

Mónica was born on February 5, 1967 in Fresno, California, where she was raised. Mónica was brought up from humble beginnings. Her parents worked as seasonal farmworkers, and she herself took on the same responsibility to support her family. This was no small feat for Mónica. While working to become the first individual to ever graduate in her family, she worked long hours picking oranges, peaches, and grapes. Mónica persevered and went on to earn her bachelor's degree at Fresno State and her master's degree from National University.

Mónica worked for State Center Community College District for 23 years and became the Dean of Student Services and Counseling at Fresno City College, where she will be remembered for her care, kindness and commitment to the students and faculty. Mónica was a beacon of light for many students that came from similar circumstances as herself. Her ability to recognize and understand the challenges that presented themselves in those students' lives allowed her to help them overcome their obstacles more effectively. She was adored by her students. In 2019, Mónica was inducted into the Muro de Honor (Wall of Honor) for accomplished district alumni.

Mónica's excellence extended far beyond her profession. She was a prominent cultural figure in the Latino community. Mónica served as president of the Latino Educational Issues Roundtable and was secretary of the Hispanic Serving Institution Consortium of the San Joaquin Valley. Her heritage was captured vividly in her love for Folkloric dance, which she developed a deep passion for at a very early age. Mónica would put audiences in awe while perfectly executing elaborate traditional dances at charitable events and gatherings.

Mónica will be remembered for her profound impact on the lives of those she came across. It was her kindness, care, and charisma that

allowed her to touch the hearts of everyone around her. We send out our thoughts and prayers to her family. She is survived by her mother, Alicia Criado; her sister Leticia Montes; children Michael, Matthew, and Miranda; and two granddaughters.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mónica Cuevas. Her service and contributions to the city of Fresno will be missed dearly. I join her family and friends in celebrating Mónica's life.

HONORING 50 YEARS OF
ALLIGATOR RECORDS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 30, 2021

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Congressman CHUY GARCÍA, Congressman CASTEN, Congressman KRISHNAMOORTHY, Congressman KINZINGER, Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, Congressman SCHNEIDER, Congresswoman BUSTOS, Congressman RUSH, Congresswoman MARIE NEWMAN, Congressman BILL FOSTER, Congresswoman UNDERWOOD, and Congressman QUIGLEY, to honor the 50th anniversary of Alligator Records.

Chicago blues music has its roots deep in the Mississippi Delta and was carried north in the Great Migration of 1916 through 1970 by the millions of African Americans who migrated to northern industrial cities in search of good jobs and to escape from Jim Crow racism.

Chicago's blues community nurtured thousands of musicians and dozens of record labels, and the city became the world capital of blues and eventually gave birth to Alligator

Records and the rich, soulful Chicago blues heritage and culture that we know and love today.

With nothing but his love of the blues and entrepreneurial spirit, Bruce Iglauer founded Alligator Records in 1971 at the age of 23, using all his savings to record his favorite Chicago blues band, Hound Dog Taylor and the HouseRockers, although the band had no national presence, no booking agent, no manager, no publicist, and played almost entirely in tiny neighborhood clubs on the South and West Sides of Chicago.

Beginning with this one album, Iglauer built a blues record label that is now celebrating its 50th birthday.

Today, Alligator Records is the largest independent blues label in the world, with over 350 albums and an artist roster that ranges in age from 22 to 78, and has won three Grammy Awards and an astonishing 48 nominations, as well as over 150 Blues Music Awards and over 115 Living Blues Awards.

Alligator Records has been a driving force in support of Chicago blues and blues music worldwide, and a glowing example of our country's rich tradition of musical and entrepreneurial spirit. Now, my colleagues in the House of Representatives and I honor Alligator Records on 50 years of business and celebrates the American cultural legacy of Chicago blues music.

Together we urge the United States Government to take all necessary steps to preserve and advance the art form of Chicago blues music; recommit itself to ensuring that recording labels like Alligator Records and their artists receive fair protection under the copyright laws of the United States for their contributions to culture in the United States; and reaffirm the status of Chicago blues as a unique national treasure.