

HONORING THE LIFE, COURAGE, AND SACRIFICE OF STEWARD MATE 2ND CLASS JESUS FRANCISCO GARCIA

HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, courage, and immeasurable sacrifice of Navy Steward Mate 2nd Class Jesus Francisco Garcia. STM2 Garcia is a fallen sailor whose contributions are an integral part of our community history, and the People of Guam will forever be indebted to him for his unwavering commitment to our island and nation.

Hailing from the village of Hagåtña, STM2 Garcia is a Son of Guam who defended our country during World War II and was among a small number of CHamor men who volunteered for US military service despite a lack of American citizenship. With a desire to put others before self and swift action to answer the call of a nation in need, STM2 Garcia brought new meaning to the Navy attributes of initiative, accountability, integrity, and toughness. Further, his resolve to bolster American defense illustrates the historic loyalty and patriotism forged by CHamorus of his time and upheld by generations more throughout the years.

STM2 Garcia was assigned to battleship USS *Oklahoma* on December 7, 1941, and stationed at Ford Island on the fateful morning of the Pearl Harbor attacks. After sustaining multiple torpedo hits from Japanese aircraft, his ship quickly capsized and STM2 Garcia joined 428 other crewmembers in their final moments as the vessel quickly sunk. Following a three-years long remains recovery mission, internments in both the Halawa and Nu'uuanu Cemeteries and National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, and extended identification efforts in 1947 and 2015, STM2 Garcia was finally accounted for on September 25, 2018.

Madam Speaker, after eight long decades of service and sacrifice without full recognition and honor, I join the Garcia family and the People of Guam in proudly commemorating the life and legacy of Steward Mate 2nd Class Jesus Francisco Garcia. He embodied true service and a greatness of character that is fundamental to our tradition of military excellence and continues to inspire the soldiers of this day. His name and story will forever be etched in our hearts and remembered by a grateful nation.

HONORING OLGA AYMAT FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor Olga Aymat. Olga is a recognized news anchor, professional communicator, and master of ceremonies in Central Florida. She was born in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, where she began her training in arts and communications. Her work

at the forefront of journalism for the past two decades continues with work on television networks such as Univision. She is now one of the main anchors of the stellar news of Telemundo Orlando/NBC Universal.

Olga continues to demonstrate her passion and commitment to the community through special reports touching on human trafficking, drug addiction, bullying in schools, epidemics, and living testimonies, as well as political, educational, and special coverage issues such as the Pulse massacre in Orlando. She received various special awards for her outstanding professional career and was recognized by Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer for outstanding community efforts. In an effort of continued growth, she recently reinforced her journalistic career as an international motivational speaker at John Maxwell University.

Olga's true passion lies in being an active community leader and she continues advocating against domestic violence and human trafficking. She is proud to give voice to the voiceless and connect community members with the resources they need.

For this and more, we honor Olga Aymat.

RECOGNIZING SAM PREVITI ON BEING NAMED THE "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE MICHIGAN COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent a district that has a large number of Italian Americans, and it is a great honor for me to recognize one of their finest, Sam Previti, on being named the "Man of the Year" by the Michigan Columbus Day Celebration Committee.

Sam has been a pillar of both the Washington Township and Italian American community. In Washington Township, Sam currently serves as the Township Supervisor. Some of his other public service commitments include being a Washington Township Trustee and serving as secretary of Washington Township's Zoning Board of Appeals.

Sam also has great pride in his Italian heritage and works diligently on behalf of this community. He helps run the largest Italian American Club, Lodge Figli Della Sicilia, and is actively involved in many charity-based organizations such as the History Holy Family in Detroit. He has also served as the National President of the Columbian Federation of Italian American Societies. Regional leaders in the Italian American community know Sam is the person to call on when they need assistance in organizing, promoting, and supporting their many events.

Madam Speaker, I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Sam Previti. It is my hope that he finds pride upon reflection of his tireless commitment to both his communities. Sam's hard work is noticed and appreciated. I wish him many more years of dedicated and selfless service.

