

## RECOGNIZING JORGE RAMOS

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jorge Ramos, one of our nation's leading voices in Hispanic media who recently announced his retirement after nearly forty years with Telemundo 47.

Jorge has been with Telemundo 47's news team since the beginning, serving as an original founding member of the station's news operations. Throughout his time at Telemundo 47, Jorge helped the station achieve many milestones, including historic ratings. In both July and August of this year, the 11pm edition of Noticiero 47 Telemundo anchored by Ramos was ranked as the most-watched local newscast in the entire New York market, regardless of language.

Jorge began his media career in 1972, working at the radio station WKVM in Santurce, Puerto Rico. He later joined Telemundo 47 in 1979 where he served as the station's first field reporter. His talent and tenacity on camera was rewarded shortly thereafter when he was named news anchor—a position that he has held ever since.

Jorge is the recipient of seven Emmy awards for journalistic excellence and worked closely with the Tri-State's Hispanic community for over 35 years. Throughout that time, he has collaborated with many community organizations, non-profits and charities, in addition to serving as grand marshal and godfather of numerous parades throughout the Tri-State region.

Mr. Speaker, multiple generations of Telemundo 47 viewers in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut look at Jorge as an extended member of their families. He has been a steady, calming and always-smiling presence at their dinner tables and in their living rooms for nearly forty years. Finally, Jorge is the proud father of a former Marine and has been a steadfast advocate for Hispanic veterans as they return into civilian life.

Mr. Speaker, Jorge Ramos has served our community and our country well. I would like to thank Jorge for his service and I am proud to recognize his many professional accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 180TH BIRTHDAY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 180th birthday of the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Georgia.

While it is difficult to find written histories, biographies, memoirs, and other accounts of religious life in the South prior to abolition, Rev. Clarence M. Wagner has identified historical evidence that a group made up predominately of freed slaves organized Gainesville's First Baptist Church in 1838. Rev. Wagner details

his findings in the book Profiles of Black Georgia Baptists.

In 1901, under the Rev. Jack Nichol's leadership, the congregation erected a new church building on the corner of Gainesville's Pine and High Streets. Rev. Nichol answered the call to ministry around 1877, and he is the first person known by name to pastor this body of worshipers, shepherding the flock from 1877 to 1903.

The First Baptist Church was rebuilt in 1923 under the leadership of Rev. William Dorsey. Today, the church gathers at 1810 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, where Rev. Isaac Whitehead Jr. pastors the congregation.

I join the First Baptist Church in celebrating their 180 years of worship in Northeast Georgia and wish the church many happy years of ministry ahead.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DEEPA WILLINGHAM

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Deepa Willingham for receiving the 2018 United Nations Association of Santa Barbara Peace Prize.

Mrs. Willingham was born in Kolkata, India and received her primary and secondary education under the stewardship of Mother Teresa. After receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of Calcutta, she moved to the United States to pursue Masters and Ph.D. degrees.

Mrs. Willingham has dedicated her life to empowering girls and women through education. She founded Pace Universal, a non-profit organization that works to end human trafficking, elevate women and children from poverty, and uplift communities. She opened an environmentally sustainable school for more than 200 girls at the Piyali Learning Center in the rural Indian village of Piyali Junction.

Mrs. Willingham has been a leader in Santa Barbara County through her roles as President of Rotary Club of Santa Ynez Valley as well as Rotary International District Governor. While president, she was named Rotarian of the year and chaired two Rotary Districts Annual Poverty Conferences, during which she helped to initiate its 5-point poverty-eradication plan. Mrs. Willingham has participated in volunteer efforts internationally by attending National Immunization Day in India and traveling to Mexico to construct cement floors.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with the United Nations Association of Santa Barbara in celebrating the exemplary career of Deepa Willingham as she receives the 2018 Peace Prize.

RECOGNITION OF MS. EVANGELINA MENDIOLA

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to honor Ms. Evangelina

Mendiola, for her extraordinary contributions as an adoptive and foster parent in Broward County, Florida.

Ms. Mendiola was recognized as a 2018 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). Currently in the process of adopting her fifth child, she also regularly opens her home and heart as a caring foster parent. Indeed, she is admired in her community for her steadfast commitment to the welfare of children. Ms. Mendiola's long-standing dedication truly exemplifies the values of the Angels in Adoption program.

Founded in 2001, CCAI is a nonprofit organization with the vision that every child should know the love and support of a caring family. Every year, CCAI selects a small group of outstanding individuals, families, or organizations across the nation to be recognized as Angels in Adoption. These honorees have gone above and beyond to demonstrate commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving homes.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Evangelina Mendiola is a member of our community, whom we can all admire and respect. I commend her for her inspiring commitment to the welfare of children, and wish her the very best as she continues to make the dream of a family a reality for the children she has given a warm and loving home.

TRIBUTE TO MARY HELEN PETERSON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mary Helen Peterson of Red Oak, Iowa on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Mary Helen celebrated her birthday on August 24, 2018.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Mary Helen's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Mary Helen has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mary Helen in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mary Helen on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STERLING WOMEN

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2018*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kristina Bouweiri, the founder of Sterling Women and CEO of Reston Limousine,