

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MAJOR REY VALDES ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Major Rey Valdes, who has served the Miami-Dade community as a police officer for over thirty-one years.

Major Valdes began his career as an officer, and has risen steadily through the ranks. Throughout his time in the Miami-Dade Police Department he has exhibited a passion for continued education, respect and compassion for his colleagues, and an understanding of the seriousness and importance of the profession he chose.

At various times during his career, Major Valdes worked with the homicide bureau, the narcotics bureau, and warrants management in several different roles throughout the department. In his current position, Major Valdes is responsible for all aspects of the Communications Bureau of the Miami-Dade Police Department. The Communications Bureau is the largest 911 Center in the southeastern United States, and the fourth largest in the country.

Even as he is preparing to leave the department, Major Valdes is currently studying to take the test to be certified as an Anti-Money Laundering Specialist. This credential will add to his value as a Certified Fraud Examiner. He hopes to continue to work in the field of fraud examination after his retirement.

Miami-Dade has been lucky to have had such an exceptional individual serving in its police force. Through the years, I have gotten to know Rey personally, as his daughter Katrina serves as my communications director, and am honored to call him a friend. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Rey on his illustrious and productive career, and extend my warmest wishes to his wife Elizabeth, and children Giorey, Armani, and Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Major Rey Valdes for his tremendous service to the Miami community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING 10,000 DEGREES

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 10,000 Degrees in honor of its 35th anniversary. A nonprofit located in Marin County, California, 10,000 Degrees has worked to get thousands of underserved students into and through college.

Founded in 1981, 10,000 Degrees has awarded approximately \$56 million in scholarships during its three and a half decades, and has over 18,000 alumni of the program. Participants come from low-income households, and approximately 90 percent are the first in their families to attend college. Currently, the program serves 4,500 family members and students annually—nearly 90 percent of whom are people of color—and facilitates millions in scholarships and non-loan financial aid.

Not only does 10,000 Degrees help pay for higher education, they are committed to preparing students for college success. With early college awareness training, financial aid counseling, and mentoring services, the organization ensures that over 80 percent of their students complete college—nearly three times the national rate of low income students, and significantly higher than both the national average and the average of students from affluent families.

10,000 Degrees has been an effective organization since its origin, with a wide-ranging impact that has touched thousands of lives in Marin County. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor and thank 10,000 Degrees on their 35th anniversary for their impressive efforts toward making college accessible to all, and to wish them success in the decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2016, on Roll Call Number 178 on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 4901, "To Reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes," I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

On April 29, 2016, on Roll Call Number 179 on passage of H.R. 4901, "To Reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes," I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on passage of H.R. 4901.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Collegiate Honors Council on their 50th Anniversary. NCHC is devoted to educational excellence, serving over 800 colleges and universities and 325,000 students in varying disciplines across the nation.

Two institutions of higher education in my district are NCHC members, Long Island University and SUNY College at Old Westbury.

Long Island University boasts academically talented students from each corner of our country studying in an array of majors. The Long Island University Honors Program offers high achieving students the opportunity to focus on a multitude of topics as they prepare themselves for professional careers and post-graduate studies.

SUNY Old Westbury's Honors College is more than just academics. The Honors College strives to ensure an enriched academic and social experience for its members and to create an environment that fosters active and innovative learning.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Long Island University, SUNY Old Westbury and the National Collegiate Honors Council for their outstanding contributions to our nation's educational and professional communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to amend my vote on Roll Call No. 179 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 4901) to YES.

I inadvertently voted in the negative. In my view, every child deserves access to a quality education without fear of being ostracized, punished, or discriminated against because of their race, religion, gender, ability, or because they are LGBT. I have long been an outspoken advocate for efforts to protect individuals from discrimination because of who they are or whom they love. That has not and will not change.

26TH ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 26th annual DC Black Pride celebration on May 27–29, 2016.

DC Black Pride 2016 is a multi-day festival featuring a reception, films, a poetry slam, a church service, educational workshops, community town hall meetings, a basketball tournament, an awards ceremony, and a health and wellness expo, among other events. We in the District of Columbia are pleased and proud that the DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the nation's capital from across the United States as well as

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

As the very first Black Pride festival, DC Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. (IFBP)) and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents. The Center For Black Equity, the celebration's organizing body, chose: "I AM U. U R ME. WE ARE PRIDE!" as the theme for this year's celebration.

