

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MAJOR REY VALDES ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Major Rey Valdes, who has served the Miami-Dade community as a police officer for over thirty-one years.

Major Valdes began his career as an officer, and has risen steadily through the ranks. Throughout his time in the Miami-Dade Police Department he has exhibited a passion for continued education, respect and compassion for his colleagues, and an understanding of the seriousness and importance of the profession he chose.

At various times during his career, Major Valdes worked with the homicide bureau, the narcotics bureau, and warrants management in several different roles throughout the department. In his current position, Major Valdes is responsible for all aspects of the Communications Bureau of the Miami-Dade Police Department. The Communications Bureau is the largest 911 Center in the southeastern United States, and the fourth largest in the country.

Even as he is preparing to leave the department, Major Valdes is currently studying to take the test to be certified as an Anti-Money Laundering Specialist. This credential will add to his value as a Certified Fraud Examiner. He hopes to continue to work in the field of fraud examination after his retirement.

Miami-Dade has been lucky to have had such an exceptional individual serving in its police force. Through the years, I have gotten to know Rey personally, as his daughter Katrina serves as my communications director, and am honored to call him a friend. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Rey on his illustrious and productive career, and extend my warmest wishes to his wife Elizabeth, and children Giorey, Armani, and Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Major Rey Valdes for his tremendous service to the Miami community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING 10,000 DEGREES

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 10,000 Degrees in honor of its 35th anniversary. A nonprofit located in Marin County, California, 10,000 Degrees has worked to get thousands of underserved students into and through college.

Founded in 1981, 10,000 Degrees has awarded approximately \$56 million in scholarships during its three and a half decades, and has over 18,000 alumni of the program. Participants come from low-income households, and approximately 90 percent are the first in their families to attend college. Currently, the program serves 4,500 family members and students annually—nearly 90 percent of whom are people of color—and facilitates millions in scholarships and non-loan financial aid.

Not only does 10,000 Degrees help pay for higher education, they are committed to preparing students for college success. With early college awareness training, financial aid counseling, and mentoring services, the organization ensures that over 80 percent of their students complete college—nearly three times the national rate of low income students, and significantly higher than both the national average and the average of students from affluent families.

10,000 Degrees has been an effective organization since its origin, with a wide-ranging impact that has touched thousands of lives in Marin County. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor and thank 10,000 Degrees on their 35th anniversary for their impressive efforts toward making college accessible to all, and to wish them success in the decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2016, on Roll Call Number 178 on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 4901, "To Reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes," I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

On April 29, 2016, on Roll Call Number 179 on passage of H.R. 4901, "To Reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes," I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on passage of H.R. 4901.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Collegiate Honors Council on their 50th Anniversary. NCHC is devoted to educational excellence, serving over 800 colleges and universities and 325,000 students in varying disciplines across the nation.

Two institutions of higher education in my district are NCHC members, Long Island University and SUNY College at Old Westbury.

Long Island University boasts academically talented students from each corner of our country studying in an array of majors. The Long Island University Honors Program offers high achieving students the opportunity to focus on a multitude of topics as they prepare themselves for professional careers and post-graduate studies.

SUNY Old Westbury's Honors College is more than just academics. The Honors College strives to ensure an enriched academic and social experience for its members and to create an environment that fosters active and innovative learning.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Long Island University, SUNY Old Westbury and the National Collegiate Honors Council for their outstanding contributions to our nation's educational and professional communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to amend my vote on Roll Call No. 179 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 4901) to YES.

I inadvertently voted in the negative. In my view, every child deserves access to a quality education without fear of being ostracized, punished, or discriminated against because of their race, religion, gender, ability, or because they are LGBT. I have long been an outspoken advocate for efforts to protect individuals from discrimination because of who they are or whom they love. That has not and will not change.

26TH ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 26th annual DC Black Pride celebration on May 27–29, 2016.

DC Black Pride 2016 is a multi-day festival featuring a reception, films, a poetry slam, a church service, educational workshops, community town hall meetings, a basketball tournament, an awards ceremony, and a health and wellness expo, among other events. We in the District of Columbia are pleased and proud that the DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the nation's capital from across the United States as well as

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