

the best people in the world at what they do making more than \$150,000 per year. BES&T is poised to triple in size again. Additionally we gave over \$150,000 to charity this year in celebration of our 20th anniversary as a company. We feel it is our civic duty to help those in need as we excel around the world.

We represent what America does best. We innovate through entrepreneurialism. We take that innovation and we run with it all over the world and here in the US. We hire our friends and neighbors who buy homes and cars and send their kids to college. We promote good will in the countries we work and make friends around the world.

I grew up on welfare in Massachusetts, needed school lunches to get through the day and chose to go into the Navy as an enlisted Boiler Technician for 6 years. At every turn I have leveraged the support of the United States and the states in which I lived to create a positive American life for me and for others. Our business is a direct result of the training I got during my enlistment. Now we rely on the EXIM bank for help while we push forward once more. I feel an incredible sense of pride and patriotism that the Export Import Bank of the United States stands with me and my employees. Its one of the great tools for small business in the country.

Several years ago I had the privilege to meet Chairman Hochberg at an outreach meeting hosted by Senator Shaheen of New Hampshire. Since then I have been invited by the Chairman to voice my opinion to him and the board of directors on a wide variety of subjects relating to the banks support of small business. What I can tell you is this, from the top office of the Chairman to the people who work for the bank. EXIM bank is committed to working and improving services for small businesses. I have been witness to countless improvements on behalf of small companies and the Chairman listens to the small business community and so does the board. They are committed to working with us, and it shows.

Mrs. Waters if there were a better, or cheaper way we would have done it. Small businesses always look for that edge. Right now our work with EXIM is highly valuable to our global growth. We work in 17 countries tonight. American women, men and equipment. We rely on EXIM for credit insurance and for our line of credit with BOA. We have never defaulted nor had a claim. We pay heavy fees and costs for this privilege. EXIM is a partner for us in our success.

I would ask you to convince the Chairman that this platform will hurt us, badly. I buy millions of dollars of equipment year on year to help with our exporting. We buy from vendors in Texas, and Tennessee, and California. All of these people would be hurt as well.

This is not a fight we should be undertaking at this time in our recovery. BES&T will continue to add jobs, and pay our taxes on the profits we incur. We will take care of our people and our neighbors. We will honor your trust and support.

If I may of any assistance to either you or Chairman Hensarling in this matter please call upon me at once.

Please re-authorize the EXIM bank its good for America, and BES&T.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL P. BOYLE,  
President/CEO.

GRAYCE UYEHARA

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to remember a stalwart leader in the Japanese

American community, Grayce Uyehara, who passed away recently on June 22nd.

Grayce was a leading force in organizing and drawing attention to the Redress campaign—with her well-known Action Alerts and grassroots mobilization efforts—during her tenure as the executive director of Japanese American Citizens League's Legislative Education Committee.

Her commitment to the Japanese American community, as well as this country more broadly, was a stunning display of courage and dedication in seeking justice for injustices throughout.

Her legacy will be one not only of justice and fairness, but of true leadership and perseverance.

HONORING TAKAYUKI KUBOTA

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mrs. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Takayuki Kubota. For seventy-five years Mr. Kubota has been involved in the study and practice of the martial arts and is one of the most widely known and respected Karate masters in the United States.

Born on September 20, 1934 on the Japanese Island of Kyushu, Mr. Kubota's commitment and study of the martial arts began when he was four years old under the guidance and direction of his father. His dedication and daily training led to studying diverse styles of martial arts, which include incorporating the study of meditation and history, as well as the non-combative facets of the arts.

This dedication and passion inspired Mr. Kubota to start the International Karate Association with affiliated schools throughout the globe. Through his association, he teaches his own unique style of karate, known as Gosoko Ryu Karate, and is recognized around the world for its effectiveness.

Over the years, Mr. Kubota has had thousands of students from around the world come to learn and practice his karate style. These students are attracted to his versatility in his ways of teaching. In addition, he has trained a multitude of federal, state, law enforcement personnel, largely on a volunteer basis.

It is with sincere appreciation that I recognize Takayuki Kubota for the value he has contributed to his community through his dedication and teachings of the martial arts.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA'S INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (IFAS) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICES

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Cooperative Ex-

tension Services. IFAS is a highly successful federal-state-county partnership that has helped support Florida's farmers and agricultural industry for more than 100 years.

