

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN DEREK HERRERA AS MY CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Marine Corps Bronze Star veteran, Captain Derek Herrera, for my November Constituent of the Month. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy, Captain Herrera attended The Basic School and Infantry Officers Course in Quantico, Virginia. From then on, he was deployed on several missions, the last of these in June of 2012 in Afghanistan. On this mission, Captain Herrera was shot and paralyzed from the chest down. He was medically evacuated back to the United States.

While he was determined to walk again, Captain Herrera came to realize that his injury was more permanent than he anticipated. With this new found understanding and a new mission, Herrera refused to give up his dream of finding normalcy, and in this process, discovered his new life's calling. Captain Herrera began forging his new path by pursuing a Master of Business Administration at UCLA and founding UroDev Medical, a company that designs and manufactures innovative solutions for men living with Urinary Retention.

As he learned more about medical research and technology, Captain Herrera became intrigued not only by its' potential to help him, but also others with disabilities, including his fellow injured veterans. That's when Captain Herrera discovered the ReWalk Exoskeleton, a product that enables Captain Herrera to walk, stand, and sit. Although this technology isn't permanent, Herrera saw a space and opportunity within the medical technology realm to give veterans injured in combat, another chance to feel a semblance of normalcy.

Overcoming a life-changing injury is an incredible challenge, and I am inspired by the strength and perseverance Captain Herrera has embodied in his recovery journey and beyond. I thank Captain Herrera for his service to our country and his dedication to helping other veterans in similar circumstances. Captain Herrera's personal decorations are a testament to his selfless service and sacrifice, including the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Bronze Star (with combat distinguishing device), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. As long as I have the privilege to serve as Vice Chairman on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will look to heroes like Captain Herrera as an exemplary model of what it means to serve and support our veterans with reverence and resolve. I am deeply grateful for Captain Herrera's continued service in helping our veterans, and I'm proud to recognize him as my Constituent of the Month.

HONORING "PATRIA Y VIDA"
(HOMELAND AND LIFE)

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the anthem of freedom, "Patria y Vida" (Homeland and Life) which became a mantra for thousands of Cubans who took to the streets to protest the brutal and murderous Cuban dictatorship.

The song is a collaboration between Cuban musicians in exile and on the island who have come together in opposition to the regime, and who together are demanding freedom of expression and respect for human rights. The co-authors are Yotuel Romero, Beatriz Luengo, Maykel Osorbo, Eliecer Marquez Duany "El Funky", Descemer Bueno, Alexander Delgado and Randy Malcom. On November 18, 2021, "Patria y Vida" received two awards, Song of the Year and Best Urban Song at the 22nd Annual Latin Grammy Awards.

Today, one of the co-authors of "Patria y Vida," Maykel Castillo Pérez (commonly known as Maykel Osorbo), and Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara of the San Isidro Movement who appears in the music video, remain incarcerated in maximum security prisons in Cuba for simply participating in this song and speaking out against oppression. Another co-author, Eliecer Marquez Duany "El Funky," was sent into exile after being held on house arrest. These courageous artists suffer simply for voicing the fundamental freedoms that are the inherent rights of every person. They, and so many others in Cuba, have risked everything for freedom.

Madam Speaker, the Cuban people will be free. Toward that goal, I am honored to highlight the importance of a song that has become an anthem for a movement, and for so many Cubans who are demanding freedom on the island. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this noble cause, in demanding that all political prisoners are released, basic rights to expression, assembly, and belief are respected, and free, fair and multiparty elections are scheduled.

PATRIA Y VIDA (HOMELAND AND LIFE)

Y eres tú mi canto de sirena (And you are my siren call)

Porque con tu voz se van mis penas (Because with your voice my sorrows go away)

Y este sentimiento ya está añejo (And this feeling is already old)

Tú me dueles tanto aunque estés lejos (You hurt me so much, even though you are far away)

Hoy yo te invito a caminar por mis solares (Today I invite you to walk through my neighborhoods)

Pa' demostrarte de que sirven tus ideales (To show you what good your ideals are for)

Somos humanos aunque no pensemos iguales (We are human although we do not think alike)

No nos tratemos ni dañemos como animales (Let's not treat or hurt each other like animals)

Esta es mi forma de decírtelo (This is my way of telling you)

Llora mi pueblo y siento yo su voz (My people cry and I feel their voice)

Tu cinco nueve, yo doble dos (You five nine, me double twos)

Sesenta años trancado el dominó (Sixty years of a domino stalemate)

Bombo y platillo a los quinientos de la Habana (Pomp and circumstance for the five hundred (years) of Havana)

Mientras en casa en las cazuelas ya no tienen jama (While the pots at home no longer have food)

¿Qué celebramos si la gente anda deprimida? (What do we celebrate if folks are scrambling?)