CAROLE KINLOW, ANGELS IN ADOPTION HONOREE

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Carole Kinlow for the record on her nomination by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, for the Angels In Adoption Award. This award and recognition is something very personal to me as my wife Angie and I are foster-to-adopt parents to two of our four children.

For over 24 years, Carole has served the Omaha community as a mentor and role model for young women in varying roles at many organizations. She served as an advocate at Emergency Pregnancy Services, instructor for the Kids Ability program and Girls Inc., Legal Advocate for victims of Domestic Violence at Youth Women's Christian Association, and as a property manager and regional supervisor assisting low-income families.

These experiences led Carole and her husband David to become foster parents as well as family advocates for youth experiencing homelessness. It also led them to start the non-profit, Carole's House of Hope, a transitional living program to protect and foster the growth and success of women and their children. The goal of the non-profit is to meet the needs of these individuals' facing homelessness, with a particular emphasis to assist young women who found themselves homeless after becoming emancipated from the foster care system.

Carole, whose motto is "Hope is believing, encouraging, dreaming, caring . . . hope is us," credits her personal and professional success to her husband David, who is the Director of Properties for Carole's House of Hope. She says he has stood by her side and served 22 years helping at-risk individuals including as a Youth Care Worker at Uta Halee/Cooper Village.

Congratulations to Carole and her husband David, for this nomination honor. I am thankful for her service to so many in a segment of our community that is close to my heart.

HONORING RICKY RODRIGUEZ FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor Ricky Rodriguez. On his 25th birthday, Ricky learned the story of his birth and was inspired to pursue a career in nursing. From how his mother tells it, Ricky almost didn't make it, but thankfully the doctors, emergency room personnel, and nurses present cleared his airway and successfully intervened, saving his life. This story has left a profound impact, leading Ricky to attain his nursing degree and work to help Floridians receive the best possible healthcare.

Just like the personnel who once intervened for him, Ricky works as an emergency department nurse. He also inspired his younger brother to pursue nursing and the brothers

successfully graduated from the same class 12 years ago. Today, they are both proud to be nursing directors in their respective departments, always eager to lend a helping hand to anyone who might need it and help people live healthier lives.

For this and more, we honor Ricky Rodriguez.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL GARY L.
THOMAS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor General Gary L. Thomas, United States Marine Corps, for his service to our great nation and his family's faithful service, as well. The theme of his distinguished career is one of achievement with highest honors throughout his 37 years of unconditional service to the United States of America.

General Thomas was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1984 after graduating from the University of Texas-Austin. In his 37 years as a Marine, General Thomas has deployed in support of military operations in Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Notably, his bravery and skillful command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 in the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom helped ensure the success of follow-on combat operations in the skies and on the ground. Additionally, his masterful leadership in combat while in command of Second Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) in Afghanistan enabled coalition air forces to effectively provide fires, transport, and reconnaissance to ground forces. In various higher headquarters staff positions, including his time as the Marine Corps' Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, General Thomas significantly impacted the Nation's military readiness to face challenges around the globe. We are all safer due to his selflessness and dedication.

General Thomas's final tour in the Marine Corps is as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. During a tremendously challenging period for the Marine Corps, the Department of Defense, and the Nation as a whole, General Thomas provided guidance and leadership with exceptional skill and drive. His broad knowledge base and expertise, his ability to foresee the impact of policy changes on the current readiness and future health of the Marine Corps, and his camaraderie and goodwill with senior leadership throughout the Department of Defense and U.S. Congress proved to be supremely valuable in his role as the service vice chief. His sound judgment and recommendations reached the highest levels of leadership in the Legislative and Executive branches of the U.S. Government. General Thomas's leadership during these challenging times is just one more example of the type of Marine that he is, one of the very best.

Over his years of faithful service, General Thomas has earned the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star, among other awards.

