

Co. Sheriff's Dept. as a Level II Reserve deputy working patrol, and special events. He was hired full-time as a Patrol Deputy in May of 1995. He attended the Alameda County Police Academy in Pleasanton, CA., graduating No. 2 overall in his class. During his career at MCSO, he worked out of the Salinas, and King City stations. He attained the rank of Corporal/FTO, and also worked as a Coroner's Investigator. He was on the Sheriff's SWAT team and Riot Control Team. He worked for the Sheriff's Office until February 1, 1992.

Dan joined the Salinas Police Department on February 2, 1992. He's held many assignments in his career to include patrol officer, field training officer, and SWAT team member. He was promoted to Police Corporal in 1993 and Police Sergeant in 1995. In addition to patrol, he's been the sergeant of the Violence Suppression Unit, Personnel and Training Unit, and Traffic Unit.

He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2001 and later to Police Commander in 2005. He has managed units and programs in all three divisions of the police department: Patrol, Investigations, and Administration. He served as an Area Commander, Tactical Commander, and Incident Commander throughout these assignments. He was then promoted to Deputy Chief in 2013, and is currently the Investigations Division Chief.

Dan has been active in the community throughout his entire career. He has volunteered his time towards programs and committees such as explorers, school yearbook committees, and youth and high school football, basketball, and baseball programs. He sat on the board of directors of three local non-profit agencies: The Salinas Police Activities League (PAL), Sun Street Centers, and Second Chance Youth and Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the dedication and hard work Deputy Chief Daniel Perez Jr. has done for others during his time serving with the Salinas Police Department. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the selflessness service of Deputy Chief Daniel Perez Jr. and to congratulate him on his well-earned retirement. I extend my personal appreciation to Deputy Chief Daniel Perez Jr. for his service to his community.

#### HONORING INDUCTION OF RICHARD CHILDRESS INTO THE NASCAR HALL OF FAME

##### HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2017*

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the racing legend Richard Childress upon his induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Richard Childress' iconic career began 50 years ago when he bought his 1947 Plymouth for \$20 at the age of 17. That simple moment in time was a pinpoint in history that would ignite Childress' passion for motorsports leaving an imprint on NASCAR fans across the country. As a driver, Mr. Childress laid claim to (6) top 5 and (76) top 10 finishes. In 1981, Mr. Childress climbed out of the driver's seat and into the owner's role full time.

Beginning as a one-man operation, Childress has grown his organization to more than 500 employees. His cars have compiled over 100 victories and 2,588 major series starts. In 1981 he kicked his team's performance into overdrive when he paired up with late great Dale Earnhardt, who was part of the inaugural NASCAR Hall of Fame class. The duo would become known as one of the most successful partnerships in NASCAR, winning a total of six Cup championships together. Mr. Childress has a total 11 Cup Championships and counting, putting him second on the all-time list for owners.

Childress' legacy is not exclusive to NASCAR. Following his racing career, he remains an active member of the North Carolina community. In 2008, the Childress family began working with Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and subsequently founded the Childress Institute for Pediatric Trauma after discovering that pediatric trauma was the number one killer of children in the United States.

Mr. Childress' contributions and accomplishments to the sport and his community deserve to be celebrated and honored. Mr. Childress' induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame not only speaks to his incredible achievements in stock car racing, but also to his character, business acumen, and his drive to succeed and win. Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Richard Childress and his entire family and organization on his induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRENDA GALVEZ—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

##### HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2017*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we give special recognition to the accomplishments and sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman, Brenda Galvez, of Los Alamos, California.

Brenda serves her community as a bilingual translator for the Orcutt Union School District at several school sites, but plays a particularly important role at Olga Reed School in Los Alamos, where she has been part of the staff for several years and is beloved by both parents and students. Los Alamos is an agricultural community and leans on Brenda to serve as a liaison between the schools and Spanish speaking parents.

Her expertise is utilized at Special Education IEP meetings, where having a translator for the parents and service providers is vital for student success. Brenda continues to aid her community by being the sole founder of Padres en Acción, a committee whose mission is to keep Spanish speaking parents informed about school matters.

Brenda goes above and beyond by also helping on the school playgrounds, the administration offices, and the cafeterias. There is no doubt that Brenda embodies the credo of her school district "where a dedicated staff means kids come first."

She serves as an instrumental lifeline to the Los Alamos community and has selflessly served her students. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Brenda Galvez, for her incredible service to her community.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ROSEMARY SARRI FOR RECEIVING THE ALTERNATIVES FOR GIRLS' ROLE MODEL AWARD

##### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Rosemary Sarri, a distinguished scholar and recipient of the Alternatives for Girls' 2017 Role Model award. Ms. Sarri's groundbreaking social science research has contributed to a better understanding of criminal justice and child welfare while helping advance social welfare policies that benefit Michigan families.

After receiving her doctorate in Social Work and Sociology from the University of Michigan, Dr. Sarri was named an assistant professor at the University in 1962. Throughout her career, Dr. Sarri was recognized as a leading expert on social policy and poverty among families and children. Her research has focused on the long-term impact of incarceration on individuals, as well as the effects of poverty on families and children. In addition to having published extensive research on these issues, Dr. Sarri has consulted with numerous nonprofits, think tanks and national governments, including those of Australia and South Korea. She also has extensive international teaching experience, including training faculty at schools of social work in China.

