

COMMEMORATING ROBERT MARTINEZ, 14TH PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINIST AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Martinez, 14th President of the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers.

Robert Martinez is a fighter for the working man. His current role as President of the IAM is just one of many titles he has carried over 36 years of fighting for union workers and working families.

After serving his country in the Navy, he began his IAM career as a member of Local 776A in Fort Worth, TX and was hired as an Aircraft Assembler at Lockheed Martin.

At the IAM, Robert has actively recruited and made a point to reach new generations of workers, all the while protecting its nearly 600,000 active and retired members. Throughout his career, Bob has held positions at the local level and worked his way up to become the General Vice President of the office of Southern Territory, where he oversaw training and education for 14 southern states.

He also served as General Vice President of IAM Headquarters where he was responsible for the William H. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center, and IAM's Government Employees and Aerospace sectors.

Robert has been a vocal activist for labor rights in the Latino community. In 2018, he received the Cesar Chavez Award for his distinguished work on behalf of the Latino working women and men.

He currently services as the Vice President on the Executive Board of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

I honor and recognize Robert Martinez's 36 years of service to union workers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SUALUA TUI MASANIAI

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the last surviving Fita Fita Guard, WWII, and Korean War veteran Sualua Tui Masaniai. From the villages of Vatia and Ili'ili, he embarked on his journey in 1941 as he was sworn into the First Samoan Marine group. Shortly after, Sualua enlisted in the U.S. Navy fighting alongside his Samoan brothers during the Korean era and WWII.

Sualua dedicated much of his time, spiritual legacy and talents to Kingdom Building which led him to the creation of churches within Ili'ili, Puapua, and Westminster, CA.

After serving 20 years of active duty in the U.S. Navy, Sualua was honorably discharged as an E-7 Chief Petty Officer and Electronic Technician. He returned to Santa Ana, CA where at request of the American Samoa Government, he introduced television. Sualua ar-

rived with his family in 1964 where he became the Chief Technician at KVZK-TV on Mount Alava. Shortly after he served in Leone at the WVUV radio station. Sualua was a passionate man who poured his knowledge of electronic profession into the students at Nu'uuli Poly Tech High School.

Sualua's wife of 62 years—Fesili Mata'u Penitusi Amituana'i Masaniai from the villages of Faga'alu and Fitiuta preceded him to heaven on April 1, 2019. Sualua's legacy will continue in his 12 children, 26 grandchildren and 41 great grandchildren.

He was a dedicated community leader of strong work ethic who served his people and always a man of great faith, compassion, gratitude and reciprocity. He has brought great honor to our Samoan people. Sualua Tui Masaniai will be deeply missed, and his life is worthy of our best memories.

Thank you (Soifua).

IN RECOGNITION OF CHELSEA TAYLOR ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Chelsea Taylor of Van Wert, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Chelsea's offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Chelsea brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Crestview High School in Convoy, Ohio, Chelsea received numerous academic achievement awards and was ranked first in her class.

Throughout high school, Chelsea was involved with cheerleading, track, and gymnastics. I am confident that Chelsea will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chelsea Taylor on her offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Chelsea will excel during her career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CALIFORNIA LGBTQ VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication of the California LGBTQ Veterans Memorial.

The memorial honors LGBTQ veterans across the nation who bravely defended our country and the freedoms we hold dear. California is the first state in the nation to have a state memorial for LGBTQ veterans, which enshrines the sacrifices of our LGBTQ service members and reaffirms our commitment to the LGBTQ community.

The unveiling and dedication ceremony took place on Saturday, April 27, 2019 in Cathedral City, California. Organized by AMVETS, an organization that enhances and safeguards our nation's support for veterans, this event included a wreath-laying service to remember our deceased veterans.

The ceremony also honored 26 individuals with a dove release. Honorees included Jon Castro, an Army soldier from Corona, California, who was killed in the bombing of a mess hall in Iraq. The Rancho Mirage Chapter of Veterans for Peace, a veterans group dedicated to building a culture of peace in our communities, was named in his honor.

All of our veterans regardless of gender, race, religion, sexuality, or gender identity deserve our respect for courageously putting their lives on the line to protect our nation. And with this memorial, we will recognize our LGBTQ soldiers who fight every day to defend our country and protect liberty. It is our solemn duty to honor and respect their service.

I am grateful to AMVETS, Veterans for Peace, and all of the other wonderful organizations and people who made this memorial possible. On behalf of the residents of California's thirty-sixth congressional district, I thank the thousands of LGBTQ Americans who have fought and continue to fight to defend our nation. We will never forget their service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASTER CHIEF MIHELICH

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wayne John Mihelich, of Caldwell County, North Carolina. On behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I would like to honor the military service of Command Master Chief Mihelich and his significant impact on the education of the next generation.

Master Chief Mihelich joined the Navy in 1973. He served in over ten duty assignments and was promoted to the rank of Command Master Chief. He was assigned five separate Commands as Command Master Chief, including U.S. Naval Security Group Activity in Rota, Spain; U.S. Naval Air Station in Sigonella, Sicily; and Naval Air Technical Training Center in Pensacola, Florida. He was also responsible for Chief Petty Officer mess professional development. Master Chief