

Pam Munoz Ryan is the author of the novel *Esperanza Rising*, winner of the Pura Belpre Medal, a the Jane Addams Peace Award, and the American Library Associations' Top Ten Books for Young Adults and the Americas Award. In addition, her novel *Riding Freedom* has also gained wide recognition winning the Willa Cather Award and the California Young Readers Medal. Pam Munoz Ryan is also recognized for her picture books for young and older readers, such as the award winning *Amelia and Eleanor Go For A Ride* and also her work, *When Marian Sang*, is a recipient of the American Library Association's Sibert Honor, including the National Council of Teachers in English's *Orbits Pictus Award*.

Pam Munoz Ryan was born and raised in California in the San Joaquin Valley. She is the oldest of three sisters. She grew up surrounded by her aunts, uncles, and grandparents. During her childhood many hours were spent at the local library where her love of literature was cultivated. After receiving her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from San Diego State University, she became a teacher, an administrator, and after the encouragement from a friend a writer. Through her life's passion, as writer Pam Munoz Ryan has touched many lives.

Judith Ortiz Cofer is an English and Creative Writing Franklin Professor at University of Georgia. A native of Puerto Rico, her lectures center on biculturalism and the creative processes. She is driven by a deep belief in freedom of expression and the necessity to disseminate the literature and art of the many people contributing to the culture of the United States.

Her literary work is respected through the country being awarded The Anisfield Wolf Award for The Latin Deli, a collection of essays, short fiction, and poetry. In addition, she was awarded the first Pura Belpre Medal by Reforma of the American Library Association (1996) for her book, *An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio*, which also garnered the American Library Association Best book of the Year 1995-96. She also is the author of *Line in the Sun*, a novel, a collection of personal essay and short stories, and her work *Silent Dancing* was awarded a PEN/Martha Albarnd Special citation for nonfiction.

Judith Ortiz Cofer has been awarded several fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and Witter Bynner Foundation For Poetry. In 1998 Judith Ortiz Cofer was awarded Paterson Book Prize for her work, *The Year of Our Revolution: New and Selected Stories and Poems at Passaic County Community College*; additionally, she was the recipient of Christ Janner Award in Creative Research from the University of Georgia. The Rockefeller Foundation also awarded her residency at the Bellagio, Italy Conference Center in 1999.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and The National Book Festival, I hope we take time to recognize the contributions of these and many other fine Hispanic authors. America's people come from rich and diverse cultural backgrounds. Literature is at the root of America's culture. These three authors have added tremendously to our diverse American cultural fabric

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS
REDUCTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2608. This bill is the result of excellent bipartisan work by my colleagues on the Science Committee. I commend my colleagues, Congressmen SMITH and BAIRD, and Congresswoman LOFGREN for their leadership on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, the reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program will promote good science and intelligent planning, and it will save lives. It is a smart investment in the future of this nation. This program rallies all the resources available in the federal government with expertise in earthquake response and damage mitigation, and focuses them on the task of readying ourselves for the next "big one." It brings together FEMA, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the OMB, in a concerted effort to assess our needs and to make preparations.

The bill will enable us to develop effective measures for hazards reduction, and will encourage implementation of those hazard reduction measures by Federal, State, and local governments through grants, standards development, and information sharing. This is a solid approach.

I was particularly pleased that an amendment I offered in Science Committee markup was accepted unanimously and is in the bill before us today. That amendment will ensure that the research that stems from this program taps into the great expertise and resources at this nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as well as those that serve predominantly Hispanics, Native Americans, and other populations under-represented in the sciences. This will also ensure that our federal programs are inclusive of all Americans, not exclusive as they have been too often in the past.

Again, this is an excellent bill that resulted from strong bipartisan work. I was pleased to be a part of that process, and am pleased to support it today.

RECOGNIZING OF NATIONAL FIRE
PREVENTION WEEK

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the observance of National Fire Prevention Week beginning Sunday, October 5, 2003. Celebrated every year since President Calvin Coolidge's official proclamation dedicating this week to educating the public on the benefits of practicing basic fire prevention measures, National Fire Prevention Week has undoubtedly given many the informational tools essential to saving lives and preventing unnecessary fire damage.

This week begins with the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg,

Maryland to honor those heroes that lost their lives in the line of duty. To honor those that gave the ultimate sacrifice, I authored legislation, that became public law in 2001, to lower all flags on federal buildings to half staff on this day of remembrance.

During National Fire Prevention Week we must all educate and learn to protect ourselves and others. I urge all individuals to take the proper steps to ensure the safety of their families and loved-ones by installing and routinely checking smoke detectors, developing and practicing home evacuation plans, and identifying potential fire hazards throughout the home.

This year's National Fire Prevention Week theme is "When Fire Strikes: Get out! Stay out!" As a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I know the vital importance of this message. In the United States nearly 6,000 people die each year in their homes, nearly 80 percent of all fire fatalities. Tragically, many fires and can be prevented if only individuals practice the proper preventative measures.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the National Fire Protection Association for their work each year in commemorating Fire Prevention Week. I also would like to thank the fine men and women of our fire and emergency services teams for the outstanding job they do in fighting fires and saving lives. I ask my colleagues to join me in urging all Americans to take the basic precautions that could save their lives.

WHITE HOUSE RECERTIFIES AN
ILL-DESERVING GUATEMALA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, a memorandum on Guatemala's many problems from the highly respected Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) was placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The following timely memorandum authored by William McIntire, a research fellow at COHA, is a continuation of COHA's analysis of the ominous situation in Guatemala. COHA, a non-partisan organization that has long been committed to addressing issues associated with human rights, democracy and economic justice throughout the Western Hemisphere, has been referred to by Senator EDWARD KENNEDY a number of years ago as "one of our Nation's most respected bodies of scholars and policymakers."

WHITE HOUSE RECERTIFIES AN ILL-DESERVING
GUATEMALA

(By William B. McIntire, COHA Research Fellow)

On Monday, September 15, the White House recommended to Congress that their certification of Guatemala, which was previously revoked due to failure of that country's authorities to be faithful allies in Washington's war on drugs, be renewed. This move, a stunning reversal of a Bush administration decision made last January to decertify for reasons of non-performance, qualifies the country to receive U.S. financial aid to fight drug traffickers. Applied to Guatemala, however, U.S. recertification remains a largely symbolic action as Washington waived all sanctions against Guatemala last January and