servants who provide essential services to help keep our country safe. DoD civilians are partners in our national defense and integral to the success of DoD military operations.

I represent Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas and to echo the words of Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta when he visited the installation, "let me be clear—Fort Bliss is the premier post in America." The critical role this post plays in our national defense is supported by more than 11,000 full-time civilian employees. We live in a world where the threats to our freedoms are diverse and we must ensure that our civilian workforce is up to the task of protecting the American people. To succeed in carrying out the complex tasks of the Department, Congress must enable all these employees to excel in their jobs. We must compensate them commensurate with their responsibilities; provide them with a quality of work life that fosters long-term growth; and work to ensure that labor-management relationships remain strong.

This year Congress debated multiple amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 that aimed to weaken the civilian workforce at DoD. These amendments would greatly expand the A–76 process and direct the Department to contract out any function not considered to be "inherently governmental"—regardless of policy, risk, or cost to DoD. The Congress outlawed the use of the A–76 process during the Bush Administration after the finding by DoD Inspector General that it was biased against federal employees, and by the Government Accountability Office that the costs of associated with the process often exceeded estimated savings. Additionally, in testimony before the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, DoD Comptroller Robert Hale acknowledged that contractors are twice as expensive as civilian employees stating that "if you're going to have a job over a long period of time . . . it's probably cheaper to have a civilian government employee to do it." For these reasons, I voted against these amendments.