

HONORING WESTCHESTER HISPANIC LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women who protect us every day as members of law enforcement are truly New York's Finest. For the last 20 years in Westchester County, The Westchester Hispanic Law Enforcement Association has dedicated itself to making a difference in the community, by paving the way for the future leaders in law enforcement who will someday serve and protect their communities with great honor.

The Mission of the Westchester Hispanic Law Enforcement Association (WHLEA) has been to "build an organization that will withstand the test of time." The pledge of their founding members to make a difference has been lived up to for two decades by members who work tirelessly to improve conditions for those less fortunate. The Association prides itself on representing those who for too long have remained disenfranchised, and left to do for themselves. Their commitment to keeping vigil over those in our communities whose voices and concerns have all too often fallen upon deaf ears has left a lasting impact on the lives of countless people.

Above all though, the Association's mission is to pave the way for future generations, sons and daughters who someday may choose the Honorable profession of law enforcement as a way of serving their communities. By working to inspire, instruct and create the future leaders of law enforcement throughout Westchester County, the WHLEA has provided a great service to the community. Congratulations to their members on 20 years.

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE TOP CONTESTANT FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Jacinto College of Houston, TX for being named a top-10 finalist for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

The Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence has nominated the top-notch community colleges in the country regarding student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings for graduates and accessibility and success of minority and lower income students. San Jacinto was recognized because of its extreme focus on supporting and working with students to ensure they are the most equipped to find a job and prepare for life after graduation. Between 2007 and 2015, the number of certificates and associate degrees San Jacinto College has awarded has increased by an impressive 140 percent. The winner of the \$1 million prize will be announced in March.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again

to San Jacinto College for being named a top-10 finalist for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. We are very proud of their strong commitment to prepare students for life after graduation. Keep up the good work.

RECOGNIZING BRUCE MULHEARN

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2016

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bruce Mulhearn on his 50th Anniversary in the real estate industry and helping individuals, families, and businesses to achieve the American dream. Mr. Mulhearn immigrated to the United States via New Zealand in 1958. After working in leather tanneries and pipe manufacturing plants, he obtained his realty license and began work for the Apple Valley Land & Development Co., selling vacant home sites in the High Desert, California. Thereafter he served honorably in the United States Army for two years.

In 1967, Bruce and his wife Tomazina opened Bruce Mulhearn Inc., Realtors in a 600 square foot office and began their journey to build a company. The company grew to eight offices and several hundred agents, and by 1969, Mr. Mulhearn founded Castlehead Escrow Company as an insurance brokerage, a real estate school, new home development and a mortgage brokerage operation. Within twenty years the company was one of the leading firms in all of Southern California.

He went on to become a Senior lecturer for both the National Association of Realtors and the California Association of Realtors. Mr. Mulhearn was deeply involved in creating the Certified Residential Broker and Certified Residential Specialist designations for the industry. The company continued to grow and prosper adding various affiliates and branch offices.

In 2014, a merge resulted in the creation of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties, with Bruce Mulhearn still the President and with his joint venture owners operating over twenty offices, doing business in five counties with thousands of transactions per year. After weathering five economic storms during that time frame, with interest rates soaring to as much as 24 percent including the Great Recession most recently, this is indeed a remarkable enterprise.

I applaud Mr. Bruce Mulhearn on his vision and on creating opportunities for many others within the real estate industry. I am delighted to join in celebration of this important 50th Anniversary milestone.

HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHI ST. JOSEPH HEALTH

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2016

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 80th anniversary of the founding of CHI St. Joseph Health of Bryan, Texas, and the 100th anniversary of the Sisters of St.

Francis of Sylvania, Ohio. CHI St. Joseph Health is a healthcare leader in the Brazos Valley, drawing upon the rich legacy of the Sisters of St. Francis.

