

SUPPORTING MEXICAN MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to denounce this administration's move to unilaterally cancel the visas of Mexican musicians and artists.

Last week, Julion Alvarez, the proclaimed King of the Box Office, was denied entry to the U.S. and blocked from performing in back-to-back, sold-out shows at Cowboys Stadium in Dallas, Texas. This is not because of routine policy but because of targeted cultural suppression.

He is not alone. Grupo Firme and Espinoza Paz, both nominated artists for a Latin Grammy, and others have faced such abrupt denials.

Canceling visas for Mexican artists is not to mute a song. It is to try and silence a force. Mexican music is powerful. It fills stadiums. It breaks streaming records. It empowers communities. It connects generations. It drives economies on both sides of the border.

Festivals like Suenos in Chicago bring vibrancy, pride, and tourism to our cities. It is a celebration of identity. Jeopardizing it means lost jobs and sends a message that our community and our joy are not welcome.

Our culture is not fragile. It is booming. It won't be erased. It is more than a visa issue. It is a campaign to criminalize culture, demoralize communities, and create a permanent underclass.

These targeted bans on certain people, history, languages, books, and now the arts and entertainment are tactics to control, invalidate, and exclude us.

In a country that prides itself on valuing freedom, it is a threat to freedom of expression, freedom of speech, and the right to exist. This administration wants our labor without our families or our culture. They want profit from us without our voices.

It is more than a war on music. It is a war on dignity. It is a war on Mexicans, on Mexican Americans, immigrants, and all diverse communities.

We will not stay quiet. We will continue to defend our culture with pride "that we are from here and from there"; "que somos de aquí de allá," inspired by the generations before us and encouraged for the generations after us.

CHINESE NATIONALS

(Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, recently two Chinese nationals were arrested in Michigan for having smuggled in a pathogen that would be greatly harmful to our agricultural crops, livestock, and even the human use for these crops.

A fungal pathogen, known as fusarium graminearum, was identified in scientific literature as being a potential agroterrorism weapon. This is what the two Chinese nationals, Yunqing Jian and Zunyong Liu, brought into the country.

They smuggled this pathogen in via their electronic devices, which also contained evidence of Chinese Communist Party membership. The different methods with which they brought the pathogen in were hidden in devices or in tissues. There were various ways of smuggling it past customs.

We can't imagine what kind of a threat this would be toward our agricultural production in this country if something like this was allowed to get loose. They tried to get into the University of Michigan through their test labs and through the work that the university does through agriculture.

What did they want to do? Maybe they wanted to infect everything that was going through Michigan and coming out in the new crops.

Some of the effects of it on certain grains would be devastating, for example, to wheat, barley, grains, and rice. Indeed, the world's most important staple crops would be infected during their flowering stage.

The grains would often appear shriveled, bleached, or pinkish, making them unusable. Also, with these mycotoxins in here, it would cause toxicity to humans and animals. It would cause them to vomit or experience even worse effects in the livestock or people that would happen to use it.

What would the possible impact be? It would mean billions of dollars in crop losses globally each year due to lost yields, contamination, and rejection in the market. As I mentioned, these mycotoxins would cause vomiting, liver damage, immune suppression, and reproductive defects in both humans and livestock.

This is pretty nasty stuff that the Chinese Communist Party is sneaking into this country by one means or the other. In this case, it is at the University of Michigan.

It is known to be funded by the Chinese Government, though the University of Michigan states it has received no funding directly from the Chinese Government for this work. It points out that we need more clarification and more clear knowledge of the status of who is funding the research, who is funding the colleges, and who is funding the universities for things like this.

This is a bigger threat than we could imagine to the American food supply with what we produce, both domestically and those it would support around the world.

One of the two nationals has been accused of multiple smuggling attempts from 2022–2024. Again, I mentioned hiding samples of whatever they might be carrying in boots or mailed in, in a textbook.

What will we do about it? Are we going to tighten up the restrictions on what is coming in through China and have closer checks of who is being allowed to import things and what is happening at our universities?

Are we going to just let this go and have our food supply devastated by the

constant threat of people trying to undermine and break down our country?

