

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JIMMIE MARTINEZ

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and memory of Mr. Jimmie Martinez of Lumberton, Texas, who passed away earlier this month at the age of fifty-four.

A former classmate of mine at Incarnate Word Academy, Jimmie committed himself to public service after graduation, joining the Nueces County Emergency Service District in Flour Bluff as a firefighter and EMT. He also served the Annville Emergency Service District and Lumberton Fire and EMS as Assistant Fire Marshal and as a firefighter and EMT.

Jimmie served as the president of the twenty-one-county East Texas Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association, received the firefighter of the year award, the medal of valor and more.

Most importantly, Jimmie was a friend to all—always willing to go out of his way to help those in need. He often volunteered on the weekends at his old firehouse in Flour Bluff to give them an extra hand. Jimmie was a great man and a dedicated public servant, and I say on behalf of the entire Coastal Bend community, thank you Jimmie. You will be missed.

IN HONOR OF MR. LUIS VALDEZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join President Obama in honoring a truly great American, Mr. Luis Valdez of San Juan Bautista, California. This past September, Luis participated in a White House ceremony where the President presented him with a National Medal of the Arts in recognition of his lifetime of contributions to the arts of the United States. The recognition highlights the incredible contribution Luis has made as a playwright, actor, writer, and director.

Luis Valdez was born in Delano, California, in 1940. He was the second of ten children and grew up in a family of migrant farm workers. Luis began work in the fields at a young age and followed the harvest with his family up and down California's Central Valley. He attended numerous schools before his family finally settled in San Jose. He entered San Jose State University on a scholarship for math and physics but switched his major to English and began to pursue his passion for theater. The imagination of theater had held a grip on Luis from an early age. In grammar school, he had organized plays and put on puppet shows in his garage. While still at SJSU, Luis won a playwriting contest with *The Theft*, and produced a full length play called *The Shrunken Head of Pancho Villa*.

In 1965, Luis returned to Delano and joined with Cesar Chavez in the UFW's effort to organize farmworkers. It was then that he had the inspiration to combine his passions for theater and social justice and created a farm workers theater troupe simply called *El Teatro Campesino*. The group specialized in short one act plays based on the farm worker experience that aimed to educate both farmworkers and the broader public. By 1967, *El Teatro* began to explore broader Chicano themes and Luis left the group to share that vision with a broader audience. He founded the *Centro Campesino Cultural* in Del Rey and later Fresno to produce plays in a theater setting.

Luis quickly developed a reputation as the Godfather of Chicano theater and helped organize other Chicano theater groups throughout the Southwest. During this period he wrote and produced numerous plays, including *La Virgen de Tepeyac*, *La carpa de los resquachis*, and *Corridos: Tales of Passion and Revolution*. However, Luis is best known for his seminal play *Zoot Suit* which he first produced in Los Angeles in 1978. The next year, *Zoot Suit* became the first play written by a Chicano produced on Broadway. A film version followed in 1981. This film experience led Luis to other television and movie projects, including the hit movie *La Bamba* in 1987 that told the story of Richie Valens.

All along Luis remained committed to the campesino movement that he helped form and that helped to form him. In 1971, he moved his theater group to San Juan Bautista in my California district. He became a founding member of the California Arts Council and is a member of the College of Fellows of the American Theater.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House when I extend our congratulations to Luis Valdez for his most recent of honors. It comes on top of a lifetime of achievement giving voice to those voices that have been so often missed or dismissed by our broader society. Mindful of recent events, his voice is more important than ever.

HONORING ELAINE KOHRMAN

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Forest Supervisor Elaine Kohrman for her leadership during the on-going effort to update the Cibola Forest Plan so that it reflects the perspectives and recommendations of all communities with historical ties to the land.

As the Supervisor for the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands, Kohrman has successfully brought together representatives of communities that have a long history of animosity and distrust of the federal government.

