

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCESS TO BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Access to Books for Children Act. This bill would amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide a \$5 voucher to mothers for the purchase of educational books for infants and children participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, WIC.

As a lifelong advocate for reading and early education, I am introducing this bill to help provide nourishment for both the body and the mind to children who need it most. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommend daily reading to a child beginning when the child is 6 months old. The Access to Books for Children Act will make it easier for children in the WIC program to develop literacy skills by placing books in the hands of children who may not otherwise have their own books in the home. Children who are exposed to books and reading before they start school are much more likely to graduate from high school than those who are not. I urge you to support this bill to invest in early education by instilling the love of reading in all children during the formative years that matter the most.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND CIVIL RIGHTS EQUALITY AMENDMENT ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating the one-year anniversary of the passage of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Rights Equality Amendment Act of 2009 (L18-0110).

One year ago, the District, led by the law's authors, D.C. Council member David Catania and then D.C. Council Chairman Vincent Gray, now the mayor of the District of Columbia, joined five states in affording full marriage equality to our residents. Our landmark marriage equality legislation is not the first time the District has led the country in enacting human rights legislation. The District's unique history makes our residents particularly sensitive to human rights, not only for themselves but for others, as well. Even though some of our residents do not favor same-sex marriage, there is among them a deep tradition of tolerance and respect for the rights of others that could serve as a model for other Americans.

It has been refreshing and heartwarming to see the happiness of our new same-sex marriages. Many have had wedding celebrations that have, in turn, brought great happiness to their families and friends. At the same time, the city's new law has benefited our local economy.

We celebrate the first year of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Rights

Equality Amendment Act for the many benefits it has brought to our city and our residents. I ask the House to join me in commemorating the one-year anniversary of the passage of the Religious Freedom and Civil Rights Equality Amendment Act.

HONORING DAYMON DOSS

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daymon Doss and recognize his contribution to health care in Sonoma County California. Mr. Doss is retiring after forty-five years of leadership and collaboration in building a healthy community.

Daymon received his education in Sonoma County, attending middle school, high school, Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University. His work as a registered nurse and respiratory therapist greatly informed his career path and decisionmaking; he is known as an administrator who understands the needs of clinicians.

My hometown of Petaluma would be a very different place, were it not for Daymon's vision and sense of social justice years ago. He saw that people without health insurance were using the hospital Emergency Room as their means of obtaining health care. He knew they needed a medical home that offered a full range of care, and used his collaborative skills to establish the Petaluma Health Center. When Petaluma Valley Hospital was facing financial challenges, Daymon negotiated a contract with the St. Joseph Health System to run the hospital. When St. Joseph's threatened to close the OB section of the hospital, Daymon was instrumental in saving the department by bringing all stakeholders to the table to find a solution that worked.

You see Mr. Speaker, that is what Daymon Doss does best; he is a consensus builder, a facilitator, a communicator, an inspiration. Daymon knows and holds the respect of our community so that a call from him brings people to the table to find common goals and build workable solutions. An active member of the community, he has served on multiple boards, including Community Health Foundations, COTS, Healthy Community consortium, Sunrise Rotary of Petaluma, Housing Land Trust Sonoma County, and Partnership Health Plan. He has served in a variety of management positions at the Petaluma Health Care District and currently as the CEO.

Mr. Speaker, I have turned to Mr. Doss myself, for factual updates of events that unfold while I am working in Washington, DC. He does not color his words with his own opinion, but he does color them with optimism and a strong belief that there is a solution that will benefit everyone. It is appropriate at this time that we thank Mr. Daymon Doss for his many years of service on behalf of the people of Sonoma County. He has worked tirelessly to promote the health of our community; for this, he deserves our appreciation.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JOSE S. MAYORGA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Major General Jose S. Mayorga, who is completing his service as the Adjutant General for the State of Texas and Commander of the Texas National Guard. General Mayorga has served our United States and the State of Texas for over 33 years in the Active Army Component, in the Army Reserve, and as a member of the Texas National Guard.

Jose Mayorga began his career on a Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship at Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. During his studies, he was recognized as a Distinguished Military Student and was inducted into the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society—an honor that acknowledged his distinguished scholarship and exemplary character.

He began his military service with four years on active duty as an Army Engineer Officer. In the following years, as a National Guard Officer, he held progressively more responsible command positions including Deputy Commanding General for United States Army South and Commander of the 36th Infantry Division. Among his many accomplishments was the advocacy of strong ties between the Texas National Guard and the Czech Republic and the Republic of Chile under the State Partnership Program. As Division Commander and Adjutant General he was responsible for deploying over 12,000 soldiers and airmen to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as, for the development of the first ever Joint Strategic Plan for the Texas National Guard.

General Mayorga has gone on to earn a Master of Business Administration from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

General Mayorga is the recipient of the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

In the true spirit of the citizen-warriors who make up our National Guard, General Mayorga, born in Brownsville, is a life long resident of Texas, where he and his wife, Maria, have raised their son, Jose, a recent proud graduate of Baylor University. General Mayorga, a registered Professional Engineer, also served the State for 27 years in the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission as a Petroleum Engineer and Director, responsible for plugging over 20,000 non-producing oil and gas wells.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, commitment, and leadership of the Adjutant General for the State of Texas, Major General Jose S. Mayorga.