

his being selected as a recipient of the Distinguished Business Award by the Laredo Development Foundation's Small Business Development Center, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the Laredo Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Garibay is widely recognized by the business community in Laredo, Texas, for his strong commitment to his business and the community. He is responsible for over 60 employees at his business, and R.T.T. Automotive dba A-1 Auto Stop Super Center recently finished out the year with over \$7 million dollars in total sales revenues. Due to his entrepreneurship in the automotive industry, he has previously received the 1999 SBA Small Business Person of the Year for the San Antonio District, the first from Laredo to win the award, and the youngest recipient to date.

Mr. Garibay attended the University of Texas at San Antonio and pursued a career in mechanical engineering. During the summer of his sophomore and junior years of college, Ruben began his career in the automotive industry as an automotive technician at Automotive Surgeons of San Antonio, and was an integral part of the company until his departure in 1990. He returned to Laredo, Texas, with the plan of owning his own business and bringing modern technology to the automotive repair industry. He opened R.T.T. Automotive dba A-1 Auto Stop in 1991, which has become one of the top three auto repair facilities in Laredo. Mr. Garibay then took ownership of several trailer repair facilities, expanding his business further.

Ruben Garibay is married to Tina Fasci Garibay and has two children, Abigail and Isaac. The Garibay family is known for their generosity and community involvement. They are involved in many charitable organizations such as the March of Dimes, The Make a Wish Foundation, The Laredo Medical Center Senior Circle, The United Way, the Christmas Angel Wish, and the Thanksgiving Programs for Webb County.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor Ruben Garibay, owner of R.T.T. Automotive dba A-1 Auto Stop Super Center, in recognition of his selection as a recipient of the Distinguished Business Award.

HAVA NAGILA!

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful Cantor Sheldon Feinberg of Beaufort, South Carolina, has informed me that the years 2006–2010 mark the same period in Jerusalem—100 years ago—that a 12-year-old red-headed boy, Moshe Nathanson, wrote a song that continues to inspire the Jewish people and citizens throughout the world. His song “Hava Nagila” means “Let Us Rejoice” and conveys a tremendous message of optimism being recognized as the world’s most famous song of joy.

Moshe Nathanson immigrated to the United States in his early adulthood, and over a period of 60 years added to the richness of American culture, as a cantor, concert artist, teacher, and composer.

The inspiring story of the song and its composer is told in the book *Hava Nagila* edited by Cantor Sheldon Feinberg.

Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of this special song, and the remarkable work of Moshe Nathanson.

HONORING COLONEL GARY
JOHNSTON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity that I take this opportunity to honor one of the most selfless individuals I have ever had the pleasure of working with, Colonel Gary Johnston. Colonel Johnston has spent the past 25 years of his life as a member of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Since his arrival as a member of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District in July 2003, Colonel Johnston’s gracious service to the First Congressional District of Indiana has touched the lives of many of my constituents. For his efforts, and on behalf of my constituents, I take this time to thank Colonel Johnston. Colonel Johnston will be recognized for his accomplishments at an event taking place on June 30, 2006, at the Union League Club of Chicago.

Colonel Johnston has devoted himself to improving quality of life, not only in the United States, but throughout the world. Prior to joining the Chicago District, Colonel Johnston served in many capacities within the United States Army. After being commissioned into the United States Army Corps of Engineers in August 1980 and completing the Engineer Officer Basic Course and Ranger School, Colonel Johnston served as platoon leader and company executive officer of the 84th Engineer Company, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Colonel Johnston has also completed assignments with the 588th Combat Engineer Battalion at Fort Polk, which included assignments to the National Training Center and the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi, as well as deployments to Southwest Asia in Support of Operation Desert Storm and to Kuwait for relief efforts. In addition, Colonel Johnston has been assigned to Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he served as S-3 and executive officer for the 19th Combat Engineer Battalion and as plans officer for the 194th Armored Brigade. As if these accomplishments were not impressive enough, Colonel Johnston has served as an instructor for the Royal School of Military Engineers, British Army, teaching command and control topics to Royal engineer and non-commissioned officers. Following this assignment, Colonel Johnston returned to Fort Polk, where he began his command tour with the 46th Engineer Battalion. This tour sent him to Nicaragua and Haiti. In 2000, at his final stop before coming to the Chicago District, Colonel Johnston was made Engineer Division Chief for the Director of Combat Developments at the Maneuver Support Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Colonel Johnston’s educational background is equally impressive. As a member of the United States Army, Colonel Johnston completed Airborne School, Ranger School, Engi-

