

HONORING JOSEPH ORENDAIN

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor the career of Joseph Orendain. Mr. Orendain recently retired from the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office, serving with honor and prestige throughout his tenure as an Assistant District Attorney.

Twenty-nine years ago, Mr. Orendain began his legal career in the District Attorney's office. Though he easily could have left for a more lucrative job, he continued his service to the community for nearly three decades. He has worked on countless noteworthy cases and earned recognition from his peers as well as the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation Awards, receiving an award for Outstanding Advocacy in Capital and Complex Homicide Cases. Mr. Orendain made history when he became the first prosecutor to successfully try a human trafficking case in the United States using a state penal code.

Mr. Orendain's involvement and commitment to justice was ingrained in him at an early age. The child of the man who founded the Texas Farm Workers Union, he followed his father to strikes and marches to fight for workers' rights. When he was only 14-years-old he marched in the Texas Farm Workers March for Human Rights from the Rio Grande Valley in Texas to Washington, D.C.

In 2017, Mr. Orendain and his trial partner, Cregg Thompson, tried and successfully secured a guilty conviction in another landmark case. Ultimately, it took them six weeks of rigorous work to succeed. I am confident that Mr. Orendain will continue to improve the lives of many in his community and make us proud. I wish him the best as he enjoys his well-earned retirement with family, friends and loved ones.

Madam Speaker, Joseph Orendain is a pillar of our community, and it is truly a privilege to represent committed, selfless individuals like him.

LAVELL DICKERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud LaVell Dickerson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

LaVell Dickerson is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by LaVell Dickerson 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 LaVell Dickerson 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.

HONORING ALICE PAUL TAPPER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Alice Paul Tapper, a District of Columbia native, for her activism creating a nationwide Raise Your Hand movement as a Girl Scout Cadette in Girl Scouts Nation's Capital.

Alice Paul Tapper was born in Washington, D.C. to humanitarian Jennifer Tapper and journalist Jake Tapper. She is a sixth grade student at Maret School. Raise Your Hand is the brainchild of Alice, who witnessed firsthand that girls were shying away from raising their hand in class or volunteering at school activities. She brought the issue to the attention of her Girl Scout troop, and they agreed that Girl Scouts should have a patch for that. Alice realized this type of empowerment could only take place in a girl-led organization.

Alice's observations are also grounded in research. Girls' self-confidence drops 3.4 times below boy's, especially between the ages of eight and 12. Working with Girl Scouts Nation's Capital, the Raise Your Hand patch, was launched. Girls earn the patch after pledging to raise their hands more in class and recruiting other girls to do the same. The patch was put into circulation nationwide in October 2017.

Today, over 12,000 girls and women from around the globe have taken the pledge and earned the patch. Alice has received national attention for the Raise Your Hand movement, including appearing on local news and being one of the youngest persons to get an op-ed published in the New York Times.

Alice will bring her message to young readers in a children's book, *Raise Your Hand*, published by Penguin Young. The book chronicles Alice's advocacy initiative for girls and will be released March 26, 2019, after she appears on the Ellen Show on March 22nd. Alice has donated her advance of \$25,000, as well as a matching donation from Oprah Winfrey, to Girl Scouts Nation's Capital, so that more girls can grow in confidence.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Alice Paul Tapper for her initiative to elevate girls' self-esteem and to encourage them to raise their hands in the District of Columbia and around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on Monday, April 1, 2019. I had intended to vote "yes" on Roll Call vote 137, "yes" on vote 138 and "yes" on vote 139.

VALERIA ECHAURRIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Valeria Echauarria for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Valeria Echauarria is a student at Jefferson Jr/Sr. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Valeria Echauarria 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 Valeria Echauarria 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 JOHN DELL'OSO

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Dell'Osso, a National Park Service ranger who is retiring after more than 35 years of dedicated federal service.

Born in San Francisco, John's family moved to Petaluma where he would attend school. After getting his AA degree from the Santa Rosa Junior College in 1981, John received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Planning and Management from the University of California Davis two years later.

John began his career with the National Park Service in May of 1983 at the Point Reyes National Seashore. Starting as a Seasonal Interpretive Ranger that summer, John worked as an Administrative Clerk and a park ranger, eventually becoming a Supervisory Park Ranger. In 1994, John was promoted to Chief of Interpretation and Resource Education for the Point Reyes National Seashore, and later became the park Public Information Officer, roles that he held for 25 years.

John's leadership brought great acclaim to the park and the National Park Service over the years, especially in the area of universal accessibility. Through design work on exhibit panels, accessibility guides, audio descriptions, and braille publications, John expanded the way in which the park shares information to the public. The park interpretation and resource education division has received 14 national media awards under his leadership, which is more than any other national park unit. During his tenure, John also worked to expand accessibility in parks across the country, and the National Park Service recognized him for his work on sea level rise exhibits and messaging in 2017.

John's dedication to public service extended beyond his work for the National Park Service.

He was elected to the Cotati City Council in 1994, served three four-year terms on the council, and chaired the Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association. John has also served as a member of numerous local boards and commissions, including the Cotati Library Foundation, Rancho Cotati Little League, Sonoma County Library Commission, and the Santa Rosa Junior College Agriculture and Natural Resources Advisory Committee, among others.

Madam Speaker, John Dell'Osso has spent his career making our parks more educational and accessible to the public. His commitment to public service through the National Park Service, and as a local elected official, has had a significant and positive impact on the region and the country. Therefore, please join me in congratulating John Dell'Osso on the occasion of his retirement, and wishing him well on his next endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF RAMONA THOMAS**

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Ramona Thomas and celebrate her upcoming retire-

ment on June 3, 2019. Ramona has dedicated 29 years to serving the Permian Basin.

Ramona began her tenure with Permian Basin Community Centers, now known as PermianCare, as a Staff Accountant in 1990, and almost twenty-nine years later, she will be retiring as the Chief Executive Officer, a position she's held since November of 2014. PermianCare provides integral mental health, intellectual and developmental disability, and substance-abuse disorder services, and Ramona's leadership in the organization has attributed to their ability to expand into the leading expert in behavioral health and development disability services in the Permian Basin.

In addition to being an integral leader in PermianCare, she has also served through various capacities in numerous professional organizations. Ramona has also gone above and beyond as an active leader in the community. She regularly volunteers with the Rotary Club, Leadership Midland, the Midland Behavioral Health Leadership Team, and the United Way of Midland.

I worked directly with Ms. Thomas during my time on the Board of Directors for Permian Basin Community Centers, during which time she was the Chief Financial Officer. I found her to execute her work precisely, and she led her agency to be ranked consistently as one of the best in Texas. I'll always remember Ms. Thomas' personable demeanor, unquestionable talent, and as a joy to work with. On behalf of the 11th District of Texas, congratula-

tions to Ramona Thomas on her retirement. I look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in this next chapter.

JEWEL FAHRIG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jewel Fahrig for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jewel Fahrig is a student at Wayne Carl Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jewel Fahrig 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 Jewel Fahrig 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.