

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JIMMIE MARTINEZ

### HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and memory of Mr. Jimmie Martinez of Lumberton, Texas, who passed away earlier this month at the age of fifty-four.

A former classmate of mine at Incarnate Word Academy, Jimmie committed himself to public service after graduation, joining the Nueces County Emergency Service District in Flour Bluff as a firefighter and EMT. He also served the Annville Emergency Service District and Lumberton Fire and EMS as Assistant Fire Marshal and as a firefighter and EMT.

Jimmie served as the president of the twenty-one-county East Texas Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association, received the firefighter of the year award, the medal of valor and more.

Most importantly, Jimmie was a friend to all—always willing to go out of his way to help those in need. He often volunteered on the weekends at his old firehouse in Flour Bluff to give them an extra hand. Jimmie was a great man and a dedicated public servant, and I say on behalf of the entire Coastal Bend community, thank you Jimmie. You will be missed.

IN HONOR OF MR. LUIS VALDEZ

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join President Obama in honoring a truly great American, Mr. Luis Valdez of San Juan Bautista, California. This past September, Luis participated in a White House ceremony where the President presented him with a National Medal of the Arts in recognition of his lifetime of contributions to the arts of the United States. The recognition highlights the incredible contribution Luis has made as a playwright, actor, writer, and director.

Luis Valdez was born in Delano, California, in 1940. He was the second of ten children and grew up in a family of migrant farm workers. Luis began work in the fields at a young age and followed the harvest with his family up and down California's Central Valley. He attended numerous schools before his family finally settled in San Jose. He entered San Jose State University on a scholarship for math and physics but switched his major to English and began to pursue his passion for theater. The imagination of theater had held a grip on Luis from an early age. In grammar school, he had organized plays and put on puppet shows in his garage. While still at SJSU, Luis won a playwriting contest with *The Theft*, and produced a full length play called *The Shrunken Head of Pancho Villa*.

In 1965, Luis returned to Delano and joined with Cesar Chavez in the UFW's effort to organize farmworkers. It was then that he had the inspiration to combine his passions for theater and social justice and created a farm workers theater troupe simply called *El Teatro Campesino*. The group specialized in short one act plays based on the farm worker experience that aimed to educate both farmworkers and the broader public. By 1967, *El Teatro* began to explore broader Chicano themes and Luis left the group to share that vision with a broader audience. He founded the *Centro Campesino Cultural* in Del Rey and later Fresno to produce plays in a theater setting.

Luis quickly developed a reputation as the Godfather of Chicano theater and helped organize other Chicano theater groups throughout the Southwest. During this period he wrote and produced numerous plays, including *La Virgen de Tepeyac*, *La carpa de los resquachis*, and *Corridos: Tales of Passion and Revolution*. However, Luis is best known for his seminal play *Zoot Suit* which he first produced in Los Angeles in 1978. The next year, *Zoot Suit* became the first play written by a Chicano produced on Broadway. A film version followed in 1981. This film experience led Luis to other television and movie projects, including the hit movie *La Bamba* in 1987 that told the story of Richie Valens.

All along Luis remained committed to the campesino movement that he helped form and that helped to form him. In 1971, he moved his theater group to San Juan Bautista in my California district. He became a founding member of the California Arts Council and is a member of the College of Fellows of the American Theater.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House when I extend our congratulations to Luis Valdez for his most recent of honors. It comes on top of a lifetime of achievement giving voice to those voices that have been so often missed or dismissed by our broader society. Mindful of recent events, his voice is more important than ever.

HONORING ELAINE KOHRMAN

### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Forest Supervisor Elaine Kohrman for her leadership during the on-going effort to update the Cibola Forest Plan so that it reflects the perspectives and recommendations of all communities with historical ties to the land.

As the Supervisor for the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands, Kohrman has successfully brought together representatives of communities that have a long history of animosity and distrust of the federal government.

Kohrman's inclusive approach fostered an environment that encouraged leaders of sev-

eral New Mexico land grants to come together as leaders to provide their perspectives as part of the Forest Plan revision process. Six of the land grants, including San Antonio de las Huertas, Cañón de Carnué, Chilili, Torreón, Tajique, and Manzano have signed Memorandums of Understanding to co-host and co-convene the land grant communities as part of the public engagement process. The New Mexico Land Grant Council is also a participant by MOU and represents statewide issues in this process. Their active participation has been instrumental in developing and elevating a better understanding for employees, other cooperating agencies and public interests of their status and historic ties to the land and the continued uses of the Cibola to support their cultural identity.

As a result of this involvement, the Cibola National Forest was recently recognized by the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo for "turning the page" and promoting good faith consultation with the land grant communities.

Kohrman has also welcomed participation from affected tribes and pueblos that are actively engaging with other participants, other than just the Forest Service. Five pueblos, including Acoma, Isleta, Cochiti, San Felipe and Santa Ana, have also signed MOU's to participate, leading to consideration of issues related to the protection of sacred sites and strengthening tribal partnerships.

I greatly appreciate Elaine Kohrman's efforts to promote a model of the Forest Service working as a partner, rather than being in the middle of issues. As a result of the more collaborative process, contentious issues are addressed in a more productive manner. I hope this collaboration can serve as a template for similar efforts throughout the Forest Service and the federal government.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND  
WORK OF DAVID FLORES

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of David Flores of Georgetown, Texas. After nearly four decades of impeccable work as County Auditor, David is beginning his richly-deserved retirement.

County Auditors play a vital role in maintaining the fiscal integrity in county government and few have taken on this important responsibility with greater professionalism than David. He knows that second-rate work isn't acceptable. The people of Texas deserve that level of excellence when it comes to managing their precious tax dollars. David doesn't let them down.

David's positive impacts on the counties he's served cannot be overstated. Under his leadership, Williamson County's bond rating went from "low investment grade" to AAA, the

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