Kohrman's inclusive approach fostered an environment that encouraged leaders of sev-

eral New Mexico land grants to come together as leaders to provide their perspectives as part of the Forest Plan revision process. Six of the land grants, including San Antonio de las Huertas, Cañón de Carnué, Chilili, Torreón, Tajique, and Manzano have signed Memorandums of Understanding to co-host and co-convene the land grant communities as part of the public engagement process. The New Mexico Land Grant Council is also a participant by MOU and represents statewide issues in this process. Their active participation has been instrumental in developing and elevating a better understanding for employees, other cooperating agencies and public interests of their status and historic ties to the land and the continued uses of the Cibola to support their cultural identity.

As a result of this involvement, the Cibola National Forest was recently recognized by the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo for "turning the page" and promoting good faith consultation with the land grant communities.

Kohrman has also welcomed participation from affected tribes and pueblos that are actively engaging with other participants, other than just the Forest Service. Five pueblos, including Acoma, Isleta, Cochiti, San Felipe and Santa Ana, have also signed MOU's to participate, leading to consideration of issues related to the protection of sacred sites and strengthening tribal partnerships.

I greatly appreciate Elaine Kohrman's efforts to promote a model of the Forest Service working as a partner, rather than being in the middle of issues. As a result of the more collaborative process, contentious issues are addressed in a more productive manner. I hope this collaboration can serve as a template for similar efforts throughout the Forest Service and the federal government.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
WORK OF DAVID FLORES

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of David Flores of Georgetown, Texas. After nearly four decades of impeccable work as County Auditor, David is beginning his richly-deserved retirement.

County Auditors play a vital role in maintaining the fiscal integrity in county government and few have taken on this important responsibility with greater professionalism than David. He knows that second-rate work isn't acceptable. The people of Texas deserve that level of excellence when it comes to managing their precious tax dollars. David doesn't let them down.

David's positive impacts on the counties he's served cannot be overstated. Under his leadership, Williamson County's bond rating went from "low investment grade" to AAA, the

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highest rating available. He's established thoughtful standards for county purchases and has provided superb oversight for \$1 billion in capital projects. Central Texas is better because of his leadership and hard work.

David's commitment to excellence doesn't stop when the work day ends. He has been a trustee for the Texas County and District Retirement System and is a past president for the Texas Association of County Auditors. David shouldered the demanding responsibilities as the Chairman of the Investment Committee for the Texas Association of Counties from 2008 to 2012. Over the years, he's deservedly received numerous awards and commendations as well as the admiration of his peers and colleagues.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute David Flores' work and contributions to his community. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

HONORING DENNIS R. LEBER OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituent, Dennis R. Leber, on his pending retirement upon more than 17 years of combined service with the United States House of Representatives and the United States Air Force.

Mr. Leber began his career as an Air Force telecommunications specialist, then spent several decades in the private sector communications and networking industry. Upon completion of his private sector career, Mr. Leber served two years as a contractor with the U.S. House of Representatives and House Information Resources (HIR) Group, where he completes his professional career this December, upon 11 years of service as a Senior Network Systems Engineer in this august institution.

Mr. Leber's dedication and professionalism touched the lives of many people and challenged all with whom he served to be the best. His presence and dedication will be missed, but we wish him well and Godspeed in his future adventures.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate Dennis R. Leber upon his retirement and thank him for his tireless service to the citizens of the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF MAJOR TOOLE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Major Travis N. Toole for his dedication to duty and service as an Army Officer. In 2014, Travis was selected to be an Army Congressional Fellow in my office. His portfolio included working with Team Monterey, all the Department of Defense entities located in

Monterey, CA. Team Monterey includes the Defense Language Institute and the Naval Postgraduate School, Guard and Reserve facilities, SATCOM, and nine other critical DoD and Navy missions all located in Monterey, after the closure of the former Fort Ord.

