

REMEMBERING ISIDORO, SHIRLEY,
AND JEFFREY GREENBLUM

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of several members of the Greenblum family of South Texas. Over the past 14 months, South Texas lost three members of this beloved family, all who made a deep impact on our community. Isidoro Irving Greenblum, Shirley Jean Katz Greenblum, and Jeffrey Lee Greenblum will all be greatly missed.

Isidoro Irving "Pancho" Greenblum lived life by one of his favorite dichos—"Que mala hierba nunca muere"—"A tough weed always survives." He was born in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and later raised in Laredo, Texas, and he was proud to be a citizen of "Los Dos Laredos." He worked for his family's successful furniture business in Nuevo Laredo while also serving as a member of the International Bank of Commerce's Board of Director for 40 years. His command of both Spanish and English and his tendency to treat everyone he met like family made him an invaluable member of the board, and he traveled extensively to Mexico and throughout Texas to form relationships with customers.

Shirley Jeannne Katz Greenblum was known for the warmth she radiated in everything she did and was dedicated to her family and community. As the mother of four sons, she undoubtedly had her hands full, but she built a home that was nurturing and open to all, with her children having fond memories of their mother hosting their friends for refreshments almost daily.

Shirley and Isidoro were loving life partners, sharing 72 years of marriage after meeting while in school at the University of Texas. Together in Laredo, they raised their sons, Jeff, Gary, Brad, and Robbie. They were also proud and adoring grandparents and great-grandparents.

Shirley and Isidoro shared a passion for charity and volunteering. Isidoro was the Founding Board Member and served as the first President of the Laredo Area Community Foundation, with the goal of making local charitable giving easy. He served on the board of several other charitable organizations, including for the Jewish community he was dedicated to, and created a scholarship at his high school alma mater for immigrant students attending college. Although Shirley was born and raised in Dallas, she made Laredo her home and gave back to the community through several organizations like the Laredo Art League, the Laredo Children's Museum, and more.

Jeffrey Lee Greenblum, known as Jeff, was a proud son and brother, and a proud father himself to his son William "Billy" Greenblum. He graduated from his parents' alma mater and went on to get a law degree from Southern Methodist University. Jeff found success in both business and public service, serving as a senior executive for an oil and gas company, a mining company, and a natural resource consultancy and serving his country during the George H.W. Bush Administration at the Departments of Energy and Commerce.

Isidoro, Shirley, and Jeff leave behind a lasting legacy in South Texas, and the love

they had for each other, and their family will never be forgotten.

HONORING LISA GOODMAN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Minneapolis's longest serving City Council Member, Lisa Goodman. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Goodman has been dedicated to improving the lives of those who call Ward 7 home—her constituents in the Bryn Mawr, Cedar-Isles-Dean, East Isles, Elliot Park, Kenwood, Loring Park, Lowry Hill, and Steven's Square-Loring Heights neighborhoods, as well as parts of downtown.

Prior to being elected to the City Council in 1997, Ms. Goodman was the Executive Director of Minnesota NARAL where she was a champion of reproductive freedom and women's rights. Since taking office, she has invested in our community by supporting her constituents through driving development and fighting for her strongly held beliefs.

Of her seven terms in office, one of Council Member Goodman's lasting legacies will be her commitment to growing the arts and entertainment district along Minneapolis's Hennepin Avenue. She was instrumental in supporting the stabilization of the Orpheum Theater, the State and Pantages Theaters, and the Cowles Center for Dance & Performing Arts. She also helped move forward the design and construction of the Downtown Library and promoted sidewalk cafes and food trucks.

During Ms. Goodman's 25 years on the City Council, the residential population of downtown more than doubled and she has played an important role in the development of an affordable housing trust fund, which has invested more than \$250 million in the community and has garnered over \$1 billion in public financing.

To address access to food for downtown residents, Ms. Goodman helped bring two Lunds & Byerly's grocery stores to her Ward and more recently Whole Foods and Trader Joe's. She was also an early champion for improved environmental sustainability, advocating for the addition of green roofs at Target Center and City Hall.

In her career spanning four decades, Ms. Goodman prioritized building long-lasting relationships with policymakers of the Minnesota Legislature and her constituents through monthly "Lunch with Lisa" events, neighborhood meetings, ice cream socials, and community gatherings. The strength of her convictions has served her well over the years. She has been a strong advocate for her community and we are grateful for her years of public service.

VALERIA HOLGUIN

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valeria Holguin for earning the

Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Valeria has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Valeria, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Valeria's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Valeria Holguin on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 11, 2023, I was not able to be recorded on Roll Call Numbers 707, 708, and 709.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 707; YEA on Roll Call No. 708; and YEA on Roll Call No. 709.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on Monday, December 11, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 707; YEA on Roll Call No. 708; and YEA on Roll Call No. 709.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday December 11, 2023, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote on three roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 707, YES on Roll Call No. 708, and YES on Roll Call No. 709.

