

HONORING ISABEL DIAZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Isabel Diaz for being chosen as the 2022 American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) Direct Support Professional (DSP) of the Year for the State of Texas.

Each year, ANCOR chooses one outstanding DSP from every state. This year, Ms. Diaz, a resident of the Rio Grande Valley, was chosen as the Texas Direct Support Professional of the Year. From helping patients travel for medical care to providing open and honest communication, and volunteering to shelter-in-place with those who needed it most at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Diaz exemplifies what it means to go above and beyond for her community.

Ms. Diaz has dedicated her time to giving members of our community with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) the care they deserve. She has gone to great lengths to ensure the safety, wellness, and inclusion of patients in her care. This not only makes her an exceptional DSP but also a leader. This recognition is well-deserved, and I look forward to hearing about all that she will accomplish for our community.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to celebrate the countless achievements and successes of Ms. Isabel Diaz, who has devoted her life to providing the highest quality care to South Texans with I/DD. For that and much more, South Texas will be forever grateful.

HONORING ELIZABETH QUIROZ AS
WOMAN OF THE YEAR**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Quiroz, whom I have named the 2022 Woman of the Year in Sonoma County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Mrs. Quiroz was born in San Francisco, California. At a young age, she became a victim of human trafficking. After escaping trafficking, she pursued an education with the hope of learning how to help other victims of human trafficking recover and move forward. In 2014, Mrs. Quiroz began attending Santa Rosa Junior College, where she volunteered for the Bear Cub Scholar Program, which provides academic counseling for foster youth. She graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College with highest honors in three associate degrees: social advocacy, behavioral science and human services. In 2021, she graduated from Sonoma State University with a bachelor's degree in sociology with distinction.

While in school, Mrs. Quiroz worked as a substance use disorder counselor and co-

founded the nonprofit Redemption House of The Bay Area, which helps victims of human trafficking reclaim their lives. Mrs. Quiroz received many awards recognizing her incredible work, including the 2019 American Red Cross Humanitarian Hero Award, the 2019 Achievement and Community Service Award from the Sonoma County Lowrider Council, and the 2021 Inaugural Spirit of Sonoma County Award. She also received the Unconditional Governor's Pardon from Governor Jerry Brown in 2018.

Mrs. Quiroz currently serves as a substance use disorder counselor at Athena House Residential Treatment Center for women in Santa Rosa, while pursuing a master's degree in Social Justice and Human Rights from Arizona State University.

Outside of her community work and her education, Mrs. Quiroz finds joy in her family, including her husband, Jose, their five children and one grandson. She is also looking forward to publishing her memoir, *Purified in the Flame*, on March 31st of this year.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Elizabeth Quiroz has devoted her life to helping and supporting vulnerable individuals in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CELEBRATING APRIL AS FAITH
MONTH**HON. MARY E. MILLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, this April Americans all over the country, led by Concerned Women for America, the Nation's largest public policy organization for women, and other faith-based organizations are celebrating April as Faith Month. I rise to join and commend this noble effort calling all people of faith to join in prayer, thanksgiving, and celebration of their faith.

The United States of America was born of the unanimous Declaration that we are "endowed by [our] Creator with certain unalienable Rights," based on "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God," "appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world," and acknowledging our "reliance on the protection of divine Providence." We are a people of faith. That is why religious freedom is known as America's first freedom, as laid out in the Establishment and the Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment also supports America's unique focus on freedom of expression, including in matters of faith.

America's Judeo-Christian founding promotes religious diversity and tolerance. Our motto, "In God We Trust," further emphasizes the importance of faith in our nation's founding. From our first president to the last, we have always acknowledged America's faith. President George Washington recognized "it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and President Joe Biden, most recently acknowledged Thanksgiving as a "time to reflect on our many blessings—from God, this Nation, and each other."

Religious liberty serves to strengthen our country's appreciation of all peoples, regardless of faith. But eternal diligence is needed to preserve religious freedom. Attacks on religious liberty and people of faith continue to plague our nation with some religious charities even being forced to betray the tenets of their faith in order to participate in certain government programs. We must actively reject all efforts to criminalize or cancel religious beliefs in certain controversial areas as somehow incompatible with our democracy.

