

international soccer business, including exploring the acquisition of soccer clubs, stadium development and the international match business.

Charlie's influence in the soccer world cannot be overstated. Over the course of fifteen years, from 1993–2007, Charlie also served as an inaugural Board Member of the U.S. Soccer Foundation; as its Vice Chairman for 11 years and Chairman of the Grants Committee for 14 years until his retirement from the U.S. Soccer Foundation in 2007.

Mr. Stillitano currently serves as an esteemed soccer agent at CAA Sports (a division of Creative Artists Agency), which represents more than 400 of the world's best athletes in team sports such as baseball, football, hockey and soccer, in addition to icons in individual sports, on-air broadcasters and numerous other sports personalities. Based out of CAA's New York office, Charlie represents many of the world's leading athletes and sports personalities, including Cristiano Ronaldo, Jose Mourinho, Deco, Chelsea FC—the English Premier Club and the 2009 European Champions-FC Barcelona.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the accomplishments of community leaders like Charlie Stillitano. I applaud the Milan Club for its initiative in naming Charlie the 2011 Man of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the Milan Club, Charlie's family and friends, all those who have been touched by Charlie and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements of Charlie Stillitano.

RECOGNIZING REANNA A. CRUZ ON BEING NAMED THE 2011 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Reanna A. Cruz for her years of outstanding financial expertise, business leadership, and community involvement on Guam. Ms. Cruz is Assistant Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer for the Bank of Guam. She was recently named the Guam Financial Services Champion of the Year for 2011 by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Ms. Cruz graduated from the University of Guam in 2001, with a Bachelor of Arts in Finance and Economics. Shortly thereafter, she joined the Bank of Guam as a management trainee. In 2003, she joined the Commercial Banking Group and helped increase its SBA lending portfolio. Ms. Cruz was selected to receive special training in SBAExpress and Community Express Loan Programs. Helped in part by her expertise, the Bank earned the SBA Lender of the Year in 2010. Further, in her role as an assistant vice president, she assisted community organizations and the Small Business Development Center assess

ways to improve the relationship between financial institutions and small businesses.

Ms. Cruz also serves as a mentor to junior loan officers, one of whom was named the 2010 SBA Loan Officer of the Year. Her contributions to the small business community and her understanding of modern financial services tools have helped the Bank of Guam grow and adapt to changes in the industry. Additionally, Ms. Cruz is an active volunteer for the Soroptimist International of the Marianas, where she helps women entrepreneurs navigate the challenges that many small business owners encounter.

I congratulate Reanna Cruz on being named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Financial Services Champion of the Year for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending her for her award and thanking her for her contributions to our community.

HONORING COLONEL JOHN LAZAR

**HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Colonel John Lazar, upon his retirement after having served this great Nation since 1981, most recently as Director of Operational Contracting Support and Policy with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army.

In 1981 John Lazar enlisted in the United States Army. Upon his graduation with a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1986, he was commissioned as an Armor officer. Colonel Lazar went on to serve as a Tank Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader and Assistant Battalion Operations Officer in the 1st Battalion 68th Armor Regiment at Wildflecken, Germany. He commanded Alpha Troop 5th Squadron 12th U.S. Cavalry at Fort Knox, Kentucky, served as an Assistant Professor as a member of the faculty at West Point, as Chief of the Joint Contracting Center in Hungary and as a Brigade Operations Officer for the United States Army Contracting Command Europe. Colonel Lazar commanded the Defense Contract Management Agency of both Canada and Central Iraq. He also served as Military Deputy to the Director of Acquisition Resources and Analysis in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

Colonel Lazar has earned several graduate degrees including a Master of Science in Kinesiology from Indiana University in 1994, a Master of Arts in Procurement and Acquisition Management from Webster University in 2000, and a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in 2007. He has a vast military education consisting of Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College as well as the aforementioned United States Army War College. Colonel Lazar holds acquisition certificates of Level II in Program Management and Level III in Contracting.

