

RECOGNIZING LITTLE ROCK VENTURE CENTER FOR BEING NAMED BEST ENTERPRISE PAYMENTS SOLUTION AND BEST FINTECH PARTNERSHIP

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Venture Center of Little Rock who has recently been awarded the top prize in the Best Fintech Accelerator/Incubator category at the second annual Innovate Awards, an international competition.

The Venture Center, a nonprofit, bested four other finalists chosen by a group of industry professionals from around the globe. Along with the Venture Center winning the top prize, two alumni of the Venture Center's programs received top prizes: The Best Enterprise Payments Solution and Best Fintech Partnership awards.

The Venture Center has proven what happens when local people, organizations, and entrepreneurs collaborate, and they have made Little Rock an epicenter of fintech innovation. I echo Governor Asa Hutchinson, saying, "The Center's successes enhance Arkansas' reputation as a leader in financial technology and computer science."

I am extremely proud of what the Venture Center is doing in Little Rock and beyond and congratulate them on their earned recognition at this year's awards.

COMMUNITY HEROES TRIBUTE

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and recognize this year's Community Heroes for their life-time record of public service, social activism, and charity. 2020 will be remembered as one of the most unprecedented times in modern history. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested us and forever changed our lives. It has exposed our vulnerabilities but has also given rise to countless community heroes who, amid their own personal challenges, demonstrate courage and resilience.

I am honored to congratulate this year's extraordinary Lower East Side recipients of CODA's Community Hero Awards. Their service is immeasurable, and the residents of my district are enriched and strengthened by their contributions.

Camille Napoleon, Vice-President of the Baruch Houses Tenants Association and a dedicated lifetime resident of the New York's City's Loaisida community and Baruch Houses. When the state issued its stay at home order and the pandemic swept the city, Camille knew her neighbors and community would need help to survive this monumental event. Amidst a notable lack of timely response from the City at the height of the lockdown, Camille and her unstoppable crew of volunteers be-

came a lifeline for residents. Operating six days a week, "Team Camille" delivered thousands of emergency meals, food boxes, and essential protection supplies to quarantined and homebound seniors, unemployed families, and other vulnerable individuals throughout the Lower East Side's public housing developments. Camille's volunteerism and efforts far exceeded expectations. Today, she continues to serve her neighbors and exemplify her passion for the community.

Eric Diaz, Executive Director of Vision Urbana Inc, Food Pantry program. Vision Urbana is a community faith-based led organization dedicated to the underserved families of the Seward Park Extension and its neighboring communities. I recognize Eric Diaz for his leadership and service to the community. The pandemic not only disrupted lives but also the access to the food chain. Constituents in my district encountered empty shelves at local grocery stores and markets. Food insecurity grew to affect a record number of vulnerable residents. Eric swiftly worked to secure and increase resources for the program. Under his leadership, the food pantry program grew to double its distribution and expand its coverage area. It delivered prepared meals and boxed foods to hundreds of seniors and families in need. With his volunteers and partner organizations, Eric and Vision Urbana's pantry program reaffirmed its commitment to its mission and humanity.

Shaheeda Smith, who has devoted her life to empowering NYC residents to reclaim their wellness through her innovative approach to dance and movement therapy. Shaheeda, an advocate from Henry Street Settlement's Community Advisory Board, teamed up with Henry Street and Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES), a neighborhood housing and preservation organization, to create the People's Permit Process, a guide to help community members navigate the city's rules and regulations. When COVID-19 rocked the community with biased and violent arrests related to social-distancing regulations enforcement, this civil rights activist interceded. Armed with extensive knowledge in the constitutional right to assemble peacefully, Shaheeda emerged as a bold voice for these victims of unwarranted excessive police force. Journalists and activists have documented numerous excessive force cases related to protests or simply for not wearing a mask. I am proud to know that Shaheeda was proactive and recognized that these actions are unacceptable.

