

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.

Mrs. Martinho was born on December 12, 1994 in Escondido, California. Her father, Jacob De Raadt, purchased a Dairy Farm in 1999 in Lemoore, California and moved the family to California's San Joaquin Valley. Growing up in an agriculturally-rich environment left a lasting impact on Eileen, creating a deep passion for dairy and agriculture issues. After graduating from Central Valley Christian High School in 2013, Eileen received a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Fresno Pacific University in 2017. While completing her degree, she was employed with Kings County Farm Bureau and Farm Academy Live, where she assisted in the implementation of events and taught agricultural issues to numerous students.

Eileen became a member of my Congressional Team in 2017, serving as our Fresno County Field Representative. She proved to be a strong asset across the Valley, creating meaningful connections with community leaders and representing my team with dedication and charisma. Local leaders consistently praised Eileen for her love for the Central Valley and advanced knowledge on agricultural issues. Eileen also managed the office intern program and served as a caseworker, helping numerous constituents with government-related issues. Her unique ability to communicate the values of our team combined with her strong work-ethic made Mrs. Martinho an invaluable member of my team and a true public servant to the people of California's Central Valley.

Outside of work, Eileen remains actively involved in a variety of community groups. She is a member of the Dairy Princess Committee, Kings Fair Foundation Board, California Women for Agriculture, and Kings County Dairy Women. Her consistent participation in community service groups reflects her genuine care for the community and desire to see it improved. While many speak about bettering their communities, Eileen takes the initiative and leads the way. She is a strong leader who will continue to advocate for her community for many years to come.

Mrs. Martinho recently married to the love of her life, Jonathon, earlier this year. She loves spending her free time with her husband and their friends, hosting dinners, and going on weekend trips. Her community is extremely important to her and she is known as a loyal and dependable friend. Eileen is also actively involved in her church, where she is known for her beautiful singing.

This January, Mrs. Martinho will be moving onto new ventures. Knowing Eileen, her passion and work-ethic, I have no doubt she will achieve many great things in her future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Eileen Grace Martinho for her public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing her the very best in this next chapter of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been

present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 436.

HONORING AMINDA MARQUÉS GONZALEZ

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Aminda Marqués Gonzalez, vice president and executive editor of the Miami Herald and el Nuevo Herald, and a highly respected member of Florida's media community.

On July 21, 2018, Marqués was recognized by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and inducted into the NAHJ's Hall of Fame for her accomplished career and efforts to promote diversity in the newsroom.

Born in New York City to Cuban immigrants, Marqués has dedicated her entire career to journalism in South Florida. Marqués graduated from the University of Florida in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and began her career at the Miami Herald, where she had previously interned. After covering a range of issues and rising from metro reporter to assistant city editor, she joined People magazine in 2002 as Miami bureau chief. In that capacity, she oversaw People's coverage of the southeastern United States, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

Marqués returned to the Miami Herald in 2007 as an editor and was promoted to managing editor in 2010. Under her leadership, the Herald has earned national recognition for its outstanding reporting. The Herald won two Pulitzer Prizes in 2017, one for work of the editorial cartoonist Jim Morin and one for the paper's series on the Panama Papers. The Miami Herald also has been a finalist for the Pulitzer three times under Marqués' leadership, including for a 2012 investigation into the poor regulation of Florida's assisted-living facilities.

In addition to her post at the Miami Herald, Marqués is president of the Florida Society of News Editors and sits on the Pulitzer Prize Board. She also serves on the advisory councils for The Journalism and Women Symposium, and The Lillian Lodge Copenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at Florida International University.

Marqués has the distinction of being the Miami Herald's first-ever Hispanic and second female executive editor. Her colleagues credit her for recruiting reporters and editors of diverse backgrounds and for challenging the overall lack of diversity in journalism.

I commend Aminda Marqués Gonzalez for her trailblazing work in journalism, and I congratulate her on receiving the National Association of Hispanic Journalists Hall of Fame honor.

RECOGNIZING JEFF BELL

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Jeff

Bell, who will be retiring after working for more than 30 years at the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Throughout his tenure at IDOT, Jeff has served in a number of roles and has remained a valuable asset for the citizens of Illinois due to his dedication, hard work, and attention to detail. Most recently, as Bureau Chief for Federal Affairs, Jeff has been an excellent liaison between IDOT and the Illinois Congressional Delegation, helping our offices better serve our State's transportation infrastructure needs when federal policy is developed out here in Washington, D.C.

I have had the privilege of working with Jeff as both a member of Congress and also while serving as an aide to Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS, and Jeff has never been anything but an invaluable resource on transportation infrastructure legislation and projects. Jeff has staunchly advocated for federal initiatives that improve Illinois' infrastructure, and has helped maximize the federal resources our state has received.

It is my honor to congratulate Jeff on his retirement and thank him for his friendship and service to the State of Illinois.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2018 NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2018 recipients of the Northern Virginia Leadership Awards presented by Leadership Fairfax, Inc. (LFI)

LFI is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to finding, training, and growing leaders in Northern Virginia whose mission is to educate, prepare, inspire, and connect leaders to serve and strengthen our community. Graduates from its programs become part of a fast-growing network of civic leaders. I've always said, "When you walk into a crowded room, it's easy to spot the graduates of Leadership Fairfax—they just stand out!"

Each year, LFI recognizes individuals or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and that have made extraordinary contributions to our community. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2018 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards recipients:

The Regional Leadership Award is presented to Maggie Parker, VP, Comstock Companies, Inc. for her dedicated volunteer service and commitment to improve the quality of life of the area. She has served as Chair of Public Art Reston and has also brought her skills to other organizations in the region including Greater Reston Arts Center, ARTSFAIRFAX, Women's Center, Children's National Medical Center, and Cornerstones.

The Trustee Leadership Award is presented to Major Tyler Corey, Fairfax County Sheriffs Office. As the Division Commander for the Administrative Services Division, Major Corey not only mentors and trains new staff and collaborates with community partners on Sheriff's Office initiatives, but also finds time to commit to multiple volunteer projects, including Volunteer Fairfax and Meals on Wheels.