DC Black Pride is a project of the Center For Black Equity and is coordinated by Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. and Kenya Hutton with assistance from a volunteer advisory board, which coordinates this annual event and consists of Andrea Woody-Macko; Shannon Garcon; Genise Chambers-Woods; Réginald Shaw-Richardson; and Gladece Knight.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 26th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C., and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States citizens who reside in the District of Columbia are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

CONGRATULATING VALLEY HOPE  
AT GRAPEVINE ON THEIR FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Valley Hope at Grapevine on their fifteenth anniversary of service in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Nearly fifty years ago in Norton, Kansas, Valley Hope began providing affordable treatment services to those within their community suffering from addiction and needing assistance. Since first opening in 1967, Valley Hope has grown to offer their services in seven states and provides support to thousands of individuals in need. Over the last fifteen years, Valley Hope has provided the residents of Grapevine and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex with addiction treatment and rehabilitative services, impacting the lives of countless Texans and their families struggling with addiction. By providing comprehensive treatment services for substance use disorders, Valley Hope is able to increase the quality of life of their patients and allow them the opportunity to live their lives free from the anchors of addiction.

The nation's substance abuse epidemic continues to spread throughout our cities, our communities, and our schools. I commend Valley Hope for their efforts to address this crisis and tackle an issue of such great importance head on. Rehabilitation services such as those offered by Valley Hope provide a tremendous benefit to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the tireless efforts Valley Hope has made towards ending chemical dependency and substance use disorders. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating

Valley Hope at Grapevine on their fifteenth anniversary of service.

IN HONOR OF ELENA IZCALLI MEDINA FOR HER RECOGNITION BY RENOWNED POET LAUREATE JUAN FELIPE HERRERA AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elena Izcalli Medina on being honored by United States Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera at the Library of Congress.

The 21st Poet Laureate Consultant Juan Felipe Herrera celebrated the conclusion of the first year of his laureateship by honoring young poet Elena Izcalli Medina at the Library of Congress. Elena Izcalli is a 7th grader attending High Tech Middle School in Chula Vista, California. She has been writing poetry for four years. She first received praise from Herrera in 2012 for her poem "Where I am from" which Herrera said "contained a philosophical reflection about how all of us are impermanent. It was just a solid poem where she really touched base with wisdom."

Herrera made an unprecedented gesture by arranging for Elena Izcalli and her family to attend the last lecture of his first term. Herrera presented Elena Izcalli to guests and dignitaries at the Library of Congress where she read her poem "One Day" on April 13, 2016. I would like to submit her poem.

ONE DAY

(by Elena Izcalli Medina)

One day the border will come down  
And all the colors will flow and  
We will grant ALL a crown.

One day police brutality will be no more  
And ALL will have equality no matter who  
you  
Are fighting for.

One day we will ALL love each other  
No matter what skin what religion  
because we are from the same mother.

One day we will treat the environment like  
a human being  
And ALL of nature  
Can go back to being free.

One day when someone is shot  
Black and brown Lives will matter  
And ALL will stand up to the cops.

One day we will have peace between coun-  
tries  
and instead of starting war  
we will grant each other awards  
One day we will find each other the same  
and realize we ALL go through  
sunshine and rain.

One day we will look at women  
so they are not objectified  
But we'll pay attention to who they are in-  
side

and instead of calling them bossy  
We will take away the y.  
'Cause I wonder why,  
why this belief is still alive.

My hair flies freely in the wind  
Me being proud of the color of my skin  
I inhale clean air and exhale my worries  
But one worry that stays inside me

is the idea  
that this one day might not come  
One day.

One day we'll all be free  
and proud to be  
Under the same sun  
singing songs of freedom

\*Last stanza borrowed from Matisyahu

HONORING 23 WORLD WAR II VET-  
ERANS FROM OREGON FOR  
THEIR HONOR FLIGHT TO THE  
NATION'S CAPITAL

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 23 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to our nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Clifford W. Anderson, Army; Bernard D. Brown, Army; Charles E. Brown, Army; Donald S. Doughton, Army; Wayne G. Homes, Army; Alvin W. Mohr, Army; Mikio Tamiyasu, Army; Delmar G. Wilks, Army; William A.P. Lawrence, Army Air Forces; Robert E. Parry, Army Air Forces; John T. Reeves, Army Air Forces; Ray A. Snook, Army Air Forces; Richard L. Harriman, Merchant Marines; William D. Alder, Navy; Alvin O. Bradford, Navy; George W. Hayes, Navy; Gorder R. Hoefer, Navy; John T. Hyer, Navy; Raymond M. Mader, Navy; James D. Walker, Navy; William E. Wetmore, Navy; George W. Zentgraf, Navy; and Jeanne E. Heuett, Women's Army Corps.

These 23 heroes join the estimated 20,000 to 25,000 veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. from their home states in 2016, adding to the more than 150,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

I would also like to recognize the nine volunteers traveling on this trip who have also served our country: Eden R. Brown, Army Air Forces; Clement K. Hyer, Army; James E. Morley, Army; Theodore J. Riehl, Army; Marc R. Snook, Army; Michael Allegre, Army Air Forces; George W. Hyes, Marine Corps; and William M. Lawrence, Navy. These brave men and women put their lives on the line for our freedom, and they continue their dedication to service by contributing to this great cause and honoring those that came before them.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these brave Americans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.