Highly decorated and awarded in his career, Colonel John Lazar has earned the Defense

Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the NATO Medal with Yugoslavia Bar.

Mr. Speaker, since 1981 Colonel John Lazar has faithfully served the citizens of the United States. As he enters the next phase of his life with his beloved wife Renee and their three children Erika, Jacob and Matthew, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and excellence. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel John Lazar upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

RECOGNIZING VICENTE D. ADA ON BEING NAMED THE 2011 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S JEFFREY BUTLAND FAMILY-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Vicente D. Ada for many years of outstanding business leadership and contributions to our island community. Mr. Ada is the founder of Ada's Mortuary, Inc., a family-run funeral service on Guam. His company was recently named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business of the Year for Guam.

In 1972 Mr. Ada founded Pacific Funeral Home, which was renamed Ada's Mortuary, Inc. in the mid-1990s. Under his leadership, the mortuary has grown from a small, home-based business with limited inventory into a full-service operation that provides funeral services for more than 300 families on Guam every year. Throughout its history and growth, Mr. Ada has maintained Ada's Mortuary as a family-run business—with many of his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and their spouses getting their first real-work experience there. Mr. Ada has successfully guided Ada's Mortuary from a small, family-run, operation into Guam's most successful funeral service business.

Mr. Ada has been actively involved in public service to our nation and on Guam. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a former Senator in the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Guam Legislatures. Mr. Ada has also focused his business to supports youth development by participating in school-to-work programs, which allows youth to gain work experience at the company. Ada's Mortuary also provides caskets and funeral services, at no cost, to certain religious orders, unborn children, and families who cannot afford to bury their loved ones.

I congratulate Vicente Ada on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business of the Year for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him on this award and thanking him for his contributions to our community.

HONORING RAMON CORTINES FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY CAREER EDUCATING OUR NATION'S CHILDREN

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ramon Cortines, a great educator who has spent more than a half century serving America's youth at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. His remarkable career as an educator dates back to 1956 when he began teaching in the small town of Aptos, California. Since then he has worked for seven school districts, spanning the country from New York to Los Angeles.

In his 55 years as an educator, Mr. Cortines has held many titles: professor, administrator, principal, chancellor, senior advisor, deputy mayor, superintendent—you name it, he's done it. But if you were to walk up to him on the street and ask him what he does, his response would be simple: "I'm a teacher." Now the Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, Mr. Cortines will soon begin a much-deserved retirement. It is therefore my pleasure to publicly thank him for all he has done for our children. I highlight his career with the hope that many bright young Americans follow his example of service.

Mr. Cortines earned a bachelor's degree in speech and education as well as a pair of master's degrees in school administration and adult learning, from Pasadena College. After serving in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955, he took his first teaching job in Aptos, CA. In the following years he served as a teacher and administrator in Covina, CA; an administrator and superintendent in Pasadena, CA; a superintendent in San Jose, CA; and a superintendent in San Francisco, CA.

In 1993, he was appointed Chancellor of the New York City Schools, where he served for two years. He soon went on to become the Senior Advisor to U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley under the Clinton Administration.

For several months in 2000 he served as the interim superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, then went on to become Los Angeles' Deputy Mayor for Education, Youth, and Families. In addition to advising numerous non-governmental organizations and working at Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, and Brown universities, Mr. Cortines accepted his most recent post as the Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District on January 1, 2009.

Superintendent Cortines assumed this position with the same goals that he advanced as its interim director in 2000. He consistently challenged Los Angeles' lowest-performing students and schools to perform at a higher level, improving overall academic achievement and ensuring that every classroom and child is properly equipped to learn. He streamlined internal operations and encouraged greater decision-making among the administration of every school in the nation's second largest school district.

Mr. Speaker, Superintendent Ramon Cortines is one of this country's great educators, and though we are sad to see him go, we are thankful for his years of service and the impact he has made on the American sys-

tem of education. I commend him for his remarkable achievements.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, DC (GLAA)

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC (GLAA), a valued organization that has become a local leader in the struggle for equal rights for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community.

