HONORING CONSTABLE MARTIN RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Constable Martin Rodriguez. Constable Rodriguez has faithfully served the people of South Texas in many capacities, and he honorably served his country in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

Martiniano Rodriguez was born in San Antonio, Texas on December 8, 1944. The second of eight children, Martin graduated from C.W. Fox High School in 1965. Upon graduating from high school, Martin joined the Navy and served two tours of duty in the waters of Vietnam. After completing his Navy service, Martin started work at Kelly Air Force base, where he worked in the civil service for 18 years. He concurrently took classes at San Antonio College and graduated in 1977. In 1985, Martin decided to change careers, and began work at the Bexar County Constable's Department as an investigator. In 1993, Martin began working for the Wilson County Sheriff's Department and retired in 2006. Then in 2009, Martin ran for the office of Wilson County Constable, and has served in this role to this day.

In addition to a lifelong career of service to his country and his community, Constable Rodriguez will celebrate his 50th anniversary with his wife Belinda this coming January. Together, they have four children, ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Further, Constable Rodriguez has been a member and Officer of the Board of both the San Antonio and Wilson County Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), served as a life member of the Wilson County Housing Foundation, and served as a member of the Knights of Columbus of Wilson County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Constable Martin Rodriguez for a lifetime of service to his family, his community, and his country.

HONORING THE CITY OF CAMARILLO

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the City of Camarillo as it celebrates 50 years as a thriving and prosperous community in the heart of Ventura County, California. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the City of Camarillo, along with its residents, on this historic milestone.

The City of Camarillo was incorporated on October 22, 1964, and was named after Adolfo and Juan Camarillo, the proprietors of Rancho Calleguas. At the time of the city's incorporation, a population of approximately 10,500 residents covered the 5.2 square miles of the municipality. Today, Camarillo boasts an appealing mixture of rural and suburban lifestyles to its over 66,000 residents covering a region that spans an estimated 19.5 square miles.

Located in the Pleasant Valley at the eastern end of the Oxnard Plain, Camarillo has developed into a flourishing community since its incorporation. The city has become known for its outstanding high-tech retail stores, specialty businesses, and modern buildings. Additionally, Camarillo has been ranked as one of the safest communities in Ventura County, an ideal and premiere city to raise a family, live, and work.

Furthermore, the City of Camarillo is home to an exceptional educated workforce, with a premiere four-year public university. California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) was established in 2002 and has been a phenomenal addition to the fabric of the city and surrounding community.

Throughout the years, Camarillo has maintained a balance between modernity and history. While providing modern amenities to its residents, the city is peppered with significant cultural and historic landmarks, such as the Camarillo Ranch House, the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum, and Saint Mary Magdalen Catholic Church.

Since 1964, the City of Camarillo has defined itself as a distinguished community, with a wealth of history, culture, and innovation. Camarillo takes pride in its unparalleled quality of life and the many attributes of the community that have lasted throughout the years. For these reasons, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate the City of Camarillo on their 50th Anniversary.

CONGRESSWOMAN HONORS MS. LAURA LAWTON-FORSYTH, RECIPIENT OF THE 2014 NAOMI BERBER MEMORIAL AWARD

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Laura Lawton-Forsyth of Spokane, Washington for receiving the Printing Industries of America's 2014 Naomi Berber Memorial Award. I am pleased to recognize her contributions as a business leader who works diligently to support Eastern Washington's economy as well as providing employment opportunities for citizens in Eastern Washington.

Founded in 1940 by Frank A. and Frank H. Lawton, Laura's grandfather and great-grandfather, Lawton Printing Inc. has remained a family business for more than seven decades. Through the years, Lawton Printing Inc. has been dedicated to serving the needs of its clients, enabling them to grow and diversify their business offerings.

Joining the company in 1991, Ms. Lawton-Forsyth held a variety of positions before being named president in October of 2001—the fourth generation of her family to hold that position. In 2012, Laura served as Chair of the Board of the Printing Industries of America, overseeing the direction and activities of the world's largest graphic arts trade association, representing an industry of more than 900,000 employees. As such, she became the second woman to be elected to the position since its founding in 1887. Leadership on a national level runs in the Lawton family. Her father, Ray, was also Chair of the Printing Industries of America, making the Lawtons the only father-daughter pair to serve in that role.

