

Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current ten-day-long celebration. This year Capital Pride Festival culminates with what Washington's City Paper has declared D.C.'s Best Parade for two years running, the Pride Parade on June 13th and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 14th.

This year, the Festival's new organizers, the Capital Pride Alliance, Inc., anticipates an attendance of 250,000, making Capital Pride one of the largest GLBT festivals in the United States.

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which, in the early hours of June 28, 1969, New York City's GLBT community spontaneously and publicly asserted its rights in defiance of government oppression. The Capital Pride commemorates this event with the theme "Generations of Pride: Celebrate and Remember."

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community and the District of Columbia. Congress has much work to do. We must pass The Family Leave Insurance Act of 2009, Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act/Matthew Shepard Act, Safe Schools Improvement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, The Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act, Uniting American Families Act, Responsible Education About Life Act, and the Early Treatment for HIV Act.

This year, as Iowa, Maine, and New Hampshire have extended full rights to their GLBT residents. Our city of 600,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the entire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States where all its citizens are denied their basic rights by being subjected to Taxation Without Representation.

The residents of our Nation's Capital are entitled all their rights as citizens. I support and, I will defend, D.C. Council's action to extend full faith and credit to all marriages contracted in the United States as necessary to stabilize and protect all D.C. Families.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 34th Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that U.S. citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has a strong history of public service.

Everywhere in our community we are surrounded by people working for the common good and devoting their lives to helping others. Our city is very fortunate to count on local, county, state, and federal employees, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our children are taught, our sick are provided the medical care they need, and everyday citizens have access to vital services.

Our public servants are not recognized or thanked enough for the work they do. In honor of public service recognition week, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for our public servants in El Paso, Texas. Here are just a few examples of those who continue to make significant contributions to our community.

Mrs. Deborah Hamlyn is a homegrown El Pasoan and veteran City employee of over 30 years. After being recruited by the City of El Paso for an internship with the Planning Department, Ms. Hamlyn continued to advance within the organization. She maintained various planning positions and in 1987 ultimately became the first female Director of Community and Human Development where she remained for over 15 years. Ms. Hamlyn now serves as Deputy City Manager and has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of her fellow El Pasoans.

Mr. Ray Resendez, III serves as the Regional Liaison Manager for the Governor's State Division of Emergency Management. After 20 years of serving the El Paso community as a firefighter, Mr. Resendez spends his energy making sure that our community is prepared for any unforeseen disaster or emergency. In these times of a heightened state of alert, Mr. Resendez serves the people of El Paso well, with great dedication and passion.

Another great example is Mr. Rodney Thompson at the Veterans Affairs Office in El Paso. He has worked diligently over the years to ensure that our nation cares for our veterans and affords them the dignity and respect that they deserve. He manages our veterans' cases and has been a great partner.

In addition to Mr. Thompson, our seniors and veterans in El Paso are fortunate to have people like Mrs. Rosanna Monge, a nurse practitioner at the El Paso Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic. Mrs. Monge has been a reliable advocate for our veterans when it comes to their health needs and is passionately committed to taking care of these men and women who have given so much.

Mrs. Nellie Velez is another great example of an outstanding public servant. She is the District Manager at the Social Security Administration in El Paso and takes great care in advocating on behalf of our seniors.

Ms. Isabel Mullens, the Acting Assistant Director of Field Operations at Customs and Border Protection in El Paso, has also devoted much of her life to serving our community. She started her career with the federal government on November 12, 1973. Initially hired as a GS-02 clerk at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, she has risen to her current position through years of hard work and dedication. Thousands of people cross back and forth from El Paso, Texas to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico both on foot and by car as our communities share strong economic, social, and cultural ties. Mrs. Mullens serves our community with compassion and vigilance ensuring that our ports facilitate trade and commerce and are safe and secure.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of the 16th Congressional District. Our community is vibrant and strong because of the individuals I have highlighted and the thousands of other public servants in El Paso who take pride in their work and their service to our nation. I salute all our public servants and honor them for their efforts.

TROY CAOILE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Troy Caoile who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Troy Caoile earned his GED and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Troy Caoile is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Troy Caoile for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his academic career to his future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE ACCREDITATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with Chairman BARNEY FRANK, legislation that requires the accreditation of English language training programs for student visa holders.

Accreditation of these programs will ensure that foreign students here on temporary visas receive the high level English language education that they deserve and expect. And this legislation will help give the students a positive experience in America.

The bill prevents fraud in the student visa program and raises the quality of English language training programs in the United States. It does so by requiring accreditation, which is achieved only after certain learning criteria are met.

Under section 101(a)(15)(F) of the "Immigration and Nationality Act," a foreign national can get a student visa to study at a U.S. college, high school, or other learning institution, such as an established "language training program . . . approved by the Secretary of Homeland Security after consultation with the Secretary of Education. . . ."

This bill requires that a nonimmigrant foreign student seeking to enter the United