

CHANCELLOR STEVE KANG  
RECOGNITION

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to honor Mr. Sung-Mo "Steve" Kang for his many years of dedicated service as Chancellor of the University of California, Merced, California's first research institution built in the 21st century and located within the 18th Congressional District of California. Steve Kang was appointed as the second permanent Chancellor of UC Merced on January 17, 2007 and began serving at the beginning of March of the same year. During his four year tenure as chancellor, Steve's leadership made many immense and lasting contributions to the university and to the community. It is an honor to recognize the work of Chancellor Kang—a tireless advocate for education and research, a champion for the community, and a leader and friend to Merced.

Chancellor Kang's insightful vision for the campus, his commitment to cultivating and inspiring students and researchers, and his unyielding devotion to his role as chancellor truly paved the way for the development of an outstanding university. A sample of UC Merced's key accomplishments achieved under Chancellor Kang's leadership include: meeting all of the requirements for initial accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, developing and publishing the school's Strategic Academic Vision statement in 2009, continuing its commitment to sustainable development by raising the minimum level of performance for all new buildings to a Gold LEED rating, and seeing the diversity of the campus recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Hispanic-Serving Institution. Also under his guidance, UC Merced's Stem Cell Instrumentation Foundry opened in 2011, enabling innovations in biotechnologies that will lead to new discoveries about stem cells. A testament to his belief in providing quality and equal access education to all students, he secured commitments from the UC Office of the President to fund enrollment growth for the next three years. Of special note, Chancellor Kang has supported the vision for UC Merced's future as a medical teaching university and his actions are greatly instrumental in ensuring that it will one day serve as an independently accredited School of Medicine.

Steve's first love is teaching and he has inspired generations of successful students inside the classroom. Prior to taking his position at UC Merced, he served as a professor in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1985 to 2000, becoming a department head in 1995. He taught as a visiting professor at several international universities, including the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, the University of Lausanne, and the Technical University of Munich. He also served as the Dean of the Baskin School of Engineering at the University of California, Santa Cruz, during which time he took a budding engineering program to significantly greater levels of achievement, ensuring its place among the nation's top engineering schools.

Steve Kang was raised in South Korea and moved to the United States after receiving a scholarship to the Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey where he graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He received his Masters of Science degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo and his doctorate from UC Berkeley. A master of his field, Kang has co-authored 11 books on the subjects of electrical and computer engineering, written over 350 technical papers, and has well over a dozen patents to his name. He has been recognized with numerous awards in education and research, including the Distinguished Korean-American Award in 2008, the IEEE Third Millennium Medal in 2000, and Outstanding Alumnus Award in Electrical Engineering from UC Berkeley in 2008.

Along with his passion for education, Steve Kang is also an advocate for the community. He is personally dedicated to the principle of providing educational opportunities to children from lower income families and expanding access to a UC-quality education. He serves on the UC Merced Foundation as President, the Great Valley Center as Chairman of the Board, and the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium as an executive board member. He, along with his wife Mia, have long carried the torch for the needs of the region, consistently looking out for the valley as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Chancellor Sung-Mo "Steve" Kang for his dedication and service as a leader at the University of California, Merced. Without his efforts, the university would not be the outstanding academic institution that it is today. His selflessness and lifelong commitment to education is worthy of the highest praise and it is my great privilege to pay tribute to and offer my sincerest appreciation to him today. Steve will be leaving UC Merced and returning to the classroom and although he will be greatly missed, I wholeheartedly wish him luck in every future endeavor. Steve Kang has made a lasting impression on the entirety of the Merced community, its faculty, and above all, its students. We will forever be indebted to his noble efforts in bringing excellence in education to the Central Valley.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY  
STUDENTS—JEFFREY HERRERA

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation. As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Jeffrey Herrera, a United States Air Force Academy Appointee. Jeff is a

graduate of Wylie High School where he ran junior varsity cross country as well as participated in junior varsity track and field. He served as the National Honor Society president and was a Hispanic National Merit Scholar. Jeff was also part of the Air Force Junior ROTC and served as the Deputy Group Commander. Jeff chose to apply to the Air Force Academy because he wanted to receive the exemplary service academy education and experience. Since the beginning of his involvement in his junior ROTC program, he had developed a deep and strong interest in serving his country and becoming an officer in the United States Military. Jeff stated in an essay, "Nothing would please me more than to give back to my country while leading the future servicemen, servicewomen and protectors of this country."

HONORING THE BUFFALO AND  
ERIE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM'S 175TH YEAR OF SERVICE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure I acknowledge the Buffalo and Erie County Library system's kick-off of their 175th anniversary celebration and their summer reading initiatives.

The first public library service in Western New York began with the creation of the Young Men's Association (YMA) in 1836. The association circulated 5,500 items to its members in its first year alone.

50 years later the institution was purchased for the City of Buffalo and was re-established as a free circulating reference library open to all City residents. By 1897, there were 32,000 registered borrowers.

Today with over 3.5 million items in circulation and 37 locations, the Buffalo and Erie County libraries have served nearly 4 million patrons.

With a diversity of programs including adult computer training, resume tips and techniques seminars as well as preschool story hour—the libraries continue to serve as centers of information, culture and entertainment for the residents of Erie County.

It is with great pride that I stand today to commemorate the Buffalo and Erie County Library system's 175th year of service. I am grateful for the array of programs and services they offer to the Western New York community and am happy to acknowledge the kick-off to their summer reading initiatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 413, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."