

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 Robert Chrysfafis for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING CARLOS VILLARREAL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a noteworthy American: Carlos Villarreal. From April of 2007 until 2014, Mr. Villarreal served as City Manager of Laredo, Texas. In his own words, he worked diligently to “shape the growth and prosperity of [his] community.”

Carlos Villarreal graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration. He began his career in public service with the City of Laredo, serving as the Director of Community Development. During his time in this role, he became the department’s chief planner and director for the renewal of urban housing programs, working tirelessly to ensure affordable housing for low-income Laredoans. Mr. Villarreal then served as the Assistant City Manager for ten years and went on to become the Executive Administrator for Webb County, where he oversaw the administration and management of all county departments and worked with county officials to improve county services. For the past eight years, Mr. Villarreal has served as the City Manager of Laredo.

With his experience in government spanning over thirty-five years, Mr. Villarreal successfully procured two presidential permits for the Colombia Solidarity Bridge and World Trade Bridge, both of which allowed Laredo’s port to become the country’s number one land port for commercial trade. He has also maintained a valuable working relationship with the Mexican government at the local, state, and federal levels.

Mr. Villarreal has also served as Past President of LULAC Council #12. He is the recipient of various awards such as the Republic of Mexico-Jose Lopez Portillo Presidential Medal for Outstanding Service, the Sportsman of the Year by the Latin American International Sports Hall of Fame, and the Tejano Achievers Award for Community Service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Carlos Villarreal for his outstanding service to the City of Laredo and its people.

IN RECOGNITION OF LYDIA I. BEEBE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lydia I. Beebe, a leader in the Bay Area and

role model for women in corporate America, who is retiring after a remarkable career at Chevron Corporation that spanned four decades. For the last 20 years, Lydia served as the Corporate Secretary and Chief Governance Officer. In addition, she served as the secretary of the board, the Executive Committee and the Board Nominating and Governance Committee.

Lydia’s history with Chevron dates back to 1977 when she originally joined as a contract attorney. She then worked as a legislative representative in Washington, D.C. from 1981–1985, and a senior management and tax counsel in the tax department from 1985–1995.

Lydia’s competent, calm and clear advice has earned her the trust and admiration of the Board of Directors senior management at Chevron. Her leadership style has also earned her my trust and admiration. I had the great privilege of working with Lydia Beebe on the Board of Directors of PBWC, the Professional Business Women of California, an organization I founded 26 years ago to give women a platform to connect and help each other grow and thrive. Lydia helped guide PBWC from 1998–2003, the last two years as chair of the board.

For Lydia, no problem is ever life-threatening and there is always a Plan B. Her contributions to PBWC were and remain invaluable to the organization and in 1996 she deservedly was awarded the “Breakthrough Award.”

As you can surmise from Lydia’s achievements in the corporate world, she is a trailblazer who simply ignored the glass ceiling and burst through it. Her impact reaches far beyond one company. She is a frequent speaker and panelist addressing corporate governance topics. She has also been very active with the Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals.

Lydia Beebe is a native of Kansas and earned her bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1974 and her Juris Doctor degree in 1977 from the University of Kansas. She moved to California and received her master’s degree in taxation from Golden Gate University in 1980.

We in California are extraordinarily fortunate that she relocated from the Midwest. Her intelligence, resolve and philanthropy have benefited many organizations and countless individuals. Lydia serves on the National Association of Corporate Directors of Northern California, the San Francisco Symphony, and the advisory board of the Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Center for Corporate Governance at Stanford. Lydia was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Presidio Trust in 2003 by President George W. Bush and served until 2008. In 1991, she was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission where she served for eight years, from 1995–1999 as chair.

As a Golden Gate University graduate, she served as board secretary and member of the executive committee and received the 2004 Alumna of the Year award. She was also a member of the San Francisco Municipal Fiscal Advisory Committee to the mayor for more than 10 years.

But Lydia, with her inexhaustible energy, didn’t abandon her roots; she also serves on the governing boards of the Kansas University Endowment Association and the Kansas Uni-

versity Law Alumni. At the University of Delaware, the John L. Weinberg Center and Corporate Governance is lucky to have her on the advisory board.

In her retirement, she will undoubtedly enjoy more time with her husband Charles Doyle and their three children Bion, Jason and Louise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor an amazing woman whom Chevron named its first woman officer, whom the San Francisco Business Times named one of the most influential businesswomen in the Bay Area for eight consecutive years, and whom I feel humbled to count as a dear friend and irreplaceable adviser. Lydia Beebe is a role model for women and men everywhere. I am honored to congratulate her on her retirement from Chevron on the eve of the 26th PBWC conference.

RECOGNIZING LANCASTER HIGH SCHOOL, TEXAS’S 2015 CLASS 5A STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the Lancaster High School Tigers for winning the State of Texas title in the class 5A State Basketball Championship on Saturday, March 14, 2015. On behalf of all the proud residents of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I stand with great pride to salute the Tigers for their unmatched athleticism, dedication, perseverance and teamwork. This victory is historic. The 2015 State Championship Team is the 100th basketball team in Lancaster I.S.D.’s history, and they are the first team to ever bring home this title to the great City of Lancaster.

The Lancaster Tigers worked hard throughout the season in preparation for the challenge that awaited them in San Antonio, Texas. The Tigers entered the 2015 State Tournament on a remarkable 27 game winning streak. After a hard fought battle with the Clifton J. Ozen Panthers of Beaumont, Texas, the Tigers emerged victorious. The team was led by Senior Forward, Elijah Thomas, a Top 20 pick, who contributed seventeen points to the team’s winning score of 59–47.