Cambiando al Che Guevara y a Martí por la divisa (Trading Che Guevara and Martí for currency)

Todo ha cambiado ya no es lo mismo (Everything has changed, nothing is the same)

Entre tú y yo hay un abismo (Between you and me there is an abyss)

Publicidad de un paraiso en Varadero (Advertising a paradise in Varadero)

Mientras las madres lloran por sus hijos que se fueron (While mothers cry for their children who are gone)

Se acabó, tu cinco nueve, yo doble dos (It's over, you five nine, me double-twos)

Ya se acabó, sesenta años trancado el dominó, mira (It's over, sixty years of a domino stalemate, watch)

Se acabó, tu cinco nueve, yo doble dos (It's over, you five nine, me double-twos)

Ya se acabó, sesenta años trancando el dominó (It's over, sixty years of a domino stalemate)

Somos artistas, somos sensibilidad (We are artists, we are sensitivity)

La historia verdadera, no la mal contada (The true story, not the one that's falsely told)

Somos la dignidad de un pueblo entero pisoteado (We are the dignity of an entire people trampled on)

A punta de pistola y de palabras que aún son nada (At gunpoint and with words that are still worthless)

No más mentiras (No more lies)

Mi pueblo pide libertad, no más doctrinas (My people call for freedom, no more doctrines)

Ya no gritemos patria o muerte sino patria y vida (We no longer shout homeland or death, instead homeland and life)

Y empezar a construir lo que soñamos (And start building what we dream of)

Lo que destruyeron con sus manos (What they destroyed with their hands)

Que no siga corriendo la sangre (No more bloodshed)

Por querer pensar diferente (For wanting to think differently)

¿Quién le dijo que Cuba es de ustedes? (Who told you Cuba is yours?)

Si mi Cuba es de toda mi gente (Cuba belongs to all my people)

Se acabó, ya se venció tu tiempo, se rompió el silencio (It's over, your time has run out, the silence has been broken)

Ya se acabó, ya se acabó la risa y el llanto ya está corriendo (It's over, the laughs are over and the tears are already flowing)

Se acabó, y no tenemos miedo, se acabó el engaño (It's over, and we're not afraid, the deception is over)

Ya se acabó, son sesenta y dos haciendo daño (It's over, it's been sixty-two (years) doing harm)

Allí vivimos con la incertidumbre del pasado, plantado (We live with the uncertainty of the past, in a hunger strike)

Quince amigos puestos, listos pa' morirnos (Fifteen friends on (hunger) strike, ready to die)

Izamos la bandera todavía la represión del régimen al día (We raise the flag, the repression from the regime continues daily)

Anamely Ramos firme con su poesía (Anamely Ramos steady with her poetry)

Omara Ruiz Urquiola dándonos aliento de vida (Omara Ruiz Urquiola giving us strength of life)

Rompieron nuestra puerta, violaron nuestro templo (They kicked down our door, they violated our temple)

Y el mundo está consciente (And the world is aware)

De que el Movimiento San Isidro continúa puesto (The San Isidro Movement continues firm)

Seguimos en las mismas, la seguridad metiendo prisma (We are in the same situation, state security watching)

Esas cosas a mí como me indignan, se acabó el enigma (These things outrage me; the enigma is over)

Ya sa' tu revolución maligna, soy Funky style, aquí tienes mi firma (Enough of your evil revolution, I am Funky style, here is my signature)

Ya ustedes están sobrando, ya no le queda nada, ya se van bajando (You all are useless, you have nothing left, you're in decline)

El pueblo se cansó de estar aguantando (The people are tired of enduring)

Un nuevo amanecer estamos esperando (We are awaiting a new dawn)

Se acabó, tu cinco nueve, yo doble dos (It's over, your five nine, me, double-twos)

Ya se acabó, sesenta años trancado el dominó, mira (It's over, sixty years of a domino stalemate, watch)

Se acabó, tu cinco nueve, yo, doble dos (It's over, your five nine, me, double-twos)

Ya se acabó, sesenta años trancando el dominó (It's over, sixty years of a domino stalemate)

Patria y vida (Homeland and life)

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Sesenta años trancado el dominó (Sixty years of a domino stalemate)

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, this month marks the 30th anniversary of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which celebrates its Independence Day on December 16 each year. The United States was the first nation to formally recognize Kazakhstan's independence in 1991, and the U.S.-Kazakh relationship has only improved and strengthened over the past three decades.

In 30 years, Kazakhstan has undergone significant changes—largely overseen by Kazakhstan's first President, Nursultan Nazarbayev. Early on, President Nazarbayev decided to close the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and commit Kazakhstan to nuclear nonproliferation by dismantling the Soviet-era nuclear program. Despite pressure from other regional actors, one of the Republic's first policy decisions was to stand with the United States and commit itself to a nuclear free future. Kazakhstan remains as committed today—30 years later—to the issue of nuclear nonproliferation and continues to champion this cause globally.

Additionally, former President Nazarbayev took steps early in Kazakhstan's existence to align the nation with the West on economic issues—he was committed to creating a free market economy in Kazakhstan. From the start of the Republic, he understood the importance of U.S. investment" to not just the Re-

public, but also to the region. Thirty years later, Kazakhstan is a member of the World Trade Organization and has diligently worked to establish a hospitable business and investment climate for foreign investors. Kazakhstan became a member of the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) in 1992, and the nation's commitment to the rule of law has never been stronger. Today, U.S. companies are the largest source of direct foreign investment in Kazakhstan.

That's why I support Permanent Normal Trade Relations for Kazakhstan and have joined in a bipartisan effort to pass legislation this Congress to ensure that Kazakhstan is lifted from the Jackson-Vanik amendment—a law meant to target the Soviet Union, a country that no longer exists—and certainly shouldn't impact fellow WTO members. And I can think of no better time, as Kazakhstan celebrates its 30th birthday, to push for such a milestone. I encourage the House of Representatives to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

While I acknowledge that there is still much work to be done in Kazakhstan, I recognize that current President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has been highly focused on pursuing a series of internal reforms focused across almost all sectors of public life in Kazakhstan—from political and parliamentary reforms to updates to existing statutes intended to increase the openness of civil society. Despite external pressures from influential neighbors, Kazakhstan has remained a peaceful and stabilizing force in Central Asia for 30 years—this is a testament to the nation's commitment to democracy and to Western ideals. As the people of Kazakhstan celebrate this great milestone, I applaud this nation on its 30 years of independence and look forward to continuing to strengthen the U.S.—Kazakh bilateral relationship in the coming years.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL RANDALL P. MANTOOTH

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding military service of Lieutenant Colonel Randall P. Mantooth.

LTC Mantooth honorably served in various positions of increasing responsibility throughout his unprecedented military career spanning over thirty-three years, in which he displayed remarkable service to his community, State, and Nation. LTC Mantooth has proven to be an invaluable leader within the Mississippi Army National Guard, consistently demonstrating professionalism, positive leadership, and responsibility to always consider the wellbeing of his soldiers, state employees and contractors.

LTC Mantooth obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from William Carey University, is a graduate of Air Assault School, Quartermaster Officer Basic & Advance Courses, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Support Operations Course, Theater Sustainment Course, and Command and General Staff College. LTC Mantooth is married to Lana Mantooth, and they have 5 children, Chandler, Lacy, Joseph, Hannah, and Katharine.

LTC Mantooth's military assignments include company, battalion, and joint assignments. At company level he served as Housing officer and commander under garrison command. At battalion level he served as logistics officer and supply officer. Assignments at regiment and brigade level include Division Chief and Chief of Integrations. He currently serves as The Deputy Installation Commander at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

LTC Mantooth distinguished himself through exceptional meritorious service as the Deputy Installation Commander, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. He is responsible for Master Cooperative Agreement, Integrated Training Area Management Program, Range and Training Land Program, and the Facility Management Program to include long/short range planning, scheduling, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and construction of real property for the largest National Guard training installation in the nation and First Army's mobilization force generation installation. Camp Shelby serves as a training installation for all branches of the military to include National Guard and Active DOD service components.

LTC Mantooth is a true American patriot who chose to answer the call to serve our country. It is an honor to recognize his unwavering dedication to our country and to call him my friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BYRON DONALDS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed yesterday's vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 402.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF ELLEN BALIS

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ellen Balis, staff director of the House Budget Committee, who recently retired after 37 years of exceptional service to the Congress and the Executive branch.

Ellen began her career in Federal service at the White House Office of Management and Budget in 1984. She spent more than 20 years at OMB participating in the annual development of the President's Budget and advising senior administration officials on budget policy. In 2007, Ellen joined the Democratic staff of the House Budget Committee to serve as the senior budget analyst in charge of all the "numbers." In that role, she led development of the estimates for Democratic budget resolutions and advised Members and staff on budget policy, concepts, and scoring. She quickly demonstrated her invaluable expertise and became a go-to person for analysis and advice. In 2017, when I became the Ranking Member of the Budget Committee, I asked her to serve