CORINNE JAMES BOWDEN

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corinne James Bowden for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Corinne has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Corinne, who strive to make the most of their education develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them

for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Corinne's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Warren Tech North and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Corinne James Bowden on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGIZING AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING ACT OF 2023

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Energizing American Shipbuilding Act" with U.S. Senator ROGER F. WICKER (R-MS). I thank U.S. Senator ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr. (D-PA) and Congressmen ROBERT J. WITTMAN (R-VA) and BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK (R-PA) for their support as the original cosponsors.

Our bipartisan bill would help to recapitalize America's domestic shipbuilding and maritime industries by requiring that increasing percentages of exported liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude oil be transported on U.S.-built, flagged, and crewed vessels. In total, our bill would require that 15 percent of total seaborne LNG exports by 2045 and 10 percent of total seaborne crude oil exports by 2037 be on U.S. vessels. This would result in the construction of more than 40 American ships: approximately 28 LNG carriers by 2045 and 12 oil tankers by 2037. This will support thousands of new, well-paying jobs in American shipyards, vessel component manufacturers, and across the U.S. maritime industry.

As President Vladimir Putin's unconscionable invasion of Ukraine has shown, continental Europe's overreliance on imported Russian oil and gas is both untenable and dangerous. While I support the global transition away from fossil fuels to fight the climate crisis, I also support increasing American energy exports to Europe to replace Russian imports in the near term. Unless Congress acts, all U.S. seaborne LNG and crude oil exports will be on foreign-flagged vessels, operated by foreign crews.

In 1995, Congress required that crude oil exported from Alaska's North Slope be transported on U.S.-flagged vessels to preserve the tanker fleet essential to our national defense. The "Energizing American Shipbuilding Act" would implement a similar requirement. The vessels built under our bill would be available to meet the U.S. military's sealift and supply needs around the globe.

I am deeply troubled that our military, namely the Defense Logistics Agency, relies on foreign-owned oil tankers including state-owned enterprises closely linked to the Chinese government. Our bipartisan bill also counters other export countries' similar requirements including the Russian-flagged vessel requirement for arctic oil and natural gas exports announced by the Kremlin in December 2018.

The United States was a net crude oil exporter in 2022 and is projected to become the top LNG exporting nation in the coming years. Exports of these two strategic national as-

sets—LNG and crude oil—should be on American vessels, which is exactly what our bill would require. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to cosponsor the "Energizing American Shipbuilding Act."

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and to congratulate the recipients of the 26th Annual Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award-winning, public-private coalition formed to fight drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Through educational and innovative public outreach programs, WRAP is credited with keeping local alcohol-related death rates consistently below the national average. Its programs educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. Through the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, individuals who are impaired can request a free cab ride home. Since SoberRide was launched in 1991, 80,047 safe rides have been provided in the Washington Metropolitan area, preventing potential accidents and deaths.

Since 1997, WRAP has sponsored an annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony to honor local law enforcement professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against drunk driving. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2023 Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention recipients:

Officer Zachary Anderson: City of Alexandria Police Department

Corporal Steven Yanda: Arlington County Police Department

Officer Ashley Kumar: Arlington County Police Department

Officer Zackery Lauw: City of Falls Church Police Department

PFC Maurice Anderson: City of Fairfax Police Department

PFC Brian Castello: Fairfax County Police Department

PFC Bryce Cooper: Town of Herndon Police Department

Deputy First Class Tyler Giles: Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Corporal Anthony Wallace: Maryland State Police

Officer Jeremy Brady: Metropolitan Police Department (Washington, DC)

Corporal Joshua Morris: Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department

Sergeant Patrick Keep: Montgomery County Department of Police

PFC Juan Rodriguez: Prince George's County Police Department

Officer Godson Vondee: Prince William County Police Department

Officer Aram Karapetyan: United States Capitol Police

Officer Kevin Brennan: United States Park Police

Trooper Jordan Corvin: Virginia State Police

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence and in recognizing WRAP for its 41 years of public service.

I commend the staff of WRAP under the leadership of President and CEO Kurt Erickson and Board Chairman Patrick Burke for their tireless dedication to eradicating underage drinking and drunk or drugged driving. Their efforts combined with the support of partner organizations and law enforcement agencies have saved lives and are deserving of our highest praise and gratitude.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT YESENIA MERCADO, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Sergeant Yesenia Mercado, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Her patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of Texas.

During SGT Mercado's service in the Army, she went above and beyond to serve her country. She completed the demanding training in elite specialties and served multiple tours in Iraq, earning numerous commendations including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism—Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and Overseas Service Ribbon.

The end of SGT Mercado's military service didn't bring about the end of her dedication to others. She commits her free time to a host of activities, ranging from helping those less fortunate, supporting families impacted by natural disasters, and contributing to our brave first responders. She stays active in local business development and her work has brought millions of dollars to Central Texas. These efforts speak to the character of devoted public servant unafraid to contribute her energies to the betterment of her fellow citizens.

I commend SGT Mercado's dedication to her community and Nation. I join her colleagues, family, and friends in honoring her career, saluting her commitment to public service, and celebrating her outstanding achievements.

FIDEL FLORES

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fidel Flores for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Fidel has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along