

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H. Res. 261, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,  
Chairman.

#### HONORING ALBERT GONZALEZ

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a leader in Colorado's Latino community, Albert Gonzales. Mr. Gonzales is the president of Gonzales Consulting Services which he founded in 1990. After 15 years in business, Gonzales Consulting Services has 250 employees who provide financial management, support services, information technology, and emergency security communications to clients in nine States. Having realized extraordinary success in his own business endeavors, Albert finds time now to mentor small businesses with their growth and development.

By any measure, Albert Gonzales is a true American success story. He is not only a leading entrepreneur in Colorado, he is raising his family and contributing to the larger community.

In fact, he has focused much of his life to giving back to his community—particularly to the Latino community. In 1992, Albert Gonzales founded the Colorado Democratic Latino Initiative, the first initiative of its kind in Colorado. The Latino Initiative has given many Hispanic Coloradans a means for more effective participation in politics within the Democratic Party. The initiative has provided training and information on issues that affect the community and has been a model for political involvement across our region, including similar efforts by the Republican Party. As a result, there has been a tangible increase in the participation in the political process by Colorado Latinos. That participation shows itself in more than just Latinos exercising their right to vote. Many have been given the tools and encouragement necessary to run for public office.

Although Albert is a committed Democrat, his partisan affiliation is not why I rise to acknowledge his leadership. Albert's real contribution to Colorado is in his work as a businessman, as a mentor, and as a person of conscience and good will.

As a decision maker and political leader, Albert Gonzales has shown how important it is for Latinos to occupy positions of power in policy making—particularly as this community continues to grow and influence the culture, politics and economy of the West. Although Albert will retire from the Colorado Democratic Initiative Board this year, I have no doubt that he will continue to work in other ways and with the same passion, intelligence and commitment for this community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Albert Gonzales for his commitment toward elevating the Latino community's influence in the public arena—a worthy objective that cuts across partisan lines and serves to strengthen our democratic process.

#### RECOGNIZING MASTER JOHN BACHKOSKY FOR HIS ACT OF HEROISM

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the act of heroism displayed by Master John Bachkosky on August 18, 2004. John, a Webelos Scout of Cub Scout Pack 688, demonstrated both determination and heroism by saving the lives of his sister Robin, and friend, Morgan at minimum risk to himself.

The 6-year-old girls were playing in the waves of Ocean City, Maryland, when they became caught in a rip tide. John was nearby and had an opportunity to swim to shallow water. However, as a genuine Scout would, he acted courageously by swimming to where the girls were. He then held them up until help arrived.

John's vigilance and instincts prevented the girls from any serious injury. The Boy Scouts of America upon recommendation of the National Court of Honor presented John with a Heroism Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in commending Master John Bachkosky for adhering to the Core Values of Cub Scouting, displayed through his Courage, Perseverance, and Responsibility. His actions are evidence of the principles of the Boy Scouts of America.

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO CUSHING'S DISEASE

### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw both the House and the Nation's attention to Cushing's disease: a disease that debilitates, degenerates, and devastates the lives of 10 to 15 million people a year.

Yet despite the grievous nature of this disease, it has gained little attention from the general public as well as medical advocates across the country.

Cushing's disease is caused by the body's overproduction of cortisol, the hormone that serves a number of imperative functions such as sugar break down, metabolism regulation, inflammation reduction, maintenance of blood pressure and cardiovascular function, and regulation of the body's response to stress.

Unfortunately, the severity of the disease is also coupled with a high degree of unfamiliarity with its symptoms among victims and doctors alike. These circumstances prove highly dangerous as it is frequently misdiagnosed.

This illness comes in various yet equally grievous forms in which its myriad of symptoms are easily confused with other diseases, conditions, and disorders. Some of the most commonly experienced symptoms include rapid weight gain, central obesity, moon face, weakness, fatigue, backache, headache, increased urination, impotence, neuropsychological disorders, muscle atrophy, stretch marks,

osteoporosis, high blood pressure, and uncontrolled diabetes.

Failure to properly and aggressively treat Cushing's disease quickly can lead to fatal consequences.

Recently, Ms. Stephanie Womack-Gilchrist, my constituent in the 8th District of New Jersey, shared with me the story of her excruciating battle with this rare and relatively unknown disease. She has endured a 7-year battle with the illness in which she subsequently experienced sporadic hospitalization, comas, seizures, and a miscarriage.

Additionally, she was diagnosed with diabetes, suffered from depression, broke both feet due to the severity of her osteoporosis, developed a tumor on her pituitary, and had to endure radiation treatment. Her symptoms baffled various doctors and specialists for 3 years before her original internist identified her affliction as Cushing's disease. Yet, despite this horrific ordeal, Stephanie has persevered.

This resilient woman contacted me in an effort to raise awareness about Cushing's Disease. And I stand here today to educate my colleagues on the severity of this disease in order to help her and others suffering from this disease to promote a wide-spread understanding of it.

After enduring the absolute havoc that Cushing's wreaked on her life, Ms. Womack-Gilchrist has allied herself with the organization, Cushing's Understanding Support Help (CUSH). This organization is leading the charge in raising the level of public awareness about this debilitating disease.

Their website provides comprehensive information about the causes, symptoms, and consequences of Cushing's Disease, and strives to promote a wide understanding of all the elements of this illness. It also provides information on ways to reach out to patients and their families and offers a Chat Night every Wednesday.

In addition, CUSH posts opportunities to participate in symptoms studies and various other medical research. They also have an interactive message board on which they post international events, recent news, biographies of CUSH founders and patients, and relevant web casts and video footage, among other things. Such efforts work to not only inform and support those with the affliction, but to globally implement a much needed, education campaign.

It is our duty as the legislative leaders of this Nation to respond to all those who are and who will be affected by Cushing's.

I urge Congress to recognize the detrimental effects of this agonizing illness and emphatically encourage my colleagues to help promote awareness and understanding of Cushing's Disease.

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION-EAST BAY CHAPTER TRIBUTE CELEBRATION

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague and neighbor Ms. BARBARA LEE to pay tribute to the celebrations planned by the