Religious organizations in America have a rich history of charitable engagement helping the sick, poor, and afflicted, and they should be celebrated, not maligned for their contributions to our way of life. According to the Pew Research Center, more than 75 percent of Americans practice some type of religious faith. This rich, diverse religious heritage is to our credit and should be commended.

Therefore, I join millions of Americans celebrating their personal faiths freely and openly, with public displays and celebrations, including prayer and expressions of thanksgiving, during the month of April, also known as "Faith Month," as a way to reaffirm our commitment to the religious liberty principles of our founding.

HONORING LISA DIAZ-MCQUAID AS
WOMAN OF THE YEAR**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Diaz-McQuaid, whom I have named the 2022 Woman of the Year in Sonoma County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Diaz-McQuaid was born and raised in Santa Rosa, California. She is a survivor of human trafficking and has been committed to helping human trafficking victims. In 2018, Ms. Diaz-McQuaid co-founded the Redemption House of the Bay Area, a non-profit organization based in Sonoma County that helps victims of human trafficking reclaim their lives. Ms. Diaz-McQuaid is currently a student at Santa Rosa Junior College, working toward three associate degrees in human services, advocacy and addiction studies.

Ms. Diaz-McQuaid has dedicated her life to supporting human trafficking victims, She is a member of the Sonoma County Human Trafficking Task Force, an advocate in the Missing Murdered Indigenous Women movement, and the co-facilitator of the first peer-lead human trafficking victims support group in Sonoma County. Ms. Diaz-McQuaid is also a team leader of a monthly street outreach program that helps human trafficking victims leave their abusers.

Furthermore, Ms. Diaz-McQuaid participates in community activities that support at-risk youth and recovering addicts. She mentors youth survivors of human trafficking and works at the Girls Circle of Valley of the Moon, an emergency shelter center for children who are unsafe with their parents or guardians.

After graduating from Santa Rosa Junior College, Ms. Diaz-McQuaid hopes to transfer to Sonoma State University to earn a bachelor's degree in sociology and eventually earn a master's degree in social work. On top of being an outstanding community member and student, Ms. Diaz-McQuaid is a mother and grandmother. She has three adult children, Gabriella, Anthony and Josephine Hall, and five grandchildren, Maya, Carmello, Jayvion, Millianna, and Dream.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Lisa Diaz-McQuaid has devoted her life to helping and supporting vulnerable individuals in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

BRAEDEN DIFRANCEISCO

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of presenting Braeden DiFranceisco with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Braeden is originally from Mullica Hill, South Jersey and is currently a senior at St. Augustine Prep School in Richland, New Jersey. He started his journey towards becoming an Eagle Scout in 2012 and has risen through the ranks from being a Bear in the third grade to Eagle his senior year of high school. For his Eagle Scout project, Braeden installed an orienteering course at Grenloch Lake Park in Washington Township. The course can be utilized by all Scout troops in South Jersey by helping them understand navigation and complete rank requirements. The orienteering course can also be used as a tool to help other scouts earn their orienteering merit badge. Braeden should be proud of his accomplishments, and it was my honor to have had the opportunity to recognize him for his service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Braeden, and God Bless America.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF MANJIT SAPPAL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Manjit Sappal as he retires from his outstanding, six-year service as the Chief of Police for the city of Martinez, California.

Born in the United Kingdom, Chief Sappal and his family immigrated to the United States in 1981 and settled in the Bay Area, where he has lived ever since. In the late 1990s, Chief Sappal began his 26-year-long career in law enforcement as a police officer in Pittsburg, California. Later, he moved to the Richmond Police Department, where he worked for 18 years and became a captain. While working as a police officer, Mr. Sappal graduated from Golden Gate University with highest honors, earning a master's degree in public administration. He also graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy and the Police Execu-

tive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police.

Chief Sappal's rigorous work ethic and impressive credentials propelled him to the office of Chief of Police of Martinez in 2015, a position from which he retired from on March 17, 2022. Throughout his career in law enforcement, Chief Sappal has worked in several positions. From Homicide Investigator to Guns and Gang Detective, he has always put himself on the line to make his community safer. While these experiences were memorable, Chief Sappal considers his time as Chief of Police, working with an amazing, high-performing team, to be the highlight of his career. Chief Sappal's service extends beyond law enforcement. As a member of the Contra Costa Council for Homelessness and the Martinez Rotary and Kiwanis, Chief Sappal has worked hard to maintain trust with the community and keep the public safe.

