

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SOFIA  
MENDOZA**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Sofia "Sophie" Mendoza. Her passing was unexpected, and represents a huge loss to the community in San José. Sophie was born in 1934 in Fillmore, California. Her father was a labor organizer, and would often move the family in search of new opportunities. After relocating to Arizona in 1939, Sophie settled in San José while attending Campbell Grammar School and Campbell High School.

Sophie's father would often tell her "we are born into this life with a purpose to help one another." Sophie would go on to dedicate her life to fight injustice wherever she saw it, eventually becoming one of the most accomplished community organizers in California's history. She frequently crossed paths with leaders such as United Farm Workers founder César Chavez, author Ernesto Galarza, and playwright Luis Valdez.

Sophie's first major accomplishment came early in high school. Campbell High School, which had few Latino students, had French, German, and Math clubs but no Spanish club. Frustrated, she complained to her father who encouraged her to find a solution. Refusing to be marginalized, she circulated petitions, talked to teachers and raised enough signatures to establish the Spanish Club at Campbell High. It was the beginning of a journey pursuing equity and recognition for all.

Sophie met her husband, Gilbert Mendoza, shortly after completing high school and began studying at San José State University. At the end of her third year, the couple married and started a family. Sophie involved her children in organizing from the beginning. Her son was able to name every San José City Councilmember before he started the first grade.

Sophie went on to start United People Arriba, an umbrella organization that brought together grassroots community organizations and managed multiple political projects. She was instrumental in establishing the first major health clinic in East San José, personally led a 2,000 person demonstration against police brutality, and worked with international delegations from Nicaragua and El Salvador to promote peace. When she learned that her children's schools were receiving unequal funding, she organized the first student walkout in California history. She was a trailblazer who left a lasting impact in San José. I am here today to recognize her as one of San José's most influential leaders.

Sophie is survived by her children Rick, Agustín, Sandra and William, with five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The oldest sibling of five children, Sophie is survived by her siblings Robert, Larry and Margaret.

Mr. Speaker, we commend Mrs. Sophia Mendoza for her years of dedication and commitment to San José and the Latino community. Her contributions serve as an example of what can be accomplished by uniting our communities and working toward positive change.

## BLACKHAWK EQUIPMENT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Blackhawk Equipment for their community leadership and economic contribution to Jefferson County.

Blackhawk is a leader in the air compressor industry and provides comprehensive air solutions and services. The company has over 100 years combined experience in the industry and employs four DOE Certified AirMaster + Specialists. Blackhawk is the premier rotary screw, oil-free, and centrifugal air compressor distributor in Colorado. They also specialize in air dryers, cooling towers, air audits, air tools, custom controls, skid packages, portables and rental air.

Recently, Blackhawk expanded in the city of Arvada by moving from a 10,000 sq. ft. facility into a 26,500 sq. ft. facility to accommodate growth. The company hired 5 new employees in 2014 and added \$500,000 in new capital investment.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Blackhawk Equipment for their well-deserved Business Recognition Award.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: HONORING  
DR. JULIETA V. GARCIA  
AND IRMA RANGEL**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of Women's History Month. The 34th Congressional District of Texas is home to inspirational women who have broken barriers and significantly improved the quality of life for countless South Texas families. Today, I take the time to honor two of them—Julietta V. Garcia and Irma Rangel.

Dr. Julieta V. Garcia built her legacy on making higher education accessible to South Texans. She served as the president of the University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) from 1992 to 2014. In 2009, Time Magazine listed Dr. Garcia among the top ten college presidents, and last year, she was named by CNN Money/Fortune as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders. During Dr. Garcia's tenure, her relentless advocacy for increasing access to higher education in South Texas is reflected in UTB's enrollment statistics. The UTB student body is 91% Hispanic, and 71% are first-generation college students. Her forward-thinking leadership laid the foundation for establishment of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Recently, Julieta Garcia took on a new role as the first executive director of The University of Texas—Americas Institute, which focuses on developing the next generation of leaders through a non-partisan venue that convenes discussions on critical issues of global significance.

