

A TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE
THORSBAKKEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jeanette Thorsbakken on the recent celebration of her 100th birthday. Jeanette celebrated a century of life yesterday, September 18th, 2012.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Jeanette's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Jeanette has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Today, Jeanette resides in Story City, Iowa where she likes to spend her time playing solitaire on the computer and assembling jigsaw puzzles. Jeanette also greatly enjoys visits with her family and sharing stories of the many changes she has witnessed in her life.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Jeanette in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Thorsbakken on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND THE FIRST ANNUAL VIVA BREVARD FESTIVAL

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 15th families and businesses across the nation will begin observing National Hispanic Heritage Month in order to recognize the many outstanding contributions to our nation that are made by Americans of Hispanic descent. One celebration taking place in the City of Palm Bay, Florida, will be the First Annual Viva Brevard festival.

Al Día Today along with local businesses, non-profit organizations, and residents of Brevard County will gather together on Saturday October 13, 2012, near the Ted Whitlock Community Center in Palm Bay Regional Park to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month with a day full of great Latin American cuisine, culture and entertainment.

Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month we also honor Hispanic Americans for their strong tradition of service in our Armed Forces. These proud patriots have fought in every war since our founding, and many have earned the Medal of Honor for their courage.

Hispanic service men and women have shown their love for the United States by answering the call to serve, and we owe them and their families a tremendous debt of gratitude. Their patriotism and valor have added to the character and strength of our nation.

The first Hispanic American to serve in the U.S. Congress represented Florida. Joseph Marion Hernández was born in St. Augustine when Florida was a Spanish colony. In 1822 when Florida became a U.S. Territory, Hernández transferred his allegiance to the United States and was elected a Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives serving in our nation's Seventeenth Congress. He also served as a brigadier general and was the presiding officer of Florida's Territorial House of Representatives.

There have been many Hispanic Americans with notable achievements in science and medicine. The first Hispanic American Astronaut, Franklin Chang-Díaz of Costa Rican descent, earned his doctorate in applied physics from MIT and flew an astounding seven Shuttle Missions. Astronaut Ellen Ochoa was the first Hispanic female in space, flying four Shuttle missions.

Hispanic Americans have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics and Medicine, the Medal of Honor; have won the Pulitzer, Oscar and Tony Awards, achieved sports fame, and have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the spirit and accomplishments of Hispanic Americans everywhere and events like the Viva Brevard festival provide an opportunity to share and experience the diversity of cultures from Latin American countries and bring us all closer together as a community.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JERRY
COSTELLO

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my colleague and Illinois neighbor Congressman JERRY F. COSTELLO for his tireless efforts in representing part of the St. Louis metro area in Southern Illinois.

His 24 years in the House of Representatives have been distinguished by his exceptional ability to achieve and selfless resolve to advance our nation and our bi-state region.

JERRY's civic work began well before his tenure in Congress. This was apparent even in college, where his eagerness to serve the community he called home led him to divide time between his studies and a job as a full time law enforcement officer. He chose to follow this path after college, and his ingenuity and knowledge of the regional court system made him prominent throughout Illinois. His devotion, practicality, and unwavering focus on his community would see his election as chief executive of one of Illinois' largest counties and eventual rise to Congress.

His career has been marked by leadership and consistent achievement, particularly in the field of transportation, where his record is as extensive as it is impressive. In 2005, he took the lead role to secure \$150 million for a new Mississippi River bridge as part of one of the biggest earmarks in U.S. history because of its classification as a project of national significance. He brought MetroLink to Southern Illinois, a new transportation network that has

improved infrastructure and simultaneously boosted and connected the regional economy. I have been proud to serve alongside Congressman COSTELLO on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Science Committee and I know all his colleagues on both sides of the aisle will deeply miss his leadership and knowledge. Furthermore, his constituents will miss his devotion to improving their lives, creating jobs, and bettering the region's infrastructure.

JERRY's accomplishments exemplify his commitment to issues ranging from safety to poverty, from the economy to defense. His efforts have benefitted not just his district, but the nation as a whole. Beginning in 1995, for example, JERRY undertook a decade-long endeavor to save Illinois' Scott Air Force Base from closure. Continuous efforts to improve base facilities and funding to keep it off the closure list eventually prevailed. The Air Force base is now one of the largest employers in the St. Louis region and ranks among the nation's most important with the operation of the Air Mobility Command.

As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Aviation Subcommittee, he has led the effort to modernize our aviation system and helped pass a bill this year that secured the place of our aviation system as the best and safest in the world for years to come. Several years later, he helped write the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009. The bill requires pilots to now log more hours and undergo more rigorous training before being able to pilot commercial airplanes.

This coming January, my good friend JERRY will be retiring.

His decades of service have provided Illinois, the St. Louis bi-state region, and Congress a guiding voice that will be sorely missed. He retires with a legacy that the next generation of American leaders should hope to emulate.

I have been proud to serve alongside JERRY in Congress, serving the same region, and serving on two committees together. I have seen firsthand the incredible work he has done, and the stamp he has left on this place and the impression he has made on all of us who have had the good fortune to work alongside him. While JERRY will no longer be in Congress, I have no doubt that he will continue to serve his community and his country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating JERRY COSTELLO on a successful career and wishing him and his family all the best as he retires. Thank you, JERRY.

RECOGNIZING SONIA GUTIERREZ

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the many accomplishments and contributions of Sonia Gutierrez, who for 40 years has served the residents of the District of Columbia with passion and dedication as one of this city's most productive and prominent education leaders and one of its most distinguished leaders. Mrs. Gutierrez, a talented institution builder, is best known as the founder and president of the Carlos Rosario