IFAS Extension was born from two important laws, the Morrill Act of 1862, which created Land-Grant universities throughout the country including the University of Florida, and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, which established the Cooperative Extension Service as a partnership between the Department of Agriculture and Land-Grant universities, jointly administered with state extension agents, and local county officials. In its early history, IFAS Extension was focused on increasing agricultural production and improving the lives of rural residents by tapping the latest information from the world class research being done at the University of Florida and Florida A&M University and converting it into practical knowledge that Floridians could use to improve agricultural techniques and home economics. These core extension services have helped serve millions of Floridians, and today IFAS operates 1,249 buildings, 3,622,462 gross square feet and 27,279 acres with locations in all 67 counties. Thanks to these efforts, the value-added contribution of IFAS Extension add more than \$100 billion to the state economy.

In addition to the core agricultural support programs, IFAS also contributes greatly to the development of Florida's youth through the 4-H program. The 4-H youth development programs began in 1909 with "corn clubs" for young men, which showed Florida's youth how to prepare and plant their fields with hybrid corn seed. Cash prizes were awarded to those who produced the most corn, with additional prizes for youth whose crops out-produced their parents. Two years later, in 1911, tomato clubs were established for young women to plant, harvest and can tomatoes. When the IFAS Extension Service was established in 1915, it took over administration of the clubs, and in 1924, the various clubs were officially recognized as 4-H Clubs. As a former 4-H participant, I can attest to the incredible leadership and educational opportunities that 4-H provides to Florida's youth.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Cooperative Extension Services. Agriculture is a vital component of Florida's history and economic success, and I join Floridians in appreciation of the first-class work and effort that IFAS provides to support our state.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the West Midland Family Center in commemoration of the organization's 40th anniversary.

The West Midland Family Center (WMFC) first opened its doors in 1974. Originally an abandoned school, in 1931, WMFC founder Phyllis Breedlove and several other dedicated community members began the transformation

of what was to become a thriving community center. Founders had a vision for the community of Midland and its families where local citizens both young and old could come to learn, socialize, and participate in recreational activities.

It is this vision that has helped the West Midland Family Center continued to grow and expand throughout the years. By the generosity of multiple donors and foundations, the WMFC has added a 20,500 square foot building for classrooms, an outdoor pool, a playground, baseball diamonds, and a soccer field. These facilities have enriched the lives of thousands of children, adults, and families throughout the area. After the completion of its most recent expansion project, the WMFC now offers licensed childcare, family support, and afterschool programs. It is because of the guidance and support of countless volunteers and generous individuals that the Center continues to fulfill its mission today.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, it is with great honor that I commemorate this 40th anniversary of the West Midland Family Center and congratulate the organization for its many years of success within Midland County. I offer my deepest appreciation to the organization for all it has done and wish it continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. LINDA ESCOBAR

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Escobar for her many contributions to Tejano and Conjunto music.

Linda Escobar is a native of Alice, Texas. She and her father, noted conjunto pioneer Eligio Escobar, created an act that toured nationwide with a group of musicians that included Lucha Villa, Jose Alfredo Jimenez, Cantinflas, Los Relampagos and Freddie Fender.

While still a child in the late 1960s, Ms. Escobar composed and recorded the gold record "Frijolitos Pintos." After the death of her father in 1994, Ms. Escobar collaborated with Japanese accordionist Kenji "El Gato" Katsube, to create an electric mix of Asian/Tex-Mex music. Ms. Escobar was awarded Female Vocalist of the Year at the South Texas Conjunto Association Music Awards in both 2001 and 2003.

To pay tribute to her father and other veterans, Ms. Escobar founded "El Veterano Conjunto Festival," now in its 16th year of existence, which raises funds for the Eligio Escobar Scholarship Fund for talented young conjunto musicians.

In recognition of her distinguished musical career, she was inducted into the Tejano ROOTS Music Hall of Fame as well as the Texas Conjunto Music Hall of Fame. Additionally, she has received numerous other awards and accolades, including a key to the City of Alice.

