

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DECLARING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PREVAIL IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, this resolution equates the Global War on Terror with the War in Iraq, which is in fact a diversion from the Global War on Terror. Our presence in Iraq has weakened our Armed Forces and reduced our ability to respond to more urgent threats.

Without exception, I have voted for every Iraq supplemental funding resolution, as I am determined to ensure that our troops in the field are properly equipped and protected. This resolution, however, is not about supporting the troops; it is about attempting to score points for partisan political gain.

I will not vote for a document that says we should simply stay the course in Iraq. Contrary to the misguided assertions of this resolution, redeploying U.S. troops from Iraq as soon as practicable is in fact in our national interest, and 2006 should be a period of significant transition toward full Iraqi sovereignty, as stated in last year's defense authorization law.

Regrettably, this resolution reaffirms the administration's flawed, stay-the-course policy and conduct of the war, neither of which has ever measured up to the valor and professionalism of the brave service men and women of our Armed Forces. Our troops continue to make America very proud while serving in harm's way in defense of our liberty. They deserve better than a cynical attempt at partisan exploitation.

A TRIBUTE TO ELBA ROMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Elba Roman, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York, community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Elba Roman was born in the picturesque town of Cayey, Puerto Rico, which is located in the Central part of the island. She came to Brooklyn, New York, in 1954 and began working at an early age in her community. She accompanied her father to several community meetings and demonstrations for the betterment and social progress of the people of in her neighborhood.

Elba Graduated from Eli Whitney High School in Williamsburg and went on to attend Pace University. She continued with her com-

munity work and founded the Alliance of United Women of Brooklyn, an organization of Hispanic women geared to serving and addressing community concerns.

As President of the Alliance, Elba organized numerous food drives, feeding thousands of underprivileged families in the Bushwick community. Her organization also took over the management of the Martin de Porres Day Care Center of Bushwick, which serves over 200 families.

Elba was elected to Community School Board 32 and as a member, led the drive for drug-free school zones and rehabilitation and modernization of many of the school facilities in the district. She was also elected Female District Leader of the 54th Assembly District and as a Democratic District Leader, she became actively involved in the 83rd Community Precinct Council where she and her husband, Edmundo Roman, organized a yearly fundraiser to provide Christmas gifts for the children in the Bushwick area. During her tenure as District Leader, Elba led several voter registration drives where tens of thousands of new voters were registered in Brooklyn. With her husband, Edmundo, she was also actively involved with opening Woodhull Hospital. Elba had served as a member of community Board 4 and is a member of the Women's Caucus for Congressman Edolphus "Ed" Towns. Additionally, Elba was the Founder and past President of the Boriqua Festival in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, New York.

Elba and her husband, Edmundo Roman, who is an attorney with a private practice, co-founded Precision Abstract LLC, the first Puerto Rican title abstract in the City of New York. She is presently an active member of the Sunset Park Lions Club, where she helps collect and wrap thousands of toys that are distributed to organizations that serve children in Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Elba Roman as she offers her talents and services for the betterment of our community.

Mr. Speaker, Elba Roman's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled medical procedure, I was not able to cast my vote on rollcall 288, concerning our presence in Iraq. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING JOSEPH DE LA CRUZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph De La Cruz, owner of the NAPA Auto Parts Store in Laredo, Texas, on his being selected as a recipient of the Distinguished Business Awards by the Laredo Development Foundation's Small Business Development Center, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the Laredo Chamber of Commerce.

As a young man, Joseph De La Cruz worked at an automotive parts store, and the auto parts industry intrigued him with the vast types of automotive parts needed to keep with the constantly changing marketplace. During this time frame, Mr. De La Cruz received a grant from the United States Government which enabled him to attend college upon the condition that he work for the Government for a period of at least five years. After almost twenty-five years of federal service, Mr. De La Cruz retired in 1998.

Mr. De La Cruz renewed his interest in the automotive parts industry by exploring the purchase of an existing NAPA Auto Parts Store along with his son, Joseph De La Cruz II. The project was discussed with Albert De Llano of Commerce Bank, a preferred Small Business Administration Lender. Together, with technical support from Business Development Specialist Gladys Rangel of the Laredo Economic Development Foundation SBDC, the dream became a reality. Shortly after the purchase of NAPA Auto Parts Store, he increased the stock inventory, hired more employees, increased marketing, and all these initiatives established the infrastructure for success. After one year in operation, the store achieved a sales increase of 116%, making Mr. De La Cruz one of the leader in the auto industry in Laredo, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor Mr. De La Cruz, owner of NAPA Auto Parts Store in Laredo, Texas, in recognition of his selection as a recipient of the Distinguished Business Awards.

A TRIBUTE TO MOHAMMED GHRIGA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mohammed Ghriga, a distinguished member of the community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

A scholar and a man who only recently was named Dean of the Business Department, Dr.

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