In 1936, the Sisters purchased Bryan Hospital and immediately began investing in improvements, making CHI St. Joseph part of its growing nation-wide healthcare ministry. The Sisters grew the small Bryan hospital into a major regional health system with five hospitals, two long-term care facilities, more than 30 clinics, and an exceptional physician network that is 250 physicians strong. The Sisters' investment has given CHI St. Joseph the privilege of caring for more patients, delivering more babies, and introducing more advancements in healthcare that any other provider in the region.

In 2014, through Supreme guidance and ministry, the Sisters pursued sponsorship with Catholic Health Initiatives, one of the largest healthcare systems in the nation. The Sisters believed this move would help CHI St. Joseph continue to thrive in a complex and ever-changing healthcare environment.

The 80th anniversary of CHI St. Joseph and the 100th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Francis are being celebrated by current and former CHI St. Joseph leaders, Sisters of St. Francis leadership, the Board of Directors, physicians, administration, team members with more than 25 years of tenure, the entire St. Joseph's team, and all of the Brazos Valley. Their hard work and dedication to improve their communities should be both appreciated and celebrated.

I, along with the residents of the 17th Congressional District, commend CHI St. Joseph's and the Sisters of Sylvania for their 80 years of unwavering commitment, dedication, and contributions to the Brazos Valley. All of us also wish them great success in the future.

As I close, I ask everyone to continue praying for our country, and for our military and first responders who selflessly serve and sacrifice to protect us. God bless important institutions like CHI St. Joseph's and God Bless America.

CONGRATS TO EDINA GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2016

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer a big congratulations to the Edina Girls' Cross Country team for winning the Minnesota High School State Championship.

After winning it all last year, the Hornets were determined to defend their state title. In the final race, Edina put forward a great team effort with runners from all four grades placing for points, including three runners in the top 10 and five in the top 20. Led by senior captain Amanda Mosborg, the team was able to fend off its rivals and repeat as champs.

Cross country requires countless hours, and miles, of training and discipline. As the father of cross-country runners myself, I've seen firsthand the time and commitment it takes, from the challenging practices to the faraway travel to daylong meets, all while juggling academics and other obligations. These girls, along with Coach Matt Gabrielson, saw their dedication pay off with their victory.

Mr. Speaker, after winning the championship last year, the Edina Girls' Cross Country team didn't let up and came back to win it again. Congratulations to the runners, coaches, and parents on an excellent season. Our community is proud. Go Hornets.

ROBERT ROBBINS NAMED HOUSTON'S INTERNATIONAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert C. Robbins, M.D. for being named Houston's 2016 International Citizen of the Year.

The World Affairs Council of Greater Houston awarded Robert the International Citizen of the Year award for his partnership with the Texas Medical Center (TMC) and his vision and energetic efforts to engage with biotech leaders, investors and other stakeholders from around the world. Robert is an internationally recognized cardiac surgeon and joined the TMC as president and CEO in 2012. His expertise is in the surgical treatment of congestive heart failure and cardiothoracic transplantation and his research expands from cardiac transplant allograft to bioengineering blood vessels and automated vascular anastomotic devices.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Robert C. Robbins, M.D. for being recognized as Houston's 2016 International Citizen of the Year. We benefit from his medical skills and commitment to quality care. We look forward to his future accomplishments.

U.S. ECONOMY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning, the U.S. Department of Labor released its November jobs report detailing the state of the U.S. workforce and employment throughout our nation. According to the report, the unemployment rate declined to its lowest point since August 2007, falling from 4.9 percent to 4.6 percent unemployment last month. U.S. employers also added 178,000 jobs to the economy—pointing to strength and stability throughout the country.

Our growing economy and burgeoning workforce is a testament to President Obama's policies and efforts to put Americans back to work by reversing years of damage caused by President Bush and the regressive policies of the right. President Obama has helped to steer us to the lowest period of unemployment in nine years, despite having to face the most serious economic downturn since the Great Depression and the most divided Congress this nation has seen in recent years. Businesses have been able to add 15.6 million jobs since early 2010 and this growth can endure as long as we continue to enact policies

and embrace a culture that favors everyday men and women, and not just a select few.