We can't have these contaminated harvests. We can't have the continued threat to the confidence people in this country and our exporters have in the American food supply.

We can't overstate what this means for agriculture, what it means for the U.S. economy, and what it means for our national security with the food supply we grow and the overall health of U.S. citizens.

We need to do a much better job, whether it is going to be what is smuggled through our airports; who is allowed to bring things into this country; what their research consists of, and who is funding it. Mainly, in this case it is the Chinese Communist Party and their government.

Mr. Speaker, it is a dead serious issue. We better take it seriously, or we are going to be in big trouble.

HONORING OFFICER DANIEL CANDELARIO

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of a Buffalo police officer, Daniel Candelario, a devoted public servant, a loving husband and son, and a proud father of three.

At just 34 years old, Officer Candelario was taken from us far too soon after sudden complications from the flu.

Daniel worked for 10 years, earning his badge and serving the C-District with pride, integrity, and compassion. He embodied everything I ask of our public servants: selflessness, kindness, and unwavering commitment to his duty.

Officer Candelario was a protector, an avid Bills fan, and, above all, a family man. Daniel's wife, Dariana, described her husband as her best friend and rock. He was the beloved father to Danny, Dominic, and Diana, and the brother of Victoria.

To his parents, Modesto and Lucy: Western New York mourns with you and thanks you for raising such an honorable and wonderful man.

Today, we honor Daniel's memory, lift up his family in prayer, and grieve alongside his brothers and sisters in uniform.

May Officer Daniel Candelario rest in peace, and may his memory be a blessing to us all.

□ 1015

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE PATRICK H. NEMOYER

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Judge Patrick H. NeMoyer, a devoted husband, father, public servant, and friend.

Judge NeMoyer lived a life of service to our community, State, and Nation. From his early days as a law clerk and

his distinguished service as Erie County attorney, Judge NeMoyer built a legal legacy grounded in integrity, intellect, and compassion.

He went on to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York and was later elected to the New York State Supreme Court. In 2016, his deep legal knowledge and fairness led him to be appointed to one of New York State's highest courts, the Appellate Division, where he served dutifully until his retirement in 2023.

Judge NeMoyer achieved so much in his life, which was to be expected by a man of such extraordinary intelligence. He was a brilliant man and a member of Mensa International. While always the smartest in the room, he used his Irish charm and personality to make everyone feel like they belonged.

Judge NeMoyer's final sendoff last week included friends from all across the political and philosophical divide, lifelong Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals alike, coming together to pay tribute to a man of great honor and integrity who never allowed politics to get in the way of his friendships and relationships. A true old-school politician, he was beloved by all.

Judge NeMoyer was a personal friend and a mentor of mine, and he swore me in to the New York State Senate in January 2011.

Also, as near and dear to his heart as his friends were was his affinity for Camp Turner. From his childhood to adulthood, he had a special affinity for and commitment to Camp Turner, demonstrating his continued dedication to helping youth in our community.

Above all his titles and achievements, Judge NeMoyer's greatest joy was his family. His beloved wife, Elyse; their four accomplished daughters, Caitlin, Dr. Erin, Dr. Amanda, and Dr. Rachel; and all of their beautiful children were his heart and soul. It is through them that his love and legacy will live on.

Judge NeMoyer was the kind of man who read *The Buffalo News* every day, who loved a good round of golf, and who cared deeply about the world around him. He never forgot where he came from, and he never stopped giving back.

Let us remember Judge Patrick NeMoyer not only for his service but for his kindness, humility, and unwavering commitment to justice.

May he rest in peace and power.

CONGRATULATING KATE HORAN

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. De La CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the director of the McAllen Public Library, Kate Horan, on receiving the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Library Association, the highest honor a library professional can receive in the great State of Texas.

This recognition is a testament to Kate's leadership, mentorship, and impact. Since moving to McAllen 20 years ago, Kate has been instrumental in transforming the library into what it is today. She took a vacant big-box store and grew it into the largest single-floor library in the United States. She instituted award-winning programs like the South Texas Book Festival, championed bilingual initiatives, and expanded library resources.