In presenting the 2014 Naomi Berber Memorial Award to Ms. Lawton-Forsyth, the Printing Industries of America honors this outstanding woman in the graphic communications industry for her exceptional record of accomplishments, contributions to the development of the graphic communications industry and for furthering the industry's interests. She has served on their Executive Committee since 2004 and on numerous other committees, including Research and Development, Finance, Marketing, and Government Affairs.

So today, I rise to acknowledge and thank Ms. Laura Lawton-Forsyth for her years of dedication and hard work. I also want to congratulate her, as leader of Lawton Printing Inc. and File-Ez Folder Inc., for receiving the 2014 Naomi Berber Memorial Award. I applaud her dedication to the printing industry and her contributions to the success of the economy in Eastern Washington.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIA BANCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Julia Bancroft Elementary School.

Julia Bancroft Elementary School, located in Auburn, Massachusetts, was recently named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Julia Bancroft prides itself on the ability to prepare its students to succeed in a dynamic and fast-paced world. With a student body of approximately 285 third through fifth graders, Julia Bancroft Elementary focuses on its students at an individual level. Under the leadership of Principal Susan M. Lopez, teachers and staff have worked tirelessly to create a rigorous yet inviting environment where students are valued and differences are celebrated. The Julia Bancroft pledge, ''I believe, I will achieve, and I will succeed,'' encompasses Julia Bancroft Elementary School's tenets to help each student reach their potential.

To encourage students to become leaders and give back to their community, Julia Bancroft Elementary promotes numerous Community Service Learning Projects. Through fundraising, volunteer work, and reading programs, these projects have instilled in the students the importance of ''giving back.'' Other programs that contribute to student development while simultaneously benefiting the community include the Inventors' Fair, Turkey Trot, C.A.R.E. program, Literacy Night, Math Night, annual Community Reading Day, the Festival of the Arts, and various food drives.

Additionally, Julia Bancroft Elementary has strived to close academic gaps between students. Through the implementation of planned Intervention Blocks, Professional Learning Community discussions, and consistent differentiated instruction, teachers have targeted high-achievers and developed specific targeted instruction. This has resulted in the closing of gaps in the low income and special needs subgroups.

None of this would be possible without the talented educators and staff members of Julia

Bancroft Elementary School. Principal Susan M. Lopez has demonstrated a deep passion for the success of her students, as well as a commitment to creating a warm and welcoming learning environment. The tireless efforts of educators and staff at Julia Bancroft Elementary School have earned them the ''Level I School'' status for the past two years.

I'm so proud to represent the faculty, students, and staff of Julia Bancroft Elementary School, and I cannot wait to hear about their future successes. I ask you to join me in congratulating Julia Bancroft Elementary School for being selected as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING SARAH MASON AS THE HURLBURT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 398 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND OVERALL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2014

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ms. Sarah Mason as the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Elementary School and the esteemed Overall Teacher of the Year for 2014. Ms. Mason was among three educators selected throughout Northwest Florida for her inspiring efforts to bolster her students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, and I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

Though Ms. Mason has been teaching for ten years, she was keenly aware of her passion for putting others before herself long before she stepped foot in a classroom as an educator. Her teaching aspirations took flight in high school, when she joined the Gold Seal Quality Care program her junior year, which afforded her the opportunity to inspire the young minds of local elementary school students. Ms. Mason built on this positive experience and pursued a Bachelor of Education at the University of West Florida. She has spent the last seven years of her decade of teaching at Blue Angels Elementary School in Pensacola, Florida.

Ms. Mason credits her family for igniting in her curiosity and passion for science, which indirectly led to the chemical reaction rocket experiments in her backyard as a child that have helped her cultivate tomorrow's scientists and engineers as an adult. She brings science to life in her classroom through hands-on activities, like the pegboard ''engineering wall'' that allows students to engineer their own creations using pegs, rubber bands, and pipes and the building and analyzing of marble roller coasters to understand mathematical, scientific and engineering concepts through real world applications.

