

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER FROM TEXAS' 11TH DISTRICT

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2019 Congressional Art Competition winner from Texas' 11th District, Ms. Rylee Braden. Rylee's piece was chosen to be displayed in the tunnels under the U.S. Capitol, where Members of Congress, staff, and visitors from around the country can view and appreciate it for a full year.

Rylee is a very accomplished senior at Wall High School where she excels in academics, athletics, and art. Her drawing titled "Mamaw Molded Me" depicts the time-worn, loving hands of her grandmother that she drew using charcoal and colored pencils.

Rylee's Mamaw, Rosalie Sturm, told me that although she has always wanted to, she has never had the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. Now through her granddaughter's rendering of her hands, a little piece of her will not only travel to Washington but will be displayed in the Capitol itself. I am proud to have the 11th District represented by a piece that speaks to the wisdom that is passed down through generations and the impact of a loving parent and grandparent.

Again, I congratulate Rylee on her achievement and look forward to seeing her art every day when I walk to and from the Capitol.

TRIBUTE TO THE GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF LOS ANGELES

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles upon its 40th Anniversary.

In July of 1979, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA) was formed when ninety-nine men stepped up at the Plummer Park Community Center in West Hollywood, having seen posters announcing the formation and first rehearsal of a new gay chorus. Three months later, the chorus performed at the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, thus marking the beginning of their important legacy.

Throughout their forty-year history, GMCLA members have used their comradery and shared experiences to challenge stereotypes and enrich the community. At the height of the AIDS epidemic, the GMCLA family lost 150 members, but even that horrific tragedy did not stop their work and their commitment to celebrate and serve the LGBTQ community. The GMCLA has since become an essential

part of the fabric of Los Angeles, with members dedicating their time to advocating for equality through song and community service.

The GMCLA has stayed true to its core message of equality by transforming and nurturing the Los Angeles and LGBTQ communities through its initiatives, such as the Alive Music Project. The multi-faceted project, which has reached over 65,000 middle and high school students, promotes acceptance and anti-bullying, and provides opportunities for music education programs in Los Angeles schools. Additionally, the GMCLA is a proud member of The Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network which offers music education to juvenile detention center students. Through these initiatives, the GMCLA reaches countless youth.

Today, the GMCLA boasts over 300 members and has performed in iconic venues around the world, including Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, and Carnegie Hall in New York. With each new venue, they sing for a world that promotes acceptance and is free from discrimination. The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles will honor its anniversary and the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall uprising in August, when they will be joined by the New York City Gay Men's Chorus for a historic concert and gala to benefit their music education programs.

I am proud to recognize the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles for four decades of musical entertainment and outstanding service to the LGBTQ and Los Angeles communities. I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles for its remarkable achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAX ROSE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 341 on H.R. 2740, I mistakenly recorded my vote as No when I should have voted Yes.

CASE OF MR. MICHAEL NGUYEN

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand here today in support of Michael Phung Minh Nguyen—a proud American citizen, a loving husband to Helen Nguyen, and a doting father of four young daughters.

However, it saddens me deeply that Mr. Nguyen has been unjustly detained by the Vietnamese government for over eleven months now—nearly a year—which has caused immense suffering for his family and his entire community.

Mr. Nguyen was arrested on July 7, 2018 while visiting relatives in Vietnam, detained without official charges, and is only now finally to stand trial next week on June 24, 2019 in Ho Chi Minh City.

Mr. Nguyen has been an upstanding, model citizen of the United States for some 40 years and, to my knowledge, has no criminal record.

In fact, he is an entrepreneur and a small business owner.

He is also a man of faith and is actively involved in his local community church.

One of our most sacred duties as elected officials is to protect our citizens from harm—on both domestic and foreign soil—and indeed I have never given up on my constituents even after they have been deported or detained abroad.

This is why, since his detention last year, I have consistently urged, to both the United States and Vietnamese governments, swift action be taken to expeditiously return Mr. Michael Nguyen home.

I am tremendously grateful to my colleagues in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle for their tireless advocacy on behalf of Mr. Nguyen and his family.

Madam Speaker, I close by respectfully imploring the Vietnamese government to do the right thing—ensure a fair trial, a speedy resolution, and justice for Michael Nguyen.

MELISSA SANTA CRUZ APPRECIATION DAY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Melissa Santa Cruz in honor of her day of appreciation as enacted by the City of South Tucson, Arizona. A pillar of the local airwaves, Ms. Santa Cruz has accomplished just as much in her community as she has on the radio. Her driving passion both in her work and activism has endeared her to all of her many listeners.

With over 30 years as an on-air personality, Santa Cruz began her career in the town of Globe, Arizona, on the country music station KQSS 98.3 FM. She eventually moved back to the Tucson area, being a featured personality across many broadcast stations, and bringing music of all genres to the listeners of Southern Arizona. In her current role, Santa Cruz now serves as Program Director for Tejano 1600AM, while continuing on as a country and adult contemporary radio DJ on 97.1 The Bull and My 92.9, respectively.

A daughter of former South Tucson Councilman Reynaldo Santa Cruz, Melissa has always known the value of community. As a young girl, Santa Cruz saw both her father as well as her mother Lydia volunteer as members of Santa Cruz Church Parish, and has continued their work into her professional life. Santa Cruz has made it a point to keep her

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