

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 interfaith 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 longstanding 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" Guarrant, 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-Chor-master 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.