

Experience volunteer, Freshman Friday volunteer and volunteering for the Goodman Tobacco Free Coalition—College Chapter.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Delancy Anderson for her passion and dedication for success and desire to make a difference in the community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND COMMEMORATING THE PASSING OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN CARLOS ROMERO BARCELO

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a former member of this House who defined an epoch in Puerto Rican Politics.

On Sunday May 2nd, Carlos Romero Barceló died, ending an outstanding career in Puerto Rico's political environment, as Mayor of San Juan, Governor, State Senator, and Resident Commissioner, and even after leaving elected office still an active leader in his party and in the cause of Puerto Rican Statehood to his very last days. He was one of the figures that marked indelibly the last 50 years of our political scene.

In his younger years he was part of a group of leaders who saw the need for a vision of the cause of equality of rights for the American citizens of Puerto Rico. He, a Democrat, joined Luis Ferré, a Republican, to refocus the statehood movement towards bringing an answer to the needs of the people for prosperity and security and affirmation of their rights.

In was this group that after many decades of virtual one-party rule in Puerto Rico established a balance of competitive elections, that expanded the use of primaries from local to national; that made it a goal to whenever possible attain equality in the rights and benefits of working families. And above all, to promote the essential step to equality and prosperity: the attainment of Statehood for Puerto Rico.

That quest brought him repeatedly to the halls of this Congress, as a party leader, as a governor, and as a participant in the hearings processes for the Status Bills of 1989 to 1991. Finally, as part of this House from 1993 to 2001 where he stood out in this effort, including his work with Congressman YOUNG on the last Puerto Rico status bill to pass the full House in 1998.

Carlos was characterized for his energetic presence, for never being timid in expressing what he felt or believed, for demanding much of himself and of those who worked with him. His character was fiery, passionate, and inspiring in return strong passion both from supporters and opponents. You could not be neutral about him and he did not want you to be. But he also knew the value of teamwork and of giving an opportunity to those with potential. It was a privilege to know Carlos Romero, to work with him, to have followed and, yes, to have differed from him—if you had solid and respectful arguments, he returned that respect.

Carlos was part of a family who lent many figures to Puerto Rico's politics for over a cen-

tury, and whose members we now embrace in solidarity in this trying time. It was not always easy and public opinion was often cruel, but that is the price of service.

It is the end of an era, and as we celebrate the achievements of a former member of this House it is also time to reflect and to reaffirm our commitment to the cause he stood for. It is now up to those who follow in his footsteps, to continue the journey towards that cause of equality for all, for which he worked throughout his life.

May the light perpetual shine on Congressman Carlos Romero Barceló.

PAMELA LOPEZ ARREOLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Pamela Lopez Arreola for earning the Top Drawing Award for her creative and unique drawing as part of the 2021 Congressional Art Competition.

As a first-time participant in the art show and student at Westminster High School, Pamela created a work of art entitled, "Pyramid Within Women". This artwork used acrylic paint on glass and is meant to represent the differences in how women are treated in society.

Pamela spent countless hours and used numerous tools to learn new techniques and refine her drawing skills and education in the arts. I appreciate her participation in the competition and the support provided to her by teacher at Westminster High School.

Congratulations to Pamela Lopez Arreola for her hard work and participation in the 2021 Congressional Art Competition. I am certain she will exhibit the same dedication and character in her future accomplishments, and I wish her the best of luck going forward.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED HEALTH CENTERS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley's 50th Anniversary of service to the Central Valley.

In 1971, concerned citizens identified the need for accessible and quality healthcare in the Valley's rural communities and formed committees to find solutions. Their advocacy work established the foundation for what would become United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley (UHC), incorporated later that year.

UHC is a nonprofit organization providing comprehensive medical, dental, and community health services to underserved communities in the San Joaquin Valley. Their mission is to provide accessible, comprehensive qual-

ity health care to everyone with respect and compassion regardless of their ability to pay.

Today, UHC operates a total of 24 health centers in Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties, improving access to care for over 150,000 patients. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they have led local efforts in the fight to limit the devastating effects of the coronavirus by conducting 200,000 COVID-19 screening tests and providing 55,000 vaccinations in the first year of the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley and their 50 years of committed service to the region's healthcare community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF COUNCIL MEMBER MARK HARGROVE

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent from the City of Chino, Council Member Mark Hargrove. It is with more than a heavy heart that I share that Mark Hargrove passed away on March 28, 2021.

Mark Hargrove served his country in the U.S. Air Force from 1983 to 1987, where he acquired the ranking of Sergeant. Following his service, Mark worked for the next thirty years at the California Department of Corrections. Twenty of those years were spent at the California Institute for Men in Chino, from which he retired as a Lieutenant.

Mark also played an important role in local policymaking. Mark served on the Planning Commission for the City of Chino and was then elected in 2018 to sit on the City Council. Mark became sick shortly after taking office but continued to fight for his community: he served as the City of Chino's representative on the Santa Ana Watershed Advisory Council, the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the California Institute for Men and Women, the Chino Valley Unified School District Measure G Oversight Committee, and the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce board. Such unyielding commitment to improving the lives of the residents of our community, even in the face of adversity, is just one reason we will miss Mark.

Along with being dedicated to his civic employment, Mark gave his time to supporting youth sports and education programs. He coached several youth sports and served as Chino High's sports boosters president and basketball boosters club president, which he also founded. In 2018, Mark received the Frank Elder Award, which honors individuals who have devoted their lives to the Chino community and the student-athletes of Chino High.

Today, Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mark Hargrove for his unmatched commitment and civic dedication to the City of Chino and to the contributions he has made to the greater community of the Inland Empire. May he rest in peace.