Since its founding in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and tireless advocate for full and equal rights for the District of Columbia, and has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen enforcement of the landmark D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977. One of GLAA's most significant achievements, on which it worked with coalition partners, D.C. elected officials, and District residents, was the enactment of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Rights Equality Amendment, which permits same-sex couples to marry in the District of Columbia.

In addition to its leadership on GLBT rights in the District, GLAA has always provided leadership on a wide range of civil rights issues, such as family rights, police accountability, and access to condoms in prisons and D.C. public schools. GLAA also emphasizes effective public health strategies and accountability in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the District.

At GLAA's 40th anniversary reception on April 20, 2011, the recipients of its 2011 Distinguished Service Awards will be recognized, including The Right Reverend John Bryson Chane, an Episcopal Bishop of Washington since 2002, a leader on issues of faith, politics and religion, an advocate for seniors, homeless and GLBT citizens, and a leader on inter-faith dialogue and study; Sharon Farmer, a native of the District of Columbia and the first African American and woman to serve as Director of White House Photography, where she shot news stories, political campaigns, cultural events, conferences and portraits, including of President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton; David Friedman, Director of the D.C. Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a co-founder of the Bias Crimes Task Force, and a long-standing ally of the GLBT community who advocates for victims of hate crimes and legislation to address bullying and harassment of GLBT students in D.C. public schools; Theodore "Teddy" Guerrant, the longest serving accompanist in the gay and lesbian choral movement, including with the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC since 1983, an accompanist for the Central Maryland Chorale for eleven years, a member of the National Philharmonic Chorale at Strathmore Music Center for twenty-nine years, and an Organist-Choirmaster at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC for thirteen years; Ronald King, a longtime public servant in the District

of Columbia who served as a Director of Prevention and Intervention Services for the HIV/AIDS Administration, a Government Co-Chair of the D.C. HIV Prevention Community Planning Group, a manager of the first Centers for Disease Control & Prevention-funded outreach program in the District of Columbia for Black and Latino sexual minorities and of several HIV/AIDS programs, and co-founder of the DC Needle Exchange Coalition and the award-winning AIDS Program of the National Basketball Players Association; and David C. Ward, co-curator, with Jonathan Katz, of the National Portrait Gallery's landmark "Hide/Seek" exhibition who defended the integrity of the show in the face of censorship and controversy, an author, poet, and literary critic, as well as an historian at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the recipients of GLAA's 2011 Distinguished Service Award and celebrating GLAA's 40th anniversary of contributions to the GLBT community in the District of Columbia.

RECOGNIZING CENCIO VY ON BEING NAMED THE 2011 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Cencio Tan C. Vy for his years of outstanding business leadership on Guam. Mr. Vy is the President of Benson Guam Enterprises, a locally-owned construction materials and hardware supplier. He was recently named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Person of the Year for Guam.

Cencio Vy came to Guam in 1980 to help manage Benson Guam Enterprise, a construction materials supplier founded by his father, Tan Beng Chiat, in 1976 to help rebuilding efforts in the wake of Super Typhoon Pamela. One year later, at the age of 19, Mr. Vy was given full responsibility for business operations, and he grew the company, developing his business model through mentoring by his father and his own innovations. Under his leadership, Bensons has grown from five employees to 50, and his company is one of the largest construction materials suppliers on Guam. Over the years, Bensons has been able to weather both natural and economic headships, including several devastating typhoons and economic recessions in the Asia-Pacific region and the United States.

Mr. Vy is married to Noriko Vy and they have three children: Hardy, Mikkel (deceased), and Cefani. Aside from managing Bensons, he opened and operates Guam's only commercial golf driving range, which he opened in 1991. In 1997, Mr. Vy entered into a joint venture with his brother-in-law and Japanese investors to open two semi-conductor factories in Japan.

I congratulate Cencio Vy on being named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Person of the Year for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him for his award and thanking him for his contributions to our community.