

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALDERMAN PAUL GARCIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alderman Paul Garcia for his public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

Paul Garcia joined the Army when he was 19 years old. He served throughout Europe for 7 years on various assignments for the United States. During his stay in service, he received the Instructor of the Year Award in 1997 and the Joseph Hibbs Award. He was also awarded of the Kentucky Colonel Award from the Governor of Kentucky. In 1998, he retired after 20 years of service in the military.

Mr. Garcia is currently serving his second term as Alderman Place 1. He works on several committees and fundraisers within the community. Currently Paul Garcia has been playing an active role in the establishment of a park in Charlotte.

Paul Garcia lives in Charlotte with his wife Frances and they have two children together. As a pillar of his local community, he is a route manager for all of San Antonio and the surrounding country.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize Alderman Paul Garcia of Charlotte for his dedicated public service.

A TRIBUTE TO MANUEL VARGAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Manuel Vargas who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as "Real Estate Broker of the Year."

Manuel is a successful licensed real estate broker in New York and Florida. He graduated magna cum laude from New York University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Real Estate. Manuel has more than 10 years of experience in the real estate market. A Hall of Fame member for a large franchise in the new millennium, Manuel decided to start PAN/AMERICAN Realty.

Amongst his reasons for doing so was because he wanted to deliver excellent, personalized service to his clients and to establish a household name that would be synonymous with honesty, professionalism and efficient marketing techniques. His goal was to give real advice to clients and customers about all facets of the real estate industry.

Throughout his career, Manuel has learned that he can also make a positive impact in the

community that he works in by helping those in need. He has received numerous awards for all of the support and dedication he has given to different organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Manuel Vargas has been a leader in his community and has been a wonderful example of how dedication and perseverance can lead to success. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Real Estate Broker of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION DESIGNATING THE ED EILERT POST OFFICE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation designating the United States Postal Service facility located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, as the "Ed Eilert Post Office Building." I am joined in sponsoring this measure by my colleagues from Kansas: Representatives TODD TIAHRT, JIM RYUN and JERRY MORAN, and I am grateful for their support of this bipartisan legislation.

Later this month, an era will come to an end in Overland Park. Ed Eilert will step down as Mayor of Overland Park, an office to which he was elected six times and held for twenty-four years. Since he was sworn into office in 1981, Overland Park has grown to become Kansas' second largest city. Its population has nearly doubled to over 165,000, the number of people working within the city's limits has more than tripled, with roughly 120,000 jobs in Overland Park today, and hotel capacity has increased from about 800 rooms to 5,100 rooms. During his tenure, 21,897 single family and 19,533 multifamily residences have been added in Overland Park, along with 23.7 million square feet of office, retail and industrial space. Over the years, the city has seen the arrival of the Sprint campus, three new hospitals, the University of Kansas Edwards campus, the Carlsen Center at Johnson County Community College, and a city convention center.

Additionally, under Ed Eilert's leadership the city has added the landmark Clock Tower Plaza and the Farmer's Market in the downtown area, a neighborhood conservation program, the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, the International Trade Center, the W. Jack Sanders Justice Center, and interchanges at 1-435 at both Nall Avenue and Quivira Road. Mayor Eilert also supported construction of the Fire Training Center, used by many other city and county fire departments in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and he worked with Johnson County Community College to create

a training facility for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway employees on the college campus. And during Mayor Eilert's tenure, the city's land area expanded by 36 percent, to nearly 62 square miles. Finally, Overland Park enjoys a top rating for a solid financial condition. It has received numerous awards as an outstanding city. For years, Overland Park has had the lowest property tax rate of any first-class city in Kansas.

Ed Eilert was first elected to the Overland Park City Council in 1977 and became Council president in 1980. A former teacher at Shawnee Mission North High School, he knows firsthand how Overland Park has benefited significantly from its nationally recognized school systems. He had made his first visit to the city in 1960 because it was the home of Jan Bush, who he met while studying at Emporia State University and would marry two years later. The Eilerts moved to Overland Park in 1965 when he completed graduate school. In 1977, he began his first campaign for political office and has been a public servant continuously since then. He also has been a financial consultant with A.G. Edwards & Sons and serves on the board of directors of Metcalf Bank.

When you consider the daunting array of challenges that Ed Eilert faced in his twenty four years as mayor of Overland Park, you cannot help but agree with Bob Sigmund, the opinion page editor of the Johnson County Sun, who recently wrote that Eilert "provided the vision and leadership in shaping Overland Park's success as an ideal place to live, work and raise a family . . . Eilert's political skills have been especially useful in easing tensions—and maintaining an acceptable balance—between the older, established neighborhoods in northern Overland Park and the rapidly expanding new subdivisions in the south."

I am proud to call Ed Eilert my friend. While we are members of different political parties, I have always been impressed by his sound judgment, diligence, and dedication to his community and to the public welfare. When he sought the Republican nomination for the U.S. House in 1996, however, he lost narrowly to then-State Representative Vince Snowbarger for the nomination to succeed Representative Jan Meyers. I often tell Third District residents that I would have not sought election to Congress myself had Ed Eilert been elected two years before I became a candidate for the office.

Dedication of this Postal Service facility in Overland Park is a small but fitting tribute to a man who has dedicated most of his adult life to public service at the community level, working tirelessly to bring people together while ensuring quality economic development and competence in the delivery of local services. I commend Mayor Ed Eilert and again thank my colleagues in the Kansas House delegation for their support. I hope the House can move quickly to approve this legislation so we can soon see it signed into law.

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