

IN CELEBRATION OF NANCY
MENDEZ

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2018

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service and success of Nancy Mendez. A dedicated resident of Whittier, California whose hard work and model leadership has made a significant impact in my Congressional District. Ms. Mendez is retiring from her position as Assistant City Manager this year, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize her accomplishments.

Ms. Mendez began her 38 year long career with the City of Whittier in 1980 as a community supervisor. She established herself as an active member of the community spearheading several programs and activities responsible for maintaining high levels engagement across all age groups. Following the Whittier earthquake in 1987, Ms. Mendez demonstrated her ability to perform under pressure when she organized and opened a mass shelter for displaced residents after having been on the job as the Assistant for Human Services for only one day.

Ms. Mendez also assisted the city in winning a number of grants to fund important city projects over the years. She has also served as the Director of Human Services and Assistant City manager. Ms. Mendez has always used her skills to provide tangible benefits to our community. As Assistant City Manager, she was integral to the design and funding for the Greenway Trail, improved cell phone service in Whittier, and other important economic development projects. While there are too many projects to list, I would be remiss if I did

not also mention her work on the Walnut Senior Center, Palm Park Activity and Aquatics Center, and the city's police headquarters.

I cannot thank Ms. Mendez enough for all that she has contributed to the City of Whittier. Her passion for public service has made her an influential and effective leader whose accomplishments both from the past and present continue to benefit the people of Whittier today.

I wish Nancy Mendez a happy retirement and thank her again for her service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2018

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Azerbaijan, then known as the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. As the first Muslim-majority nation to embrace secular, elected government, Azerbaijan will always be a model for states who aim for progress, ongoing reform, and a step towards bettering the lives of their people. On behalf of the people of North Carolina, I also recognize the contributions of the Azerbaijani community in my home state.

After the landmark 1918 independence declaration, a Bolshevik invasion cut short Azerbaijani independence. Yet, this dream was never extinguished, and in 1991 Azerbaijanis again created their own independence movement, successfully declaring their own state. Each time Azerbaijan reasserted its independ-

ence, the United States has been quick to recognize Azerbaijan. We should be proud of the lasting and valuable relationship we have enjoyed ever since.

Azerbaijan is a crucial and irreplaceable ally in the global fight against terror and an exemplary partner with the United States. I look forward to deepened bilateral cooperation, including towards the fullest realization of our commitments to good, democratic governance, trade, and progress in the Caspian region and beyond. As a country bordering both Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan's membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace program is particularly important. Azerbaijan has emerged as a crucially important transportation route for supplying U.S. operations, and I want to recognize Azerbaijan for providing troops to the U.S.-led mission in Afghanistan and for allowing NATO planes to use Azerbaijani airspace.

Throughout my time in Congress, my colleagues and I on either side of the aisle have united in our staunch support of Israel. As a modern, secular Muslim country, Azerbaijan shares these values and stands out among its neighbors in the region for the strength and durability of this bond with Israel. As a nation with a Jewish community dating back many hundreds of years, and as a major provider of oil to Israel, the Azerbaijani-Israeli relationship, and indeed the Azerbaijani-American relationship, are on a path to greater cooperation and shared prosperity.

It is important that Congress recognizes the historic milestones of our allies, especially those in a region where close cooperation with America is valuable and scarce. This is why I would like to recognize and congratulate Azerbaijan for the 100th anniversary of independence.