

and the other four winners will be presented with their awards next week, April 7, at a ceremony in Pentagon City. I regret very much that a previously scheduled engagement will have me on a plane to Massachusetts at the time of the award, but this is something of which Ms. Howland and her parents are entitled to be very proud, and I want to take the opportunity to note this here in the RECORD, both as a tribute to Ms. Howland, and as a tribute to Operation Homefront and the great work they do in reminding all of us of the continuing obligations we have in so many ways to the men and women of the U.S. Military.

Melissa Howland's father was sent to Iraq by our country in 2009, and he was in California without his family in 2007 and 2008. Ms. Howland has a blood disorder that leads to her immune system attacking the platelets in her blood, and this has required hospitalization to protect her from excessive bleeding. The dedication of the Howland family to our country and to each other is extraordinary, and I salute them and I salute Operation Homefront for this recognition of Melissa Howland and other students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the statement from Operation Homefront, describing the work that Melissa Howland has done and is doing, be printed here as an inspiration to others and as a chance for us to express our admiration and gratitude to the Howland family.

MILLIS STUDENT RECEIVES 2011 MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR® AWARD

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—Operation Homefront today announced the five recipients of the 2011 Military Child of the Year® Award. The Navy recipient for this award is Melissa Howland, a 17-year-old 12th grader from Millis, Massachusetts.

The winners were chosen by a committee including active duty military personnel, Family Readiness Support Assistants, teachers, military mothers, and community members. Melissa will receive \$5,000 and will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C. for a special recognition ceremony on April 7, 2011.

"The sons and daughters of America's service members learn what patriotism is at a very young age," said Jim Knotts, President & CEO of Operation Homefront. "Children in military families demonstrate leadership within their families and within their communities. This is what the Military Child of the Year® Award honors."

Every Sunday, Melissa volunteers in the local hospital's maternity ward. It's the least she could do after doctors saved her life. Melissa suffers from a blood disorder that allows her immune system to attack the platelets in her blood. Without platelets her blood cannot clot and she could quickly bleed to death. As she was treated, Melissa was hospitalized several times when experimental treatments failed to work. Her father was deployed to Iraq in 2009 and stationed, unaccompanied, in California in 2007 and 2008. Still, Melissa managed to keep up her spirit and her grades. The diagnosis meant Melissa could no longer participate in the sports she loved, basketball and running. Instead, she turned her sights to community service. In 2010, Melissa donated 498 volunteer hours to 12 causes. Today, she still has to visit the doctor, often, and monitor her disease. But she is thriving and growing every day.

JOSLIN HOFFSCHNEIDER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joslin Hoffschneider for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joslin Hoffschneider is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joslin Hoffschneider for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay a special tribute to a historical leader not only for the Hispanic community but for workers all across America.

César E. Chávez was born on March 31, 1927 near Yuma, Arizona at a time of great discrimination and injustice.

He believed that the only way to get out of the circle of poverty was to work your way up and receive an education. With his family, César—as he is called by his most ardent followers worked in the fields all throughout California.

Along the way, César attended nearly 40 schools before joining the Navy at the age of 17.

After marrying in 1948, Chávez and his wife, Helen Fabela, settled in Delano. Soon after he became involved with the Community Service Organization, run by Fred Ross, a man who worked to better the lives of Mexican Americans in the state.

Working with the organization in the 1950s, Chávez became more familiar with the plight of farm workers in southern California, and in 1962 founded the National Farm Workers Association, later to become the United Farm Workers.

As a cofounder and president of United Farm Workers, César used nonviolent tactics to bring attention to the dangerous working conditions in the fields and the plight of exploited farm workers and their right to unionize.

At the same time, he studied the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, which led to his practice of nonviolence throughout his life.

Those beliefs meant turning to hunger strikes rather than violent means to draw attention to the plight of the farm workers.

César Chávez completed his 36-day Fast for Life on August 21, 1988. The Reverend

Jesse Jackson took up where César left off, fasting on water for three days before passing on the fast to celebrities and leaders. The fast was passed to Martin Sheen, the Reverend J. Lowery, President SCLC; Edward Olmos, Emilio Estevez, Kerry Kennedy, daughter of Robert Kennedy, Peter Chacon, legislator, Julie Carmen, Danny Glover, Carly Simon, singer; and Whoopi Goldberg.

Today, on the 84th anniversary of his birthday, I stand to pay tribute to this hero who emerged from very little but left a tremendous impact on all of us decades later.

César died in his sleep on April 23, 1993 near Yuma, Arizona at the age of 66 years old. At the time, he was in Yuma helping farm workers.

This year, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar dedicated the site of the United Farm Workers Delano Field Office, known as "Forty Acres" as a National Historic Landmark.

On August 8, 1994, César Chávez was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton. Helen Chávez, César's widow accepted the medal for her late husband, with an accompanied citation that included "faced formidable, often violent opposition with dignity and nonviolence."

In the words of President Clinton "The farm workers who labored in the fields and yearned for respect and self-sufficiency pinned their hopes on this remarkable man who, with faith and discipline, soft spoken humility and amazing inner strength, led a very courageous life."

For over ten years, I have fought for a national holiday to honor César Chávez, a man who not only carried the torch for justice and freedom, but was the beacon of hope for thousands without a voice.

The reach of his accomplishments stretches far beyond the Latino community. The battle for social justice is far from being over. But in the words of César Chávez, "si se puede!"

During these hard economic times, let us not forget that history teaches us many things. True leaders are those who fight for those without a voice, and he was one that fought for many of those who didn't have voices.

On the anniversary of César's birthday, I encourage all Americans to remember César Chávez and honor him and his legacy.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor H. Res. 130, a resolution to encourage the designation of the fourth Friday of every March to be observed as "César E. Chávez Day."

JUAN GONZALEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Juan Gonzalez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Juan Gonzalez is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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