PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHALIMAR CABRERA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Shalimar Cabrera for her tireless efforts on behalf of the homeless veterans in the Las Vegas community.

Shalimar is a native of the Philippines who immigrated to Las Vegas at the age of thirteen months. Raised in Las Vegas, Shalimar began her active role in community service while attending Bishop Gorman High School and continued through her college years. She volunteered with groups such as the North Las Vegas Housing Authority's Casa Rosa Youth Program, Shade Tree, Ronald McDonald House, Clinic on Wheels, and assisting on the Sunrise Hospital pediatric floor.

Inspired by the emotional rewards of community service, Shalimar co-founded a service group at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas while working on a degree in biology. The group gave students the resources to become active in their community through various service projects and volunteer opportunities.

As a devoted advocate of community-based work, Shalimar continued to follow her passion by becoming an Outreach Specialist for the United States Veterans Initiative in Las Vegas (U.S. VETS—LAS VEGAS). Since 2003 she has worked closely with homeless veterans, addressing their needs and providing assistance and inspiration to help them abandon life on the streets. Her eagerness to go above and beyond in her service to veterans was recognized and she soon became the Las Vegas AmeriCorps Program Director for the U.S. VETS program.

Motivated by her experience working with the U.S. VETS, Shalimar applied to the Masters Program in Social Work at UNLV, which she began in 2003. In 2006 Shalimar earned her Master's in Social Work Administration and was promptly promoted to National AmeriCorps Director for the U.S. VETS program. Shalimar now oversees ten U.S. VETS AmeriCorps programs across the country which serve more than 10,000 homeless veterans each year.

Shalimar's lifelong commitment to community service endears her to the people of Las Vegas and serves as an inspiration to us all. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Shalimar Cabrera. On behalf of U.S. veterans, I would like to personally thank her for work serving those who have served the United States. I wish her continued success as she helps out those who need it most.

CONGRATULATING MR. CHASE BRASHER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents Mr. Chase Brasher of Littleton, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. His outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young man.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Mr. Brasher to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Brasher and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF DESMOND MPILO TUTU

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H. Res. 34, a bill recognizing the 75th birthday of Desmond Tutu, South African Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient. I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE for introducing this bill to give us all an opportunity to celebrate the life of this remarkable leader.

Words alone can't express my sincere admiration for Desmond Tutu and what he has contributed to the ending of apartheid and the founding of the new South Africa. He is one person who truly embodies and exemplifies in word and deeds justice, peace, courage, humility, dignity, strength, patience, understanding, leadership, and compassion.

I truly admire Desmond Tutu for committing his life to changing South Africa and the world. One of the most oppressive eras in world history for black South Africans was living under the apartheid system. This awful system, which began in 1948, legally classified Blacks, Indians, Whites, and Colored people and called for segregation. The apartheid rules created ethnic based territories, in which those for Colored people were not equal to those for Whites. Thus, creating a nation in which Colored people, although the majority, were formally and legally justified to be oppressed, marginalized, and disenfranchised. Despite such injustice, Desmond Tutu worked tirelessly to reverse apartheid utilizing a non-violent approach. I believe his heart and soul rejoiced when apartheid was finally dismantled in 1994. His spirit is truly admirable.

Desmond Tutu has been recognized with many prestigious awards for his contribution to mankind, all of which has made the world a better place. I'm so grateful to have witnessed his life and work. I urge my colleagues to honor him by supporting H. Res. 34. I also encourage people all over the world to learn about and become inspired by his life, work, and commitment to inspire world peace.

REGARDING H.R. 1636

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1636, the United States-Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program.

As Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, U.S. Helsinki Commission, I can attest to the values of such a cultural exchange. Since the end of the Cold War, the Republic of Poland has steadily grown into a close friend and ally, and, through its active participation in the OSCE, NATO, and the EU, has shown a commitment to many of our democratic values and ideals. By sending high school students to Poland for an entire year, this program will encourage international involvement at a young age and serve to strengthen the relations between our countries.

I have seen the growth that such exchange fosters and the diplomacy it promotes during my time as an annual host to Australian interns through the UNI-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Moreover, I currently have an intern in my office from London and previously have hosted young people from Germany, Finland, Denmark, and Estonia, among others. By hosting foreign students in a similar program, the United States and Poland can enhance bilateral relations, improve international commerce, encourage global consciousness, and give our young people a sense of global citizenship.

I believe the United States-Poland Youth Exchange Program will provide a unique and important bridge between our countries, especially in the arena of promoting people to people relationships that are just as key if not more so than our military and economic relationships.

I urge my colleagues to fund the United States-Poland Youth Exchange Program by supporting H.R. 1636.

HONORING MANATEE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Manatee County Chamber of Commerce for winning the American Chamber of Commerce Executive's, ACCE, 2007 Chamber of the Year Award, the nation's only award recognizing the expanding role chambers play in strengthening area businesses and their community.

By winning this award, the Manatee chamber has demonstrated its organizational strength and success in community leadership by being the best in the nation in its category for financial and membership growth as well as making a significant impact on important community issues, including economic development, education, transportation, healthcare and cultural activities.

The Manatee chamber was also named the 2007 Florida Chamber of the Year by the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals for