

IN HONOR OF THE TOWNS OF AURORA, HOLLAND AND WALES, NEW YORK BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARIES

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Towns of Aurora, Holland and Wales, New York on their bicentennial anniversaries.

The Towns of Aurora, Holland and Wales, New York were founded on April 15, 1818, when the Town of Willink, New York was split into three different towns. Each of the towns has their own rich history, and I am honored to represent them here in Congress.

The Town of Aurora was home to Millard Fillmore, twenty-seven years before he became the 13th President of the United States. Today, Millard Fillmore's home is currently a National Historic Landmark in Erie County, New York.

Holland, New York, named after the Holland Land Company, is home to the Holland Speedway. Here, families and NASCAR enthusiasts can spend an afternoon enjoying the races or racing their own cars for fun.

Wales, New York, named after the Wales of Britain for its rolling hills and green pastures, prides itself on its rural, dairying environment and family friendly atmosphere.

I thank the Towns of Aurora, Holland, and Wales for their commitment to preserving 200 years of history, and I congratulate them on their Bicentennial Anniversaries.

MIGUEL OLIVAS MALDONADO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Miguel Olivas Maldonado for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Miguel Olivas Maldonado is a student at Arvada K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Miguel Olivas Maldonado is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Miguel Olivas Maldonado for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERAN EMPLOYMENT AND CHILD CARE ACCESS ACT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, since January 2013, veteran unemployment decreased from just under 8 percent to where it is now at 2.7 percent—the lowest levels since 2001. Despite the progress, barriers to childcare services still exist for low-income and homeless veterans who are seeking employment.

Currently, it is optional for the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to provide childcare assistance under the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E). This means VA is not required to provide childcare assistance even if a veteran qualifies for assistance. According to the VA, during Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, over 131,000 veterans participated in the VR&E Program of which an estimated 43,000 of those veteran participants had one or more child dependents. Of the 131,000 veterans who participated in VR&E Program, only 17 veterans received childcare assistance. In FY2016, 12 veterans received child care assistance.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Veteran Employment and Child Care Access Act, which would expand child care services and enable veterans who are participating in VA and Department of Labor workforce development, job training, job placement services, or vocational rehabilitation programs to access childcare services while they participate. Specifically, this bill would make mandatory for VA and DOL to provide childcare services to eligible veteran who are participating in job training or vocational rehabilitation programs.

This is the same bill that Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH—a veteran and hero—introduced in the Senate. I am proud our legislation will ensure that veterans have access to affordable childcare services when they most need it. This bill will provide much needed childcare services to low-income and homeless veterans working towards finding a good and stable job.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA FORD—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Donna Ford of La Cañada Flintridge, California.

A civil litigator for several years in New York and Pennsylvania, Ms. Ford relocated to La Cañada Flintridge with her family in 2005. Since moving to California, she has been an active member of the local community, serving as a dedicated volunteer and board member of several non-profit organizations.

Believing that all children have tremendous potential regardless of their background or circumstances, Donna is a passionate advocate for young people and is committed to enriching the lives of children and adolescents. To that end, for twelve years, she has served on the board of directors of HillSides, an organization dedicated to fostering a stable, healthy environment for at-risk children and their families by providing a range of innovative services, including residential treatment, individualized education, counseling and adoption assistance. Ms. Ford currently serves as chair of the HillSides Board of Directors, co-chaired HillSides' annual gala in 2011, and has served on several committees over the years.

In addition to her work with HillSides, Donna is a longtime volunteer of the Cottage Guild at Rosemary Children's Services in Pasadena, which provides education, therapeutic support and permanency planning to children and adolescents, and residential housing at Rosemary Cottage for young girls between 13 and 18 years of age.

Donna has continued her commendable work with children by mentoring African American girls at John Muir High School in Pasadena and serving as a board member of the Institute for Educational Advancement, a Pasadena organization that assists gifted children in reaching their full potential, for a decade. In addition, she volunteers for the University of Southern California's Medical Faculty Family and Friends, which raises scholarship funds for medical students, and has served on the diversity committee for the Pasadena Playhouse.

Donna is married to Dr. Henri R. Ford and they have two children.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Donna Ford.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR HECTOR F. GARCIA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Mayor Hector F. Garcia. Mayor Garcia served the City of Watauga for more than 29 years. He passed away this year at the age of 78 after a lifetime of service to his community and our nation.

Mayor Garcia and his wife Wendy first moved to Watauga in 1968 to raise their family. In 1979, Mayor Garcia began his service as co-chair of Watauga's first charter commission. He was elected to the city council in 1980 and served until 1986. In 1994, he chaired the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Two years later, he was elected mayor of Watauga and served until 2002. After a brief hiatus, Mr. Garcia was elected for a second time as mayor in 2013 and served until his death.

In 1958, Mayor Garcia joined the U.S. Air Force and served our country for more than ten years. Following his service, he worked for General Dynamics, now Lockheed Martin, for more than 35 years. Initially hired as an aircraft assembler, he rose within the company, retiring from the engineering and planning department.

A lifelong North Texan, Mayor Garcia selflessly served not only the City of Watauga, but