Ms. Mason also welcomes the latest technology in her classroom, including iPads loaded with STEM applications that stimulate student interest in outer space through the engineering of models of irregular galaxies and discovering the complex motions of the planets of our solar system, as well as constructing motors. In addition, Northwest Florida is home to some of the world's finest engineers, and Ms. Mason has partnered with Gulf Power Company making it possible for her students to engage its engineers in the developing of their classroom robots.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Mason on this well-earned achievement of Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Elementary School and the esteemed Overall Teacher of the Year for 2014 and thank her for her commitment to service and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Mason all the best for continued success.

HONORING NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH AND SACRIFICES MADE BY NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Trickster Art Gallery for its presentation of Native American Veteran artwork in honor of Native Heritage Month and Veterans Day.

During the month of November, we celebrate the ancestry and time-honored traditions of Native Americans, as their contributions have been and continue to be instrumental in the development of our great Nation. Native Americans have helped shape American conservation policy, enriched American culture and have fought gallantly for our country.

From the Revolutionary War to current combat missions, American Indians have played a vital role in the United States Military. In World War II, for example, over 375 Navajo Marines were trained as Code Talkers and famously saved countless lives with their unbreakable codes.

Native Americans continue to serve honorably on behalf of our Nation. According to the Department of Defense, American Indians and Alaska Natives have a greater proportion of Veterans than the general United States population. As a Veteran myself, I understand the great sacrifice and courage of the Native American Veteran community.

I am proud to represent the Eighth Congressional District where the diverse cultures of our great Nation are celebrated.

COMMENDING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY ON ITS NEW JEAN R. PACKARD CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority on the ground breaking for the new Jean R. Packard Occoquan Center. Work on this multi-purpose facility will kick-off of a major rejuvenation effort throughout Occoquan Regional Park, which sits in Fairfax County just across the Occoquan River from the Town of Occoquan in Prince William County.

The 400 acre park is popular with families, boaters, and fisherman with its easy access to the river, athletic fields, picnic areas, and connections to multiple regional trails, including the Gerald E. Connolly Cross County Trail and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. The modernization of this regional park will feature a new entrance with greater roadside visibility, a loop trail traversing the entire park, a landscaped waterfront plaza, and other infrastructure improvements.

A new focal point of the park will be the Jean R. Packard Center, named in honor of my good friend and mentor. Jean recently retired from the Regional Park Board after 24 years of dedicated service. It is difficult to overstate the tremendous environmental legacy Jean has cultivated here in Northern Virginia. A veteran of the Women's Army Corps during World War II, Jean moved to Fairfax in 1951 and got her start in public service much the same way I did as president of her neighborhood civic association. Thus began five decades of civic engagement, particularly focused on environmental stewardship and protection.

She was the first woman elected as chairman the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1972 and was an unabashed environmentalist before it became trendy. During my 14 years on the County Board starting in 1995, Jean was a member of my trusted kitchen cabinet and helped shape our award-winning environmental agenda. After her tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Jean became the first woman elected to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors. Though not continuous, she has served on the Board multiple times over the past 40 years, and she is in the midst of her most recent term at the age of 91!

She was a founding member of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, which recently renamed its lifetime achievement award in Jean's honor, and she has served on the national board of the Sierra Club. She has been recognized as Fairfax County's Citizen of the Year and Fairfax County Conservationist of the Year. I was proud to present Jean with the Fairfax County Park Authority's Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, which is named in memory of our dear friend and fellow community leader.

Fittingly, the new center that will bear Jean's name will include a robust educational component on our local history and the environment. It will tie in with the nearby Suffragist memorial within the park, and it will feature an interpretive collection showcasing the native flora and fauna of Northern Virginia at the time of John Smith's historic expedition in 1608. From its perch overlooking the river, the Jean R. Packard Center will put on full display the beauty of our local parks and demonstrate the value of protecting environmental treasures like the Occoquan for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority for undertaking this grand park renewal and for its stewardship of its many other properties throughout the region, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the immeasurable contributions of Jean Packard a true environmental champion, who has dedicated her life to protecting and improving the natural resources that make our community such a wonderful place to live, work, and play.