

HONORING THE MEXICAN  
AMERICAN COUNCIL**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary organization that has touched the lives of innumerable people in South Florida, and continues to shine light on the economic, educational, and social issues many Latino Americans face.

For over three decades, Mexican American Council, led by Maria Garza, has served as an organization dedicated to bettering the lives of Mexican American migrants otherwise facing great adversity in their communities. This organization started as a organization serving South Dade County, Florida, and now serves as a national model for serving members of the Latino community. Focusing on everything from raising Mexican American cultural awareness to providing scholastic and scholarship assistance to children of farmworkers, Maria Garza and the Mexican American Council have managed to assist community members encountering increasingly varied obstacles and continues to reach them in meaningful ways.

Under the leadership of Maria Garza, the Mexican American Council serves as an exemplary organization for social service, cultural inclusion, and community engagement, and has undoubtedly earned our respect, admiration, and gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH  
SHERMAN**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Elizabeth Sherman, a resident of Sandwich, Massachusetts, who celebrates her 100th birthday today.

Elizabeth, or Betty as her family and friends know her, was born on May 3, 1913, to the Burns family. She later married Alvin Sherman of Brookline, Massachusetts. Betty and Alvin would go on to raise their five children together: Ann, Bud, Mary, Jeanie, and Elaine. The Sherman family later settled in Arlington, outside Boston. Betty, a dedicated and caring mother, also helped support her family by working as a secretary at Harvard University and the Chase Brass & Copper Company.

The Shermans enjoyed many summers at their vacation home on the Cape, and Betty and Alvin would later retire to Sagamore Beach. Though Alvin passed away in 1995, Betty's loving family has grown to include six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Elizabeth Sherman on this joyous occasion of her 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

## HONORING THE LADIES IN WHITE

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of women who have worked tirelessly towards the advancement of human rights in Cuba, and continue to shine a light on an imperative cause for freedom right in our backyard.

For the past 10 years, the Ladies in White has served as a leading pro-democracy organization of the Cuban human rights movement. Known for being white-clad in symbolization of peace, the women of this organization are all relatives of political prisoners and have remained steadfast in their fight for freedom. They are renowned for their weekly, non-violent, silent protests, and just yesterday received the Salcharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in an award ceremony delayed eight years because of oppressive travel restrictions.

The women of the Ladies in White continue to fight with courage and dignity for the betterment of the lives of the millions of people who call Cuba home, and have undoubtedly earned our profound respect and admiration.

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
FAMILY SERVICE'S 2013  
COMMUNITY CHAMPION AND  
LEGENDS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Lizama as this year's Northern Virginia Family Services Community Champion and also to honor Earle and June Williams who have been named the 2013 Northern Virginia Family Services Legends of Northern Virginia.

Since its founding in 1924, Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) has addressed the growing needs of families throughout our region. NVFS works to improve its clients' lives through a variety of programs in five mission initiatives: housing, child and family enrichment, health access, emergency assistance, and workforce development. Today, 33,000 individuals and families receive assistance each year.

The Community Champion Award is a recognition given each year to someone who has made immeasurable contributions to children and families in Northern Virginia. More than 25 years ago, George Lizama founded Production Solutions and PS Digital, one of the country's largest mail and digital marketing firms providing services to numerous nonprofit organizations, such as the American Heart Association, Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, Capital Area Food Bank, and Human Rights Campaign.

Whether he's in a march for the homeless or cleaning up a park, George carries a strong sense of duty and gains a great deal of reward in volunteering. He embodies passion around the clock. In fact, one cannot distin-

guish the "business George" from the "volunteer George."

During his 14-year involvement with NVFS, George served on the Board of Directors for 11 years and chaired the Gala Sponsorship and Auction Committees. George is receiving NVFS' Community Champion Award this year in recognition of his unwavering sense of excellence in service to his company, his industry, his community, but most of all because George is "passion personified" and one of the most dedicated volunteers you will ever encounter.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams have lived in Northern Virginia since 1970 when Earle's company, BDM International, Inc. relocated to McLean. In 1972, he became President and CEO of BDM, where he served until his retirement in 1992. Under his leadership, BDM's employment grew tenfold to 4,300 and annual revenue grew 550% to \$424 million.

Earle is an Emeritus Director and Past Chairman of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Emeritus Director and Past Chairman of the Business/Industry Political Action Committee, past Chairman of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, past Chairman of the Naval Research Advisory Committee, a Permanent Director and Past International Chairman of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, and former member of the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges.

In addition to being involved in her husband's work at BDM, June became deeply involved in the community. She participated in a major way in the George Mason University annual Arts Gala, joined the Capital Speakers Club, became involved in P.E.O. (a philanthropic educational women's organization), joined Achievement Rewards for College Scientists, and served on the Board of the Fairfax Symphony.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending NVFS for 89 years of service to our region's most vulnerable families and congratulating this year's deserving honorees. I also thank the staff, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners for their dedication and ongoing support of NVFS.

## HONORING RICHARD BLANCO

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 3, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary person who has made incomparable use of poetry as a canvass for activism and exaltation, and remains a mantel of inspiration for the innumerable people who encounter his work.

Known for his poetic ingenuity and having served as the inaugural poet at the 57th Presidential Inauguration, Richard Blanco joins the ranks of venerated artists and activists as Maya Angelou and Robert Frost. As the first immigrant, first Latino, and first openly gay person to serve in said role, Richard remains a beacon of hope for increasingly diverse individuals in our community and beyond. Further, as an alumnus of Christopher Columbus High School and Florida International University, Richard serves as a special source of delectation for the millions of people who call South Florida home—many of whom I represent.