General Thomas has served 37 outstanding years in support of our beloved Nation and will retire on October 15, 2021. His unmatched professionalism has had a profound and lasting influence on generations of Marines and our entire institution. I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize not only General Thomas, but his entire family for their undeniably incredible service to the U.S. Marine Corps and our great Nation. Their sacrifice and dedication is truly remarkable. I wish him and his beloved wife, Catherine, well as they embark on a new chapter in their lives. God bless the Thomases, God bless the United States of America, and Semper Fidelis.

HONORING SOL HINCAPIE FOR
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor Sol Hincapie. Sol was born in Medellin, Colombia, and came to New York City when she was 13 years old. She lived in New York for 25 years and then moved to Florida, where she has lived for four years.

Sol completed her bachelor's degree in science nursing in Puerto Rico and graduated as a licensed practical nurse from Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York. She is currently working towards getting her license as a registered nurse.

Sol is the oldest three children and has two brothers, Rafael and Alejandro Urrego. Her parents, Alberto and Marleny Urrego, worked hard to provide a better life and education for Sol and her brothers. They encouraged their children to stay in school and become better people by helping their community and others.

Sol has a caring and compassionate personality and is satisfied through helping others. This satisfaction is what motivated her to choose nursing as a career. Sol serves as a senior licensed practical nurse at the Florida Department of Health in Osceola County, providing support to the school health program. She has been at the forefront of the health department's COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts and continues to provide quality healthcare to the residents of our community.

For this and more, we honor Sol Hincapie.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF FORMER COMMISSIONER
ROMAN LEON GUERRERO
QUINATA, SR.

HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of former Commissioner Roman Leon Guerrero Quinata, Sr. He was an esteemed leader, selfless advocate, and true public servant for the People

of Guam. We will fondly remember him as a pillar of strength and CHamoru resilience who aspired to elevate the quality of life for Talo'fo'fo' residents, our larger island community, and the future generations of Guam.

Commissioner Quinata first assumed office in 1969 as the third elected commissioner of Talo'fo'fo' and went on to serve three consecutive terms. Tirelessly working to meet the needs of residents, he embodied a kind of leadership that truly sought to connect people to resources and aimed to realize a better future for Guam by facing the challenges of our day with faith and works. In addition to his instrumental role in implementing the island's first postal mail delivery system, Commissioner Quinata actively endeavored to foster greater community involvement by organizing various youth activities such as basketball, football, and little-league baseball events in his village. Moreover, this demonstrated commitment to advancing community connections was evident in his historic efforts to repatriate Imperial Japanese Army Sergeant, Shoichi Yokoi, after almost 28 years of hiding in the hills of Talo'fo'fo' following the cessation of World War II.

This devotion to others was not limited by his 12-year tenure alone. Prior to taking on his role as an elected official, Commissioner Quinata courageously answered our nation's call to serve with the U.S. Army in the Korean War. He also became a Power Plant Electrician with the U.S. Naval Public Works Center in Guam, served as a Utilities Consultant at the Public Utilities Agency of Guam (PUAG), provided critical insight into Guam utilities infrastructure development as a member of the Guam Waterworks Authority's Board of Directors, and retired after 33 years of distinguished service within the Government of Guam.

Beyond these professional achievements, however, most inspiring is the strength of character and unconditional generosity he personified as part of the Greatest Generation of Guam. Born in 1929, Commissioner Quinata was only 12 years old when WWII arrived on Guam's shores. Despite the pain and suffering he endured as a survivor of the war, he remained steadfast in his personal mission to advocate for forgiveness and faith in place of hatred and animosity. As an important voice for survivors and Grand Marshal on the 75th Annual Guam Liberation Day, his courage to recount his experiences aided in both preserving the stories of our people and advancing greater parity and justice for Guam and the Territories.

Commissioner Roman Leon Guerrero Quinata, Sr., is an icon of fortitude and true servant leadership who continues to inspire generations throughout our island. He has cultivated a spirit of hope and legacy of selfless service by manifesting resilience in the face of enormity and promoting a lifelong message to love our neighbors. I wish to extend my deepest condolences to Commissioner Quinata's family and friends, and I join the People of Guam in remembering and celebrating his life and contributions to our island and Nation. He will be dearly missed, and his love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of the People of Guam.