Irma Rangel, a St. Mary's Law School graduate, served in the Texas State Legislature from 1976 to 2003. She was the first Mexican American woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Her legislative career fo-

cused on the concerns of women and children and how to provide them a mechanism for progress. She established education and employment programs for mothers on public assistance, built centers to protect victims of abuse, and labored to make voting more accessible for all Texans. In 1994, Irma Rangel was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. Rangel's contributions will live on through the many families her work brought into the middle class. She died on March 18, 2003, from cancer. The Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy opened its doors at Texas A&M University-Kingsville on August 10, 2006.

During Women's History Month, we are reminded of those who broke down barriers for future generations. I encourage all to take a moment today to reflect on the contributions women have made to our nation. I thank these women and others who have dedicated themselves to service.

HONORING WILLIAM 'ZEKE'  
GRADER, JR.**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, NANCY PELOSI, MIKE THOMPSON, and JACKIE SPEIER, to recognize the incredible legacy of William 'Zeke' Grader, Jr., who has tirelessly served California's fishermen and coastal communities and as an environmental champion and community leader for many decades. Always willing to share his vast knowledge and expertise with others, Zeke has helped fishermen to define their interest in battles over offshore oil and gas development, land-use, timber harvesting, water allocation, and other issues of social equity and sustainability.

From an early age, Zeke Grader grew up in the coastal fishing community. His father founded Grader Fish, Co., in Fort Bragg, California, to buy, process, and broker fresh, local fish. Zeke spent much of his childhood on the family dock, helping fishermen to unload their catch. He graduated from Fort Bragg High School and moved south to attend Sonoma State University, where he studied political science and graduated in 1970.

Zeke Grader served his country in the United States Marine Corps before obtaining a law degree from the University of San Francisco and passing the California State Bar in 1975. At that time, Congress was deliberating how to assert our national sovereignty over a two-hundred mile wide economic zone in order to curb foreign overfishing in U.S. waters, allow depleted stocks to recover, and conserve fishery resources. Amidst such explosive public interest in natural resource protection, some in the fishing industry felt threatened by the burgeoning environmental movement. Zeke Grader was asked to serve as the executive officer of the newly formed Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), and he led the organization in a more productive and effective direction by embracing efforts to protect the coastal environment.

With Zeke at the helm, the PCFFA took a leading role in crafting important state and federal legislation to preserve the coastal fishing

industry. Zeke lobbied strongly for California's 1988 Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act, which called for a statewide salmon conservation plan to double the present numbers of wild salmon. He pushed for modernization of the federal Fishery Conservation and Management Act, litigated to expedite water quality restoration under the federal Clean Water Act, and fought for protections of fishing grounds by organizing for the prevention and clean-up of petroleum spills.

In 1988, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration honored Zeke Grader with its prominent Environmental Hero award. For many Zeke has been a hero over many decades and his tireless efforts to protect the wild California Coast have ensured the present vitality of our fishing communities.

Our friend and former colleague George Miller is one of those who counts Zeke as an inspiration. He passed along this message to us to include in the RECORD: "Zeke Grader has been my friend almost my entire time in the Congress. During that time Zeke has been a leader in our state, on the Pacific Coast and in our nation to give voice and rights to the men and women of our vital and historic commercial fishing industry. The Pacific coast fisheries from time to time are threatened with droughts, economic downturns, high fuel prices, habitat destruction, and bad public policy. Through it all, Zeke Grader has led this magnificent group of fishers to maintain and grow our fisheries. So many people in California's diverse economy are dependent on their success. The commercial fishers of the Pacific coast must both catch and protect this magnificent species. Zeke Grader for so many years has successfully advocated for both the fish and the fishers. All of us owe him great thanks."

Today, Zeke continues his strong advocacy by working with and advising leaders at every level of industry and government. His legacy shows us the lasting positive impact that one man can have on countless others and he has shown that you can build a thriving and sustainable economy without depleting natural resources for future generations. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor Zeke today for his work in representing the fishing community, and we express our deepest appreciation for his friendship and his service.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CHRIS KYKER

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable individual for her dedication to the State of Texas. I would like to congratulate and thank Mrs. Chris Kyker for her hard work and her passion for service.

