

MIA ASTORGA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mia Astorga for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Mia Astorga is a student at Everitt Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mia Astorga 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 Mia Astorga for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE AMERICAN PEANUT SHELLERS ASSOCIATION'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the American Peanut Shellers Association (APSA) as it celebrates 100 years in leading the effort to expand and advance the American peanut industry. The APSA will be celebrating this great milestone on Friday, April 5, 2019, during the Industry Spring Conference at the Bindery at Oakland Library in Leesburg, Georgia.

The APSA was established by commercial peanut shellers and crushers from Georgia, Alabama, and Florida who began operations in early 1918 as the Southeastern Peanut Association (SPA). Approximately a year later, on April 5, 1919, a group of commercial peanut farmers representing their home states convened in Atlanta to officially charter the Southeastern Peanut Association. On November 30, 1993, the Southeastern Peanut Association officially changed its name to the American Peanut Shellers Association to incorporate other shelling companies from other states. The current APSA headquarters in Albany, Georgia was completed in 1986 and has been the official hub of this renowned association since its relocation from Americus, Georgia in the early in 1960s.

For the past 100 years, Georgia peanut farmers through the APSA have been successful in improving the profitability of peanuts and peanut products by working to promote and increase consumption. In 1965, the APSA co-sponsored first USA Peanut Congress—the largest meeting of all segments of the peanut industry. Today, the APSA is the oldest organized group in the peanut industry boasting 10 active member shelling companies and 145 associate members who handle 90 percent of the peanuts grown in the United States.

I take much pride in the fact that Georgia leads the nation in production of peanuts with nearly 50 percent of the annual peanut crop. Georgia has 14,000 farms with peanuts and about 4,500 active farmers. Approximately 200 businesses in Georgia are peanut-related. Two million bags of peanuts are distributed annually and the industry contributes more than 50,000 jobs and an estimated \$2 billion to the economy of the state of Georgia.

Since George Washington Carver discovered the many uses for the peanut in the early twentieth century, peanuts have become a household food staple and a source of dietary fiber, protein, and other healthy nutrients. Although peanuts are produced in other parts of the country, I am a firm believer that no peanuts are of higher quality or more delicious than Georgia peanuts.

On a personal note, I would like to thank John Powell, Executive Director of the American Peanut Shellers Association, and the rest of the wonderful staff as well as Chairman Ralph Johnson and all those who serve on the Associate Board of Directors. Their hard work and dedication have contributed to the success of the APSA in many ways.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, the state of Georgia, and all those nationwide and worldwide who enjoy our tasty American peanuts, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the American Peanut Shellers Association for their exemplary services and dedicated efforts to support our Nation's peanut industry over the past 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SHAY D. ASSAD

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor a Massachusetts constituent, Mr. Shay Assad, who will be retiring this year after nearly 25 years of combined military and federal service to our country.

He graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy; thereafter, he served two tours of duty aboard U.S. Navy destroyers and won recognition as the Outstanding Junior Officer, Fifth Naval District. He is an Aegis Weapons system and *Arleigh Burke* class plank owner having served as the Naval Procurement Officer who procured the Navy's first Aegis system for DDG-47 at the Naval Sea Systems Command. He commenced federal government civil service as the assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics for Contracts at headquarters, the Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., serving as the senior civilian contracting official for the U.S. Marine Corps. Mr. Assad joined the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) in April 2006. During his tenure in OSD, Mr. Assad first served as the Director, Defense Pricing and Acquisition Policy (DPAP). As such he was the recognized functional leader of a workforce of 27,000 contracting and pricing professionals responsible for the procurement of approximately \$300B in goods and services annually.

In addition, from January 2009 through June 5, 2011 he concurrently served in other Acquisition, Technology & Logistics (AT&L) leader-

ship positions. For a period of time he served as the Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology. He also performed the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition. In June 2011, he left his role as Director, DPAP to serve in the newly established position of Director, Defense Pricing. In August 2017 through December 2018, he served as Acting Director, DPAP, concurrent with his duties as Director, Defense Pricing. His combined senior executive experience in the Defense industry (where Mr. Assad served for 25 years prior to joining OSD) and in Government was without peer among members of the Senior Executive Service.

Among his most significant accomplishments for the Department of Defense, Mr. Assad led the development and implementation of the largest and most expansive plan in the Department's history that focused on improving both the size and quality of the acquisition workforce. This plan, known as the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Force (DAWDF) initiative, still serves today as the cornerstone for improving the quality of the acquisition workforce. In addition, Mr. Assad developed and implemented the Department of Defense Contract Peer Review process which oversaw every sole source procurement in excess of \$500 million dollars, as well as every significant competitive source selection within the Department of Defense over the past twelve years. The peer review process has been recognized to have enabled the savings of billions for the taxpayers through improving the quality of the Department's contract business dealings.

Mr. Assad also led the OSD peer review team that oversaw the successful conduct of the largest single source selection in the Department's history—the KC-X tanker program resulting in saving billions for the taxpayers. He led the Department of Defense mediation and developed the successful strategy to resolve litigation associated with the Department's Space Launch Program, enabling an increase in the security posture of the United States, while saving hundreds of millions for the taxpayers.

Over his tenure of federal service, Mr. Assad was the most decorated contracting and pricing professional in the career civil service having received numerous federal service awards. Principal among those awards were: 1) the Distinguished Service Medal with Bronze Palms; 2) the Distinguished Service Medal; 3) the Secretary of Defense Meritorious Service Medal; 4) the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Service Medal; 5) a Distinguished Presidential Rank Award; 6) a Meritorious Presidential Rank Award; 7) the Department of Defense Inspector General Joseph H. Sherick Award (the highest honor bestowed on non-OIG employees); and 8) the David Acker Award for Acquisition Excellence. He was inducted into the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Hall of Fame in recognition of his leadership in the acquisition profession and for the establishment of the DAWDF initiative. He has been the Department's leading advocate for increasing employment opportunities for the blind and severely disabled; and has received numerous awards to include the E. Richard "Dick" Alley Career Achievement Award (Ability One Program's highest recognition) and the Osbourne "Oz" Day Award for those efforts.