

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH

HON. KATIE HILL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Ms. HILL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the WOW Flower Project participating in the annual observance of Juneteenth.

Whereas the staff and volunteers of WOW Flower Project have agreed to devote their time, resources and energy to this united effort to bring attention to this important day of celebration.

Whereas Juneteenth is an annual observance on June 19th to remember when Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation and freed all remaining enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1865. This day is an opportunity for people to celebrate freedom and equal rights in the United States.

Whereas WOW Flower Project will hold a public Juneteenth Celebration with the goals of bringing our neighbors together to remember the millions of African Americans who suffered the evils of slavery and celebrate the community's commitment to working toward a more fair and just society. Together, we honor the unbreakable spirit and countless contributions of generations of African Americans to the story of American greatness.

Whereas WOW Flower Project leads us today and every day in recommitting ourselves to defending the self-evident truth, boldly declared by our Founding Fathers, that all people are created equal.

On this day, we rise to declare June 19th, National Juneteenth Awareness Day. Dating back to 1865, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. We are fortunate to have passionate, forward-thinking, dedicated organizations like the WOW Flower Project who work tirelessly to enact change and educate our community.

Therefore, let it be proclaimed the Antelope Valley declares that every 19th of June is the official Remembrance of Juneteenth.

TRIBUTE FOR ELVIS DURAN AND ALEX CARR

HON. MAX ROSE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring two outstanding individuals who share an unquestionable commitment to improving the lives of Staten Islanders and to supporting our borough's LGBTQ community—Z100's Elvis Duran, and his fiancé, the Staten Island Zoo's own Alex Carr.

If there's one thing Staten Islanders know all too well, it's sitting in traffic in the morning lis-

tening to the radio. The work that Elvis Duran does every day to make that commute just a little less grueling deserves recognition all by itself. But Elvis is so much more than a New York City radio legend. Whether he is contributing to the Robin Hood Foundation which fights poverty in New York City, supporting the LGBTQ community through his work with GLAAD and The Trevor Project, or generously supporting local Staten Island causes with his fiancé, Alex, Mr. Duran has continually shown a commitment to helping those in need.

Our borough is known for its sense of community and through it, the people who make it one of the best places to raise a family. It is that commitment to community and supporting our borough in ways, both big and small, that Alex has exemplified. When there is someone struggling—whether a close friend or stranger—there's a good chance Alex will be there to help in some capacity. It's who he is, and Staten Island has been made better because of his efforts.

And so it should be no surprise that when Staten Island's own LGBTQ community needed help with a fundraiser, Elvis and his fiancé Alex went above and beyond to help out. They offered to do a dollar for dollar match of donations to the Staten Island Pride Center, raised awareness of the Pride Center's work on social media, and helped raise over \$25,000.

Their philanthropic efforts have impacted many lives, but there is nothing more powerful than individuals with large platforms sharing their stories and helping others feel accepted. Elvis and Alex have opened their lives to Staten Island, the City, and the country whether it's through the Morning Show, the Staten Island Zoo, or just the extraordinary acts of kindness they have demonstrated time and time again.

Staten Island is a place where we look out for each other and where we never hesitate to help those in need. Few people embody that more than Elvis Duran and Alex Carr. For that reason, the Pride Center of Staten Island will be honoring Alex and Elvis at its celebration commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots on June 21, 2019.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Alex as everything a Staten Islander ought to be, Elvis Duran as an honorary Staten Islander and in thanking them for their many years of selfless and compassionate service to Staten Island, and to all of New York City.

SONIA RAMIREZ

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers (IBEW), a member organization of the North American Building Trades Union (NABTU), to honor Sonia Ram-

irez, who has dedicated six years to the NABTU and millions of working men and women across America.

Sonia Ramirez is native of California's 26th Congressional District and a graduate of Occidental University in Los Angeles.

From 1995 to 1996, Sonia participated in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institution's graduate program and worked for the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in the Office of Latino Outreach in Washington, D.C. Afterward, she served on the DNC's Board of Directors.

Sonia began serving working families directly as a legislative representative for the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). In this position, Sonia fought passionately for economic and social justice.

In 2012, Sonia was named the Director of Government Affairs of NABTU after serving as Deputy Director for two years prior. In this position, Sonia Ramirez advocated for more jobs and better working conditions for her fellow Americans day in and day out.

Now, Sonia will be moving on to serve as the Wage and Hour Division Administrator for Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries. She will be the first woman and person of color to hold this esteemed position, and it is no surprise to those of us that know Sonia that she will be breaking barriers.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating Sonia Ramirez's exceptional career, as well as her dedication to the national labor movement. On behalf of my union brothers and sisters across the country, I recognize the tremendous work accomplished by Sonia Ramirez.

RECOGNIZING MONTANA YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY OF DILLON

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the staff, instructors, and mentors of the Montana Youth Challenge Academy in Dillon for helping thousands of at-risk youth turn around their lives toward a more promising, productive future.

Celebrating its 20th year, the Montana Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) provides young Montanans from 16 to 18 the opportunity to develop academically and hone work-force and social skills in a secure, structured setting.

The 22-week program, sponsored by the Montana National Guard and the State of Montana, focuses on academics, responsibility, service, leadership, and health. Nearly 3,000 students have graduated from MYCA since 1999, with volunteer mentors supporting and guiding them following graduation.

Every cadet in the academy has a story of personal struggle and perseverance. Many

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