Frances Goldin, posthumously, was known as "the Crusader for the Lower East Side". Frances had an interesting life as a staunch lifetime advocate and defender of housing, social and civil rights. As early as 1959, she launched a successful campaign that defeated Robert Moses' urban renewal plan to replace affordable housing in the Lower Eastside with a freeway. She was a founding member of the Metropolitan Council on Housing and was a strong defender of the displaced families of Seward Park Urban Renewal area. Her activism was instrumental in ensuring affordable housing for seniors at the newly developed Essex Crossings. In 2019, the 100-unit senior development was named The Goldin in her honor. Frances was also a literary agent who gave a voice to countless aspiring progressive writers who probably never would have their

works printed without her support. Lastly, Frances was a proud advocate and champion for the LGBTQ community. She was iconic for attending New York City's Pride Parade. Before her passing, she was pictured in the papers at the parade on her wheelchair. Despite her unfortunate passing at the peak of the pandemic, her legacy lives on through her children and the many lives she touched over the years. At the time her passing the New York Times called her a "... protester, provocateur and voice for lost causes." Frances was that and more, she was a trail-blazer and a woman on a lifetime mission for justice. The Lower East Side community will forever remember Frances Goldin.

HONORING TERRANCE J. FULP,
PH.D

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Terrance J. Fulp as he retires after more than three decades of federal service. We honor Dr. Fulp for his lifetime of public service to our country and to the tens of millions of Americans who rely on the Colorado River for water and call the West home.

For the last eight years, Dr. Fulp has served as the Lower Colorado Regional Director for the United States Bureau of Reclamation. As Regional Director, Dr. Fulp is responsible for implementing the Secretary of the Interior's water master functions for the last 350 miles of the Colorado River—from Lake Mead to Mexico—including operation of the iconic Hoover Dam. Dr. Fulp brought a level of professionalism and technical expertise to the basin that was only matched by his ability to work across state, basin and national boundaries in the water sector with multiple stakeholders. These stakeholders of States, Tribes, water agencies, non-governmental groups—in both the U.S. and Mexico—saw a partner in Terry—and oftentimes left the negotiating table as his friends. He leaves a legacy in the basin that future leaders can only aspire to reach.

Dr. Fulp's tenure has been highlighted by his successful efforts in the management of the Colorado River. They include the 2007 Guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, Minutes 319 and 323 to the Mexican Water Treaty of 1944, the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan across the seven Colorado River Basin States, and a Memorandum of Understanding on the Salton Sea. I am especially grateful for Dr. Fulp's leadership in ensuring the success of the Title XVI Water Reuse and Water Recycling Program. This program has allowed many Southern California water agencies to invest in infrastructure development that meets local water needs, creating nearly 500,000 acre-feet of water in 2018 alone.

Madam Speaker, Terry Fulp has been an invaluable resource to Members of Congress, our staff, and the constituents and water agencies we represent. I ask that our colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Fulp and wish him and his wife Nadine a rich and rewarding retirement as they head home to Colorado.

RECOGNIZING THE ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Orange County Veterans and Military Families Collaborative for its outstanding service to the veterans and military families of Orange County, California. This organization, a commendable group of dedicated professionals and volunteers, embodies the spirit of collaboration and demonstrates the power of our community to come together and solve our toughest challenges.

Established in 2012 by a small, passionate group of Vietnam War Veterans, who answered yet another call of duty, the Collaborative helps to connect veterans, active duty and reserve service members, and military families across Orange County to quality benefits, services, and community-based opportunities.

Today, the Collaborative consists of nearly 120 member organizations, including businesses, government offices at the federal, state and local levels, non-profits, and officials from the Veterans Administration. The Collaborative serves the Orange County veteran community through eleven focus groups—dealing with critical topics like homelessness, education, and employment—and other efforts, such as a task force that works with older veterans.

The Collaborative works to ensure all veterans have a place to call home by helping veterans to secure HUD-VASH benefits and by filling the gaps for veterans where federal resources are unable to compensate. Their Housing Working Group monitors the by-name list of homeless veteran populations in Orange County and deploys rapid responses to veterans facing homelessness. Their Housing Group has also worked to house over 100 veterans and their families over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the Collaborative has made meaningful progress towards addressing the tragedy of suicide among our veterans. In 2019, the Collaborative partnered with America's Warrior Partnership to conduct Operation Deep Dive, a forensic study on the causes of veteran suicides and self-harm. Their commitment to finding solutions to these issues reminds us of Congress' own duty and the urgent need to support veteran groups working on this issue.