Known as the First Lady of Conjunto Music, Ms. Escobar has been instrumental in promoting Conjunto Tejano and Tex-Mex music throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Ms. Linda Escobar and her contributions to the Conjunto, Tejano and Tex-Mex genres. Further, I appreciate you joining me in recognizing her contributions to South Texas' cultural heritage.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN A. LEGGIERI FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND TO OUR NATION

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel John A. Leggieri for his exemplary dedication to duty and his service to the United States Army and to the United States of America. Colonel Leggieri will retire from the Army in December after serving almost half of his 30-year career in Congressional Liaison.

A native of Claverack, New York, Colonel John Leggieri was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through Sienna College's ROTC program. Initially branched into Air Defense Artillery, John led Soldiers in demanding situations—first with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea and then with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He then transitioned to the Quartermaster Corps, where he led Soldiers for the next decade as a logistician in New York, Nebraska, Virginia, and Arkansas.

In 1999, John began the next phase of his career in Congressional Liaison. He initially served as an Army Congressional Fellow for a year, working in a Member's office on Capitol Hill. For the next 14 years he served in positions of increasing responsibility in the critical, fast-paced arena of Congressional Liaison. He worked as Legislative Liaison Officer for the Chief of the Army Reserve and then as Congressional Budget Liaison Officer for the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller), working closely with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. There are few who know more about the Congressional budget process and none respected more. After his initial work with Congress, John was selected as a National Security Fellow and studied for a year at Harvard University's prestigious John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Colonel's next role with Congress was as Chief of Congressional Plans and Strategy for the Army's Chief of Legislative Liaison, where he directed the development of long-range Army wide legislative goals and objectives to help clearly communicate the Army's multi-billion dollar annual budget requests. Finally, Colonel Leggieri served as the Chief of Congressional Budget Liaison, where for the last three years he ensured the Army's budget positions were extremely well represented and articulated to the Congressional Appropriations Committees. John's tenure as the Chief of Congressional Budget Liaison coincided with a particularly challenging fiscal period for the Department of the Defense. Under his leadership, the Army's Congressional Budget Liaison Office navigated dramatically declining de-

fense budgets as operations in Iraq and Afghanistan drew down and sequestration was implemented. In spite of these challenges, John was instrumental in ensuring that Congress was informed of the importance of key programs for the future of the Army.

In his many years in the liaison role, John helped showcase the Army's great accomplishments by leading countless high profile Congressional delegations to locations around the world, including Afghanistan, Bosnia, Egypt, Iraq, Kosovo, and innumerable other places where dedicated Americans serve our nation. These fact finding missions have been instrumental in improving the United States' foreign and defense policy.

Colonel Leggieri's leadership throughout his career positively impacted his Soldiers, peers, and superiors. His integrity, his exceptional work, and his sense of service are leaving our world improved and they have always served as an example for those he has commanded. To quote Charles Dickens, Colonel Leggieri is, "as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew."

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending Colonel John Leggieri for over three decades of service to his country. We wish John, his wife Rebecca, herself a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and now Professional Staff Member on the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and their two children, Olivia and Gabriel, all the best.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER  
SERGEANT RICHARD R. ONSGARD

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Richard R. Onsgard, Command Chief Sergeant for the 146th Airlift Wing for the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, on the special occasion of his retirement from a distinguished and exemplary career.

Chief Onsgard has had a remarkable and admirable career enlisting in the Air National Guard in 1972, serving the Los Angeles Fire Department for 24 years and rising to the rank of Engineer, and being selected in 1996 as First Sergeant of the 115th Airlift Squadron. Answering his country's call of duty, Chief Onsgard was activated for Operation Noble Eagle and assigned to a Marine Expeditionary Force. In addition to serving on active duty for both Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Chief Onsgard has supported missions for the National Guard Bureau in many areas including logistics and planning.

As the senior ranking enlisted member of the 146th Airlift Wing, Chief Onsgard has served as the Command Chief and the principal advisor to the wing commander on areas pertaining to the welfare, health, morale, progress, and efficient utilization of all the enlisted members assigned to the wing. In addition to his honorable service, Chief Onsgard has served as the representative to the wing commander and the enlisted force on committees, councils, boards, and has represented the enlisted force at military and civilian functions.