Major Toole staffed me for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and brought his expertise as an Engineer to the portfolio that led to significant accomplishments. He was instrumental in working the halls of the Pentagon on behalf of the California National Guard to secure funding for a bridge replacement, a number one priority of the Guard for several years. His diligence to constituent services enabled him to help a local transit provider navigate the Army bureaucracy for ultimate payment of transit services. He was well respected by the Military Construction Appropriations staff for his contributions to the Subcommittee hearings and markup.

When Travis returned to the Pentagon as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison, he worked closely with the House and Senate Military Constructions Appropriations Subcommittees, ensuring Army's budget positions were extremely well represented and articulated to the Committees. He assisted the Subcommittee staff with their oversight responsibilities in Korea, Japan and many CONUS facilities, and accompanied Members visiting Afghanistan during the Christmas holiday.

The next step for Major Toole will be further military education at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Major Toole was commissioned as an Engineer officer after his graduation from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He has subsequently earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University. He has served in a broad range of assignments during his Army career. Major Toole's previous assignments include serving as a Mobility Support Platoon Leader for the 562nd Engineer Company, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, and a Sapper Platoon Leader and Executive Officer for the 73rd Engineer Company, 1st Brigade 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

He then served as a Current Operations Officer for the 130th Engineer Brigade and commanded the 34th Sapper Company, 65th Engineer Battalion at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Travis has led Soldiers in combat as a Platoon Leader, Battalion Operations Officer, and Company Commander while deployed in direct support of combat operations in Iraq on three separate occasions.

Throughout his distinguished Army career, Travis has positively affected his Soldiers, peers, and superiors. His extraordinary leadership, thoughtful judgment, and exemplary work have made our country safer. On behalf of a grateful nation, I commend Major Travis Toole for his service to our nation and wish him all the best as he continues his journey in the United States Army.

HONORING ADDISON RUSSELL FOR ADDISON RUSSELL DAY AT PACE HIGH SCHOOL IN PACE, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Addison Russell for his incredible athletic talent and honor him for Addison Russell Day at Pace High School. His natural ability to lead by example both on and off the field has distinguished him among his peers and built the foundation for his successful career.

Born and raised in Pace, Florida, Russell began his freshman year at Pace High School in 2009 where he became the 5th freshman in the school's history to play on the varsity baseball team. In 2010, he led Pace High School to a class 5A Florida High School Athletic Association baseball state championship and again as runner-up in 2012. In 2011, Russell was selected to be a member of the USA Baseball 18U National Team at the COPABE 18U/AAA Pan American Games. Russell hit a grand slam in the Championship game against Team Canada, allowing his team to take home the gold medal and Russell to be named at the First-Team All-Tournament as Shortstop.

Upon graduating from high school, Russell was drafted by the Oakland Athletics with the 11th overall pick of the first round in the 2012 Major League Baseball Draft. He was then traded to the Chicago Cubs on July 4, 2014 and on April 21, 2015 Russell made his major league debut against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Russell represented the Cubs in the 2016 Major League Baseball All-Star Game as the starting shortstop for the National League. Then, during game six of the 2016 World Series, Addison hit the 19th grand slam in the history of the Series and also tied the Major League Baseball record for six RBIs by one player in a game on a team facing elimination from the fall classic.

Mr. Speaker, Northwest Florida is proud to honor Addison Russell on November 29, 2016 with Addison Russell Day at Pace High School. My wife Vicki and I extend Russell, wife, Melissa; and children, Aiden and Mila; our best wishes for their continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 9TH ANNUAL LAKESHORE CLASSIC BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and respect that I recognize the Gary Chamber of Commerce as the organization celebrates the 9th annual Lakeshore Classic Basketball Invitational. In observance of this special event, the Gary Chamber of Commerce hosted a celebratory corporate luncheon at the Diamond Center in Gary, Indiana, on Monday, November 21, 2016, followed by the basketball invitational at West Side Leadership Academy on Friday, November 25 and Saturday, November 26, 2016.

The theme for this year's Lakeshore Classic is "Step Up for Education," which emphasizes