Kate has made the library more than just books. The McAllen Public Library hosts programs vital to our community, such as providing free lunches for students and job fairs to help connect south Texans with new employment opportunities.

Kate's dedication to McAllen and the surrounding area is inspiring. We are grateful for her leadership and for always putting our community first. I congratulate her on this well-deserved honor.

PUERTO RICO'S BETRAYAL OF OUR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the betrayal by the government of Puerto Rico to our immigrant communities.

This photo shows a Dominican dish known as "three blows"—it includes fried egg, fried salami, and fried cheese.

Needless to say, it breaks your heart. But it doesn't break your heart as much as the three blows of betrayal that the immigrant community in Puerto Rico has received at the hands of its government.

On January 19, the Governor of Puerto Rico said that immigrants on the island had nothing to worry about because ICE wasn't going to conduct raids outside the border with Mexico.

On January 26, the first raid occurred. Documented immigrants were detained, in violation of their rights.

That was the first blow.

On January 27, the Governor said she was going to cooperate with the President's immigration policies.

That was the second blow.

And yesterday, it came to light that the Department of Transportation and Public Works—which since 2013 has issued driver's licenses to individuals without questioning their immigration status—was sharing immigrant information with immigration agencies.

That was the third blow.

Let me be clear: We all want immigrants to have their paperwork in order. We all want those who break the law to face consequences.

But no one can defend a government deceiving its most vulnerable community. No one can defend a government asking for personal information to issue a driver's license and then handing it over to the federal government so they can be investigated and deported.

We are talking about human beings. We are talking about children who could lose their parents. We are talking about elderly people who could lose the children who care for them.

The Government of Puerto Rico will say that, if it doesn't cooperate, it would lose federal highway funds.

A lie. The federal government—the Constitution of the United States—assigns the power of the purse to Congress, and the executive branch cannot freeze funds that Congress has allocated for a specific purpose.

The Government of Puerto Rico can defend its self-government and its immigrant community's rights in court.

Twenty states have already done so. Twenty. They sued the federal government for conditioning federal funds on cooperation with immigration enforcement. And the Government of Puerto Rico? Coward.

In that lawsuit, the 20 states cited at least eight legal precedents in favor of jurisdictions that resisted similar pressure from the federal government. Eight precedents. And the Government of Puerto Rico? Coward.

History will have no mercy: the Government of Puerto Rico betrayed Dominicans, Haitians, Venezuelans, and so many other immigrants to please Donald Trump.

As a friend told me: they gave them three blows and threw them into the stew.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my constituents and the communities affected, I will offer my remarks in Spanish.

(Spanish translation of the statement made in English is as follows:)

Esta foto es de un plato dominicano conocido como el "tres golpes"—contiene huevo frito, salami frito y queso frito.

De más está decir que lastima el corazón. Pero no lastima el corazón tanto como los tres golpes de traición que la comunidad de inmigrantes de Puerto Rico ha recibido de manos de su gobierno.

El 19 de enero, la gobernadora de Puerto Rico dijo que los inmigrantes en la isla no debían preocuparse porque ICE no iba a hacer redadas fuera de la frontera con México.

El 26 de enero, ocurrió la primera redada. Detuvieron inmigrantes documentados, en violación a sus derechos.

Ese fue el primer golpe.

El 27 de enero, la gobernadora dijo que iba a cooperar con las políticas migratorias del presidente.

Ese fue el segundo golpe.

Y ayer, salió a relucir que el Departamento de Transportación y Obras Públicas, que desde el 2013 otorga licencias de conducir a las personas, sin cuestionar su estatus migratorio, estaba compartiendo la información de inmigrantes con las agencias de inmigración.

Ese fue el tercer golpe.

Voy a ser claro: Todos queremos que los inmigrantes estén con sus papeles al día. Todos queremos que quien viole la ley enfrente consecuencias.

Pero nadie puede defender que un Gobierno engaña a su comunidad más vulnerable. Nadie puede defender que el Gobierno les pida información personal para darles una licencia de conducir y que luego entregue la misma al gobierno federal para que los investiguen y los deporten.

Estamos hablando de seres humanos. Estamos hablando de niños que podrían perder a sus padres. Estamos hablando