neer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Armed Service and Staff School, Command and General Staff College, and Air War College. His civilian educational accomplishments include a Bachelor’s Degree in civil engineering from Louisiana Tech and Master’s Degrees in structural engineering from the University of Maryland and in strategic studies from the Air War College. Known as a man of integrity and dedication, Colonel Johnston is a recipient of several military awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal (with five oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with one oak leaf cluster), the Army Achievement Medal, the Airborne Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

Since joining the Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District in July 2003, Colonel Johnston has been a driving force behind many projects aimed at improving the quality of life in the First Congressional District. While I hesitate to single out one accomplishment, Colonel Johnston has had an immense impact on the preliminary stages of the Marquette Plan, which is aimed at reclaiming Lake Michigan’s shoreline for public accessibility. This project is one of great importance to Northwest Indiana residents. In addition, Colonel Johnston has been instrumental in two important flood control projects, the Cady Marsh Ditch Project and the Little Calumet River Project, which, once completed, will protect over 10,000 structures from the dangers of flooding.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Johnston has given his time and efforts selflessly to people throughout Northwest Indiana, the country, and the world. His life truly exemplifies selfless service to others, and on behalf of the Northwest Indiana community, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Colonel Gary Johnston for his outstanding contributions to Indiana’s First Congressional District.

HONORING MICHAEL HALL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Hall, editor of Laredo Morning Times Business Journal, 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.

Mr. Hall is widely recognized by the business community in Laredo, Texas, for his work with the Laredo Morning Times Business Journal in covering all aspects of business in the City of Laredo and Webb County for the past 2 years. He is responsible for the weekly publication, ensuring the quality of the writing, editing, photography, and the layout and design of the publication. Due to his quality of work in journalism, he has previously received the 2004 Jim Parrish Media Award by the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, the 2004 Special Recognition Award for Print Media by the South Texas Workforce Development Board, and the 2002 Brownsville Herald All-Star Award.

Mr. Hall graduated from Ball State University in May 1979 with a bachelors degree in

photojournalism, and a masters degree in electronic journalism in May 1983. Shortly after graduation, he went into education where he taught at the Los Fresnos Consolidated Independent School District in Los Fresnos, Texas, from August 1999 to May 2000. He also was a teacher with Brownsville Independent School District in Brownsville, Texas, from August 1992 to June 1999. After leaving the education field, he joined the staff of the Brownsville Herald newspaper as copy editor in Brownsville, Texas. He was responsible for page design for daily pages, the Valley Business section and the cover of Valley/State section. Mr. Hall also has worked as a reporter, writer, and photographer for several weekly and daily publications in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Ohio, and Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor Michael Hall, editor of the Laredo Morning Times Business Journal, in recognition of his selection as a recipient of the Distinguished Business Awards.

RECOGNIZING MR. KEITH KIRKLAND UPON RECEIVING THE 2006 INTERNATIONAL PAPER CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP AWARD

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Keith Kirkland, the recipient of the 2006 International Paper Conservation Partnership Award.

This award is presented annually to an individual who has achieved significant results in the protection of habitat through a cooperative relationship with a business or company, and Mr. Kirkland, who serves as the Executive Director of The Wolf River Conservancy, is more than deserving.

For more than 20 years, first as a volunteer, and then as an employee of the Conservancy, Mr. Kirkland has championed conservation and has dedicated himself to protecting and enhancing the lands and waters along Tennessee's Wolf River.

Since 2003, when he was appointed Executive Director of the Conservancy, Mr. Kirkland has raised \$12.5 million to support the U.S. Corps of Engineers' Wolf River Restoration Project. This successful project has resulted in ensuring the protection of 17,000 acres and forest and wetlands within the Wolf River flood plain.