Dr. Sarri's work had transformed our understanding of family welfare and has allowed us to enact policies that target the underlying factors that create poverty and modernize criminal justice to reduce recidivism. She has worked with the Michigan Department of Human Services as well as the Michigan Collaborative on Juvenile Justice to translate her research into actionable policy at the state level. Additionally, Dr. Sarri has received many accolades for her innovative research, including the University of Michigan Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award and the National Association of Social Workers' Presidential Award for Research. Dr. Sarri continues to hold a position with the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, and her research has inspired a new generation of scholars in the fields of social work and family policy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Rosemary Sarri for receiving the Alternatives for Girls' 2017 Role Model Award. Dr. Sarri's scholarship and real-world impact has benefited Michigan's families while advancing knowledge in a variety of disciplines.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2017*

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on March 22, 2017, I was not able to cast my votes during the second series. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted:

YES on the Democratic Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1101

NO on H.R. 1101—Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2017

YES on H.R. 1238—Securing our Agriculture and Food Act

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH  
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 22, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1101, the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2017.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, providing economic opportunity and employment for millions of Americans across our country.

Too often, we have seen the economic engine stall due to intrusion and overregulation that come courtesy of the federal government. There are few places where this is more obvious than in the staggering health care costs small businesses face, costs which Obamacare have only driven up.

Obamacare's burdensome mandates have driven premiums up and insurance providers out of the market, and small employers have found themselves increasingly unable to cover their employees. The big picture for small businesses is that the ACA has smothered patient choice and patient-centered care in the process of overregulating our job creators.

In the House, we are empowering small businesses to fight back by increasing their bargaining power with insurance providers and leveling the playing field that they share with larger companies. The Small Business Health Fairness Act will help lower health care costs for employees by allowing small businesses to join together through association health plans.

Ultimately, this bill will bring relief to American employees and their families by making insurance more affordable and accessible.

H.R. 1101 is an important step toward empowering small businesses to care for their employees while prioritizing the job creation that strengthens our communities. At the same time, this bill would contribute to a patient-centered, competitive, and low-cost health care system for all Americans. I am proud to support this legislation as we return choice to our businesses and loved ones.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN ELIGIO "KIKI" DE LA GARZA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2017*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman FILEMON VELA Jr. and Congressman VICENTE GONZALEZ to commemorate the life of Congressman Eligio "Kika" de la Garza of Texas' 15th district.

Congressman de la Garza was born on September 22nd, 1927, in Mercedes, Texas and raised in Mission, Texas. When he was 17 years old, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served during the final months of World War II. Upon his return home, he enrolled in Edinburg Junior College, and later transferred to St. Mary's University in San Antonio. Eventually, he would serve during the Korean War as a second lieutenant with the Army's 37th Division Artillery. After his service, he went on to earn a law degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

At 24 years old, Congressman de la Garza was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. He was an important leader in his community, who served as delegate in the Texas House for six consecutive terms. In 1965, Congressman de la Garza was elected to the United States House of Representatives, where he spent the next 32 years advocating for civil rights, food security, affordable health care, and access to education for all citizens. He was first a member, and later the chairman of the U.S. House Agricultural Committee. He and his committee crafted legislation focused on rural economic development, improved nutrition, and environmental protection. His legislative programs often brought together farmers, ranchers, consumers, and other interest groups. During his career in the House of Representatives, he also advocated for improved U.S. and Mexico relations including the North American Free Trade Agreement. For his efforts, he later received the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest honor Mexico can give to non-citizens.

Congressman de la Garza was a pioneer who paved the way for more Hispanics to participate in our nation's legislative process. For a time, he was the only Hispanic member of the Texas House, and later became the second Hispanic member of Congress from the state of Texas. His dedication to the Hispanic community is evident in his role as a founding member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Congressman de la Garza was an inspiration for the Hispanic community, and has empowered others to become active in our legislative process.

His memory will be honored by his family, his friends, and the communities which he served. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Lucille, as well as his three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grand child. He will also continue to be honored at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, where they have the E. "Kika" de la Garza Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Speaker, we are honored to have the opportunity to remember the legacy of Congressman Eligio "Kika" de la Garza. His dedi-

cation to his country, and his community, will not be forgotten.

H.R. 1259, VA ACCOUNTABILITY  
FIRST ACT OF 2017

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2017*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, the VA Accountability First Act of 2017 (HR 1259) represents an attack on collective bargaining at federal agencies and an attempt to dismantle the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (CSRA, Pub. L. 95-454). The VA Accountability First Act of 2017 would strip Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees of personnel procedures that they developed through collective bargaining with the VA. It would also close the window of notice provided to employees facing adverse personnel actions from 37 to only 10 days. By infringing on activities authorized by the CSRA, this bill would make it easier to fire an employee without good cause.

We should remember that one-third of VA employees are veterans themselves. H.R. 1259, as written, would harm some of the very people we are trying to assist. The elimination of merit-based principles for workers facing adverse action could allow management to target the same whistleblowers who are trying to help us eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse at the VA.

The bill guts the right of VA employees to use union protest mechanisms to effectively address hostile actions. The current grievance procedure is granted by statute and included in the contract negotiations between labor and management. The bill proposes a rushed management-run appeals process that does not allow good employees who are treated unfairly enough time to develop the requisite supporting information to defend their jobs. The reduced timeframe for agency review would be even more severe for medical professionals facing adverse actions related to professional conduct or competence, particularly because their cases typically involve complex medical issues.

H.R. 1259 also strips front-line employees of their rights to appeal to the Merit System Protection Board (MSPB) by reducing the adjudication period following their dismissal and removal from the payroll. Employees lose 80 percent of the time at the MSPB and would now only have seven days to prepare their case for the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

A thoughtful approach to these issues at the VA would strike a balance of promoting employee accountability and protecting employee rights. Unfortunately, this bill does not strike that balance, and so eviscerates employee protections that it could discourage whistleblowers from exposing waste, fraud, and abuse at the VA. I strongly oppose the VA Accountability First Act because of the destructive effects it would have on the VA workforce and veterans alike.