After retirement, Chief Sappal looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Tina, and their two teenage children, Alexis Lily and Andrew Tyler. While the people of Martinez will miss his excellent police work and leadership, the sense of empathy and compassion he established in the community will last a lifetime.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Chief Manjit Sappal has served our community through his exceptional career in law enforcement. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DONALD EDWIN YOUNG

SPEECH OF

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD additional tributes from staff and friends of the late Rep. Don Young.

MICHAEL SONGER

DY Senior Legislative Assistant & Defense Policy Advisor (2017–2022)

When it comes to the job, Congressman Young was the best there ever was. I remember we were going to an event on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) and due to a miscommunication, there was no memo for the Boss. So, there I was, hand writing a memo on the hood of a pickup truck, in a JBER parking lot. If I am honest, when I finished the memo, I was quite proud of myself. However, because of how good he was at doing the job, he didn't even need to refer to the memo. Without looking at that piece of paper, he conveyed a hopeful message full of jokes, pride, and an eye toward the future. His off the cuff remarks to that audience of servicemembers were better than anything I could have written.

When you ask anyone who worked for Congressman Young about their time working for "The Boss," they will all have numerous stories and experiences they will happily share. But one thing they will all say is he was the best boss ever. When I came on board, little did I know what the office and the Boss would come to mean to me. Over 49 years, Team DY has formed a family that has each other's backs. The Boss took a chance on me and allowed me to join this family and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity. I will miss him greatly. But I

know that when I look up at the sky and see a raven flying, he's out there, watching over his family.

NAHALI (HOLLY) R. CROFT

Team DY—Personal Staff (2008–2011)

A lot has been said in the days since Congressman Young's passing about how he was a tough, gruff fighter for Alaska. I'm grateful to Congressman Garret Graves for allowing me to share a memory that reinforces how important his constituents always were.

When I'd been newly promoted to Legislative Correspondent—a position in the Young office that handled a small portfolio as training for taking on bigger issues once promoted to Legislative Assistant—I turned in my first memo on legislation in my purview being considered on the Floor that day. To be honest, I was pretty proud of it. After all, I'd read the information on the bill from our Whip's office, and I'd consulted a few conservative think tanks for their assessments as well. I handed the memo to the Legislative Director, who approved it, and into the Congressman's office I went, ready to give my vote recommendation. I handed Congressman Young a copy of the memo, and he listened as I went through the high points. Then, he sat back in his chair, crossed his arms, and said, "Okay, Miss Holly, now argue it from the other side."

I must have given a shocked look because he chuckled, "It's important to know both sides. Just because we're recommended to vote a certain way from our leadership doesn't mean that we should." I think I must have continued to look surprised, or perhaps confused, because I don't remember responding before he continued, "We need to choose what's best for Alaska. That's not always what's best for the Lower 48. It makes me very unpopular at times with my colleagues, and that's okay because I'm not here to represent them, am I?"

"No," I admitted. At this point, I was again directed to consider the Democrats' arguments on the issue, and on that vote—my very first vote recommendation—he voted against my original recommendation and with the Democrats because it would better serve Alaskans. This was a valuable reminder that constituents should come before party affiliation, and it was something I carried with me well past my time in Congressman Young's office. It also was a good reminder that knowing a range of opinions is important for making informed decisions.

I worked for Congressman Young during this third decade of service. At his funeral, I met some of the staff who were working for him at his death. It was good to know that nothing had changed since that day back in 2008. Alaskans were always first with him, even until his last day.

DRUE PEARCE, FORMER ALASKA STATE SENATE PRESIDENT

From our first meeting in 1977 until our last, just days before his death, Don Young was a mentor and friend for whom I have the utmost respect. He was the only Alaska Congressman I've ever known and he provided sage advice and counsel, peppered with his unique exhortations to "Think Big" and "Work with everyone to get things done", sometimes uttered with some salty phrases included. Alaska and Alaskans could not have asked for a better advocate and more forceful singular voice in Congress—working for us 24/7/365 with a laser focus on building the infrastructure necessary for our future. Don Young will forever live in my heart and I will forever be a "Young Woman".

HILLEL WEINBERG

DY Legislative Assistant (1978–79)

While I was a New Yorker, my resume (sent by the placement office) got me an