

Under Dr. Simon's leadership, the organization has also filed several lawsuits to halt dangerous initiatives passed by the state legislature. One suit successfully blocked a law requiring all applicants for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families to submit to baseless drugs tests. As the representative of one of the most disadvantaged districts in the country, I am deeply concerned by attacks on public benefits programs on which many of my constituents heavily rely.

In addition to overseeing the ACLU's legal, public education, legislative lobbying, and membership and fundraising programs, Dr. Simon frequently pens editorials for regional publications, challenging policies that undermine Floridians' constitutional freedoms.

I am grateful to Dr. Simon for his work defending Floridians' civil liberties. Unfortunately, it is often the most disadvantaged who are targeted by policies that threaten their rights or otherwise lack the necessary resources to defend themselves.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Howard Simon and congratulate him on a remarkable career. Dr. Simon recently announced plans to retire after leading the Florida ACLU affiliate for 21 years. I wish him all the best and thank him for his exemplary service to my home state.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TAIPEI AND PHOENIX

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the 40th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Phoenix, Arizona and Taipei, Taiwan. Additionally, I would like to congratulate Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-Je on his successful reelection.

For the past 40 years, Taipei and Phoenix have shared a commitment with the goal of promoting cross cultural understanding along with municipal and technical cooperation and business opportunities. This bond has enabled people-to-people relationships between the residents of Phoenix and Taipei. The program has also offered opportunities to our youth who want to broaden their knowledge of different cultures. Taipei's Mayor Ko Wen-Je has been a strong advocate of the program and I commend him for his continual support.

I would like to take the time to show my appreciation to the Sister City Program for its positive impact on Arizona's economy. The program has helped to form international understanding and goodwill between our two nations. I look forward to continued dedication between these great cities. It is my honor to wish these two cities a happy 40th anniversary and congratulate Kon Wen-Je on his victory.

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 STARS OVER DULLES AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce for its ongoing dedication to local businesses and our community and to congratulate the 2018 "Stars Over Dulles" Award recipients.

This year, at the 23rd Annual Stars Over Dulles Awards Luncheon, the Chamber will honor those extraordinary businesses, nonprofit organizations, and citizens who have dedicated their talents and activities to enhancing our economy and our community.

As the former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and now as a Member of Congress representing this community, I have been proud to partner with the Chamber on promoting the region's pro-business climate and celebrating the service that so many individuals and businesses provide to our community.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following recipients of the 2018 Stars Over Dulles Awards:

Arts Community Leader: Evan Hoffmann, NextStop Theatre Company; Distinguished Veteran: Ono Brewing Company; Financial Leader: Northwest Federal Credit Union; First Responder: Chief Maggie DeBoard, Herndon Police Department; Health & Wellness Leader: Meg Donnelly, Meg Donnelly, LMT; Hospitality & Tourism Leader: Westin Washington Dulles; Minority Business Leader: Mike Williams, The Growth Coach; Non-Profit Leader: Chuck Birdie, Loudoun Free Clinic; Real Estate & Development Leader: Tammy Meyer, Stonebridge Title, LLC; Small Business Leader: David Hillelsohn, DHill Financial; Technology Leader: Madhu Garlanka, Allwyn Corporation; Transportation Leader: Doug Pickford, Dulles Area Transportation Association; Workforce & Education Leader: Dr. Anthony Copeland, Westfield High School; Young Professional: Young Kim, McLean Insurance Agency, Inc.; and Eileen D Curtis Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2018 Stars Over Dulles Award recipients and in thanking these businesses and individuals for their many contributions to our region's economic success and quality of life. Their efforts are among the many reasons why Northern Virginia remains one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, raise a family, and start a business. I congratulate the honorees on receiving these awards and wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING MR. ANTONIO GONZALEZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Antonio Gonzalez, who passed away on November 11, 2018. Mr.

Gonzalez hailed from my hometown of San Antonio, and shared his life with his wife of 26 years, Alma Martinez, and their two daughters Ysabel and Sara. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Gonzalez was born in Norwalk, California on December 17, 1956, and put great emphasis on his education. Mr. Gonzalez completed undergraduate coursework at the University of California San Diego from 1975 to 1977, completed graduate coursework in Latin American History at the University of California Berkeley from 1981 to 1982, and graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio where he studied American history.

Mr. Gonzalez has been a longstanding advocate for the underrepresented and the less fortunate.

Throughout his career, he was a champion of voter and minority rights, building relationships with Latino communities throughout Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba, El Salvador, and Haiti.

In 1994, Mr. Gonzalez also assumed the presidency of the William C. Velasquez Institute (WCVI), a nonpartisan national Latino public policy and research nonprofit organization, and the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP), the oldest nonpartisan Latino voter participation organization in the U.S. During his tenure, Mr. Gonzalez conducted extensive survey research on Latino voter behavior, Latino voter mobilization, and helped triple Latino voter registration from 5.4 million in 1994 to 15.3 million in 2016. With the help of WCVI, Mr. Gonzalez founded the National Latino Congreso in 2006 where thousands of Latino Organizations meet annually.

Mr. Gonzalez was also a fierce advocate for equal representation under the law. Mr. Gonzalez led SVREP in protecting Latino voting against suppressive "Voter ID" laws in Texas and Arizona. From 2015 to 2017, Mr. Gonzalez led a successful campaign which resulted in more than 50 California school boards and cities to replace their outdated election systems with "single member" district election systems.

From 2004 to 2016, Mr. Gonzalez hosted a weekly radio show on Pacifica's KPFK in Los Angeles called "Strategy Session with Antonio Gonzalez," and steered a nonpartisan coalition of 55 organizations during the Los Angeles City Mayoral election that resulted in the first Latino Mayor in America's 2nd largest city.

With the passing of Mr. Antonio Gonzalez, we have truly lost a pillar in the Latino community and a beacon of home in our nation. Mr. Gonzalez's legacy will leave a lasting impact for many years to come, and his lifelong dedication changed the lives of San Antonioans, Texans, and people around the world.

COMMENDING MRS. EILEEN GRACE MARTINHO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mrs. Eileen Grace Martinho for her service to my office and the 21st Congressional District of California.