Furthermore, Mr. Kirkland has also helped to establish the Ghost River State Natural Area, whose protected landscapes serve as a recharge area for the region's aquifer. The establishment of this Natural Area has safeguarded drinking water for one of Tennessee's fastest-growing areas and habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Mr. Kirkland and thanking him for his efforts to protect the forests and rivers of Tennessee. I thank International Paper as well, for recognizing Mr. Kirkland with their award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 16, I was absent from the House in order to attend the wedding of my eldest son and was forced to miss rollcall vote No. 288. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ROXANNE I. VEDIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roxanne I. Vedia, Business Services Coordinator for the South Texas Workforce Development Board, on her being selected as a recipient of the "Women in Business Champion of the Year" award by the Laredo Development Foundation's Small Business Development Center, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the Laredo Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Vedia, in her position as Business Services Coordinator for the South Texas Workforce Development Board, oversees the planning, promotion, and implementation of several initiatives that have helped small businesses to develop and prosper in South Texas. Prior to her work as Business Services Coordinator, Ms. Vedia served as a campus service manager for Communities In Schools, a program designed to help reduce the high school drop-out rate. She also previously taught secondary science education for the Laredo Independent School District.

Due to her extensive involvement in several business organizations such as Laredo Business & Professional Women, Financial Women International, and the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, she has established a philosophy of helping increase business opportunities for women through her present position. Ms. Vedia understands the importance of what it is to be a businesswoman, and it is for this reason she is selected to be a recipient of the "Women in Business Champion of the Year" award.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor Ms. Vedia, Business Services Coordinator for the South Texas Workforce Development Board in Laredo, Texas, in recognition of her selection as a recipient of the "Women in Business Champion of the Year" award.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, instead of finding, capturing, or killing the man who viciously attacked our country almost 5 years

ago, the administration misled our country and sent 150,000 troops to war with a country without any credible link to 9/11. Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us mentions Iraq 18 times, but it does not mention Osama bin Laden even once. Not only can we not find bin Laden in Afghanistan, but we can't find him in this resolution either.

If the other side of the aisle is serious about a resolution on the Global War on Terror, they would be better served to get their target correct.

Mr. Speaker, we all support the troops—our brave men and women who selflessly and bravely put themselves in harm's way. That point is not for debate. I carry the troops in my heart every day, and I hope that we work for their safe return home as soon as possible.

This is a time of great anxiety in America, especially for the families of our men and women in uniform, who, as we speak, are serving our country thousands of miles from home, in unfamiliar and often hostile lands. Today's debate should have been centered around a bipartisan resolution that would have allowed all of us to be on the record in support of our troops and against those who would seek to do harm to Americans at home and abroad.

Instead what the Republican Majority has brought before us today not only confuses the War in Iraq with the Global War on Terror, but it is also a transparent effort to divide this body by saying to those who want to start bringing the troops home that we do not support the national security interests of the United States. That is simply not true.

After the terrorist attacks against this country on September 11, 2001, we united behind the effort to remove the Taliban in Afghanistan. That country has made great strides by electing a government, establishing a constitution that grants equal rights to men and women, and opening schools for children who were denied an education by the Taliban. Our investment in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan was both the right thing to do and critical to our security.

Yet our job there is not finished. Much remains to be done to improve security. And most importantly, the hunt for Osama bin Laden continues.

Critical resources that should have been focused on this mission have instead been used in Iraq, a war that was a conclusion in search of a reason, a war of choice rather than of necessity.

Time and again, this Administration used false and misleading information to sell the war to Congress and the American people. The troops were sent into battle without basic equipment, like body armor, night vision goggles, and armored Humvees. We have been playing catch-up ever since to ensure that U.S. soldiers are adequately protected as they serve in Iraq. Just today, the Pentagon announced that 2,500 soldiers have been killed in Iraq. How high will this number go?

Crucially, we invaded Iraq without a plan to win the peace and without enough soldiers to secure a country nearly the size of Texas. In fact, rather than listen to Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki, who suggested that as many as 300,000 troops were required to properly secure postwar Iraq, the Administration ignored him and fired him.

This Administration has repeatedly underestimated the war's cost, which is being funded with emergency spending instead of