As we inch closer to President-elect Trump's administration and a Congress dominated by Republicans in the House and Senate, I will continue to encourage the new Administration and my colleagues in Congress to stay on our current path of creating jobs and decreasing unemployment for all Americans. If we reverse course by handing out billions of dollars in tax breaks to only the largest corporations and the wealthiest Americans, gutting public programs and social safety nets, or slashing spending on research and development, then our economic growth will surely stall.

Mr. Speaker, our nation is at an important crossroad. The transition to this new administration and Republican-controlled Congress poses new opportunities and even greater challenges. Will we choose to continue on the path to prosperity? Or will President-elect Trump and the Republican majority work to reverse all of the progress that we have achieved for everyday Americans by instead favoring the super wealthy and the biggest corporations? Only time will tell, although it is imperative that we look to these gains throughout our economy over these eight years and work to continue that trend. Anything less would be an insult to the American people and a devastating step in the wrong direction after coming so far.

HONORING ANN MURO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those special individuals who dedicate their lives to improving the community have the power to transform lives for the better. In Yonkers, no one has had a more transformative effect than my friend, Ann Muro, an amazing public servant who has dedicated her life to helping others. Ann grew up in the Colonial Heights section of Yonkers and attended Annunciation School and Maria Regina High School. She then went on to Mercy College, where she received her degree in Behavioral Psychology. Always wanting to help people, Ann became a Social Worker for the County of Westchester and served on the steering committee for the implementation of the Medicaid Program into Westchester County. She also served as a Community Affairs Specialist for the Westchester County Human Rights Commission and as an Employment Specialist for the Yonkers Employment Center. In addition to her professional work helping others, Ann has also been extremely active in the community during her personal time. She serves as President of the Exchange Club of Yonkers; Board Member of PAL; President of the Crestwood Tenants Association; former Board Member of the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce; former Board Member of the American Cancer Society, and this is just a small fraction of her involvement. A published writer, Ann is also in the process of writing two books and is also an accomplished poet.

This year, the Yonkers Exchange Club is honoring Ann for all of her incredible work and contributions in the community. I want to con-

gratulate her on this wonderful honor and thank her on behalf of the 16th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT D. ESCALANTE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2016

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to successful business owner Robert D. Escalante. Mr. Escalante is the owner of Custom Auto Service in my district. For decades the Packard Motor Car marketed some of America's most prestigious cars. Custom Auto Service specializes in rebuilding and selling Packard Automobiles. This year, Custom Auto Service and the Packard Automobile are celebrating their Golden Anniversary in Santa Ana, California; 50 years of dedication to the "American Dream" car—the PACKARD. Custom Auto Service also recently entered into a public-private partnership with other businesses to help establish a four-block development zone nationally known as Fiesta Marketplace. Its purpose is to help nurture the surrounding community in Santa Ana.

We give thanks to businesses like Custom Auto Service for doing their part to lift up our district. This small business is a reflection of what's in the heart of America and I thank Mr. Robert Escalante for his tremendous dedication.

PEARLAND 6U AMERICAN FORCE BASEBALL TEAM WINS WORLD TITLE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 6U American Force baseball team from Pearland, TX for winning the United States Specialty Sports Association Baseball World Series title in Dallas.

After going 3–0 in the pool play, the team was a Number 2 seed going into the first round of the tournament. From there American Force went undefeated in the tournament earning the championship title. The American Force coaches are Ruben Ramirez, James Turrubiarres, Tino Arredondo, Junior Vasques, Bryan White, and Cliff Santellana. Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the championship game was Alex Vasques and offensive MVP was given to Thomas Turrubiarres.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the 6U American Force team for their accomplishments. We wish them success in future baseball seasons and look forward to rooting for them next year. Pearland, Texas is proud of them.