The talented young men who make up Lancaster’s remarkable team have assembled a fine record ending the season with 33 wins and only 4 losses. Members of the team include: Junior Power Forward, Nate Morris; Senior Point Guard, Antwoin Portley; Junior Shooting Guard and Forward, JaColby Pemberton; and Junior Guard, Deon Barrett.

This accomplishment is a testament to the inspirational leadership of Head Coach, Ferrin Douglas and his Varsity Assistant coach, Mr. Joseph Mayberry. Coach Douglas has built an impressive basketball program at Lancaster High School during his 9 year tenure. “Coach Doug,” as he is affectionately called, provides guidance that his players describe as crucial in helping them realize their potential both on and off the court.

On behalf of the 30th District of Texas, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of the Lancaster High School

basketball team for their victory in the 2015 Texas Class 5A State Basketball Championship. We are proud of your accomplishment, and we share in the pride and excitement felt by the city of Lancaster, Texas, the Superintendent of Lancaster I.S.D., Mr. Michael McFarland, the Principal of Lancaster High School, Mr. Michael Showell and the entire school.

HONORING DEVIN MCCOMBS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Devin McCombs. Devin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Devin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Devin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Devin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Devin McCombs for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BIANCA MARTINEZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

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

The dedication demonstrated by Bianca Martinez 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 Bianca Martinez 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 LT. COLONEL GREG GADSON

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's finest, Lt. Colonel

Greg Gadson who is in command of Ft. Belvoir in Virginia, a graduate of West Point in 1989. Greg was also a star linebacker on the United States Army football team. Greg, a twenty-year veteran, has received three bronze stars and a purple heart. While serving in Operation Iraq Freedom, he was almost killed as the commander of a surge unit by an IED explosion, losing both of his legs. He has since done nothing but climbed mountain after mountain. He is also well-known as an inspirational public speaker, and many give him credit for helping inspire the New York Giants to their Super Bowl XLVI season. He has also appeared in the movie "Battleship" and truly is an American hero and a man for all seasons. I submit this poem, penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

HOLD THAT LINE

Hold  
That  
Line

All in our lifetimes

Past what new goal lines will we so drive?

When, it all so seems our backs are up  
against the wall to find

All in these the moments of our lives

Coming off that line

All in hearts now carried deep

What promises to ourselves will we so keep?

To find the faith and courage to compete

To strive

Will we get up and fight?

When it all so lies on the line

And hold

That

Line

Or will we give in,

In these our darkest of all nights as they  
begin?

Or will we go deep?

All in our hearts of honor so to seek

Whether, on football fields of green

Or out upon most heroic battlefields of honor  
seen

You Lt. Colonel Gadson,

Have always gleamed

Will our hearts choose to stand and fight,

To compete?

All in the seeds we've sown so deep

All in our hearts to reap

Emanating from somewhere inside,

So down so very deep

Is the place Lt. Colonel,

Where all of your promises you would so  
keep

All in your strength in honor which speaks

To be the best as you would seek

All in your actions,

And deeds

Firing out across that line to death to beat

Tackling all of those obstacles in your way  
to compete

As so gallantly you sow heroism seeds

As why in the game of life you shine so bril-  
liantly

As it's your faith Greg you were so to keep

Running from end to end,

As up ahead you would lead

To take control and command

To hold

That

Line

As there you'd stand

When this battle before you so lie

As across that goal line of life for victory  
you'd strive

All because of men like you Colonel who so  
courageously compete

We all may live in peace

Because, in the game of life

It's all about digging in,

And digging in deep

Through thick and thin,

How far we are all willing to go for victory  
to reach

To

Hold

That

Line

To walk through that valley of death,

With clenched fists to one day Heaven reach

For these are the things in life which speak

And who have we saved?

And who have we blessed?

And what have we taught to pass that test?

By all our actions, whom have we reached

By our examples to beseech

Will we stand up and go deep?

As have you Colonel,

As to such new heights you'd so reach

In this new battle you began,

And you so chose to fight and stand

While, all in the midst of hell

As your most courageous heart began to  
swell

And you had to start all over again

Without your once strong legs upon which  
you so ran

As you looked down as the red blood ran

As in that moment your new battle so began

Being from The Point,

Your heart gave you a command

To hold

That

Line

As once again it was first and goal

With your back to the wall

As you had to plug up all those holes,

And somehow find the strength to stand

To tackle all that misery at hand

And somehow hold

That

Line

As you had done before,

Time and time again

As somehow you got up and stood,

And started your whole life over as you  
would

Listening to your heart,

As you brought tears to all our eyes

Thanking your Father and your brothers for  
being alive

As a winner in that game of life you crossed  
that recovery goal line

As Greg you crushed it

As death you sacked it

Firing out to victory to find

And Colonel,

If I ever have a son

I pray to God,

He could lead a life like yours as won

Who when it was all on the line,

Did not thing think twice

To win that day, that fight

As a winner before us now stands here this  
night

Because it's on our legs we stand

But it's with our hearts we run to daylight

And we

Hold

That

Line

For Greg you are Army strong

And why such men as you and MacArthur to  
The Point so belong

Whose hearts of honor in history will live on  
Hoo ah

Hoo ah

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I ask everyone  
to continue to pray for our country and for our  
military men and women that protect it.

God bless the United States of America.