In 2018, the Collaborative was recognized as the Community Veteran Engagement Board for Orange County by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, deepening their role as an integral part of the Orange County community.

I ask all Members join me in honoring the Orange County Veterans and Military Families Collaborative for their work on behalf of over 130,000 Orange County veterans and their families.

HONORING JOSÉ ROLANDO VILLAREAL, J.D.

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. José Rolando Villareal, J.D. whose story of success and achievement is a true testament to all that is possible here in America. Throughout his life, Mr. Villareal has been a shining example of the immigrant experience in our country through his perseverance, tenacious spirit, and service to others.

Mr. Villareal and his three sisters were born to Jose Maria and Elisa Villarreal in the border city of Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico and immigrated with his family to the United States as a young child. The family originally arrived in Eagle Pass, Texas then, like so many other migrant farmworker families, lived in various states following the harvest until eventually settling in San Jose, California. There in Silicon Valley, Mr. Villareal was able to become the first in his family to attend college. He earned his bachelor's degree from San Jose State University and then earned his Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Mr. Villareal then began his professional career in the Central Valley, where he served in various capacities focused on improving the lives of vulnerable, underserved communities in the region. He served as chief public defender in Fresno County for eight years and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the California Rural Legal Assistance, an organization that has transformed the lives of thousands of working families and immigrant communities. Mr. Villareal has also served his community as Mayor of Sanger, California, where he led efforts to spur economic development and strengthen public safety.

Our history as a nation of immigrants is rich with countless stories of struggle and success. Like many child immigrants, Mr. Villareal spent much of his life striving to secure a foothold in our country and achieve the American Dream. Though his experiences as an immigrant were never easy, he persevered and achieved his ultimate goal of successfully gaining U.S. citizenship. Throughout his career, Mr. Villareal endeavored to encourage other immigrants to strive for this goal and has become a role model for his community.

Mr. Villareal has become a source of pride for his wife Enriqueta and their four children Rolando, Adrian, Alejandro, and Meliza, who have all supported him in sharing the story of his life via a published memoir. His lifetime of accomplishments has been rooted in his deep commitment to service. His dedication to the Central Valley's immigrant community and personal mission to improve the lives of others perfectly exemplifies the virtues of American society.

Madam Speaker it is my privilege to recognize Mr. Villareal and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his exemplary commitment to achieving the American Dream.

RECOGNIZING JULIE OLSON FOR BEING AWARDED THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDUCATORS FOUNDATION AND ARKANSAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION COVID-19 GRANT

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Julie Olson, an educator from Woodrow Cummins Elementary in Conway, AR. Julie has been awarded the Association of American Educators Foundation and Arkansas State Teachers Association COVID-19 grant.

Ms. Olson will use this special grant to buy robotic kits for her kindergarten through second grade students. Julie's had great success with these kits in the past and receiving more will enable every student to have their own kit in a socially distanced classroom.

Incorporating technology with traditional learning keeps her students engaged and eager to learn. Her proactive curriculum adaptation allows students to benefit from hands-on, experimental learning despite an unprecedented classroom setting.

I congratulate Julie for receiving this grant, and I know she is making her community proud. I thank Julie for her innovative methods in educating Arkansas' students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, for personal reasons, I was unable to vote on Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 213; NAY on Roll Call No. 212; YEA on Roll Call No. 211; NAY on Roll Call No. 210; and YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL FEINSTEIN

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of CEO & President of The Bender JCC of Greater Washington, who is stepping down this month.

For nearly 15 years, Michael Feinstein has served as the CEO & President of the Bender JCC of Greater Washington. On Oct 30, 2020, Michael is stepping down as the CEO & President of the Bender JCC of Greater Washington.

Michael's success was grounded in his unwavering dedication and exceptional skill. Prior to becoming the CEO, he served as the Chief Operating Officer of the Center for three years.

However, Michael's life of service did not begin with the Bender JCC. Michael has over