She has spent the last 90 years simply giving back to the world around us. I was recently informed that she was honored by the Texas Legislature in naming the Texas Silver Haired Legislature Foundation. This achievement served as an indication of the hard work, determination, joy, and kindness that she has continued to embody.

Chris is a leading volunteer for the state of Texas. She has served as the Founding Direc-

tor of the West Central Texas Area Agency on Aging (1974–1979), she has served as the Founding Executive Director of the Texas Department on Aging (1979–1984), she assisted with the transition of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (2003–2005), and she served as the Founding President and CEO of Disabilities Resources Inc. of Abilene, Texas. She has served in more than 32 volunteer offices, and in 2014 the Chris Kyker Endowment for Seniors Fund was established. From serving the state to serving her fellow man, Chris' accomplishments have been appreciated. Her passion and drive are commendable. In our rapidly shifting world and fast-paced lifestyles it is always impressive to find someone like Chris that give so generously of their time and effort to positively impact the lives of people of Texas.

While we take the time to reflect on all of Chris' achievements, it is important to acknowledge that her belief in giving to those around her comes from the genuine kindness of a remarkable woman.

I want to express my heartiest congratulations and thanks to Chris Kyker on her outstanding accomplishments and for her immense contribution to the State of Texas.

#### 16TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

### HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to law enforcement men and women who have provided distinctive service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

Law enforcement is a demanding profession that requires sacrifice, courage and a dedication to serve others. Every day, brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to enforce the laws of our society and protect public safety. They deserve our gratitude and respect.

Four years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Law Enforcement Awards, CLEA, to give special recognition to law enforcement officers, departments, or units for exceptional achievement.

This year, I will present congressional law enforcement awards to the following winners chosen by an independent panel comprised of current and retired law enforcement personnel representing a cross-section of the district's law enforcement community.

Officer Steven Oglie of the Holmes Beach Police Department will receive the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award and will be named Congressional Officer of the Year.

Sergeant William F. Pascoe of the Florida Highway Patrol will receive the Career Service Award.

Deputy Dan Durrance and Deputy Christopher Folds of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Brian Woodring and Deputy Ryan Frailing of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Patrolman First Class Dustin Cohen of the North Port Police Department and Officer Lucciano Diaz of the Palmetto Police Department will receive the Preservation of Life Award.

Detective Robert Armstrong of the Sarasota City Police Department, Master Patrol Officer

Jose Santos of the Bradenton Police Department, Detective John McHenry of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Scott King of the North Port Police Department and Officer Ruth Terry of the Venice Police Department will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

The following Members of the Sarasota County civilian community response team FOCUS: Pastor Kelvin Lumpkin, Pastor Peter Greenidge and Minister Leslie Harrell of the Light of the World Church, Dr. Trevor Harvey, President of Sarasota Florida NAACP, Carolyn Mason, Sarasota County Commissioner and Dr. John Walker of Bethel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will receive the Associate Service Award.

#### MEURER RESEARCH

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Meurer Research for their community leadership and economic contribution to Jefferson County.

Meurer Research engineers and manufactures sophisticated products to solve complex issues facing water and wastewater treatment facilities worldwide. Founded in 1978, MRI has over 50 patents, both foreign and domestic, and over 5,000 installations. The company offers a range of products geared to optimizing water and wastewater treatment facilities.

Meurer Research, Inc. expanded into a 43,320 square-foot facility in the Coors Technology Center, located in Golden. The company also has plans to grow to 95 employees over the next couple of years, with new capital investment for the expansion expected to be more than \$2 million.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Meurer Research for their well-deserved Business Recognition Award.

#### TRIBUTE TO BLESSED SACRAMENT HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to the Blessed Sacrament Catholic School as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Blessed Sacrament Catholic School was founded in 1915 as the first Jesuit sponsored school in Hollywood. Initially founded on Hollywood Boulevard, the Blessed Sacrament Catholic School was relocated to Sunset Boulevard where it currently stands. The new parish was later designated as an official historic landmark.

Throughout its hundred year service, the school has been dedicated to its mission statement, "As a learning community, we commit ourselves to the education of the whole person by developing mind, body, and spirit of