

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MS. MARISA
UGARTE, OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE
IN THE 52ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Marisa Ugarte, Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (BSCC). Ms. Ugarte has worked diligently to combat human trafficking in San Diego County and Tijuana. BSCC's mission is to preserve the dignity and wellbeing of commercially and sexually exploited women and children through prevention, intervention, and education.

In 1997, Marisa Ugarte founded the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition, and it was constituted as a 501(c)3 to coordinate services and advocate for victims of human trafficking. Ms. Ugarte's mission became clear when she came across rape camps among the canyons of San Diego, forced labor in agricultural fields, and child prostitutes in Tijuana's infamous Zona Norte. She knew something had to be done. Today, the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition encompasses over 150 government and non-governmental agencies in the United States and Latin America who are dedicated to combating trafficking and empower victims.

Ms. Ugarte convenes an annual anti-trafficking conference in San Diego to bring awareness of the dangers and threats imposed from active human trafficking across both sides of the border. With a plethora of years of experience in human trafficking and crisis intervention case management, Ms. Ugarte is a human rights advocate who rescues victims from the brutal and exploitative system.

Ms. Ugarte has been an active speaker at conferences nationwide and internationally to discuss the commercial and sexual exploitation of woman and children. Her public speaking engagements have included but are not limited to: The Millennium Conference in Texas and the International Institute for Restructuring the Justice System in Mexico.

Ms. Ugarte has received grants from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. State Department to support her work. The International Foundation for Human Rights and Tolerance awarded her for bringing sanctuary to girls in illegal brothels in Southern California who had been smuggled across the border.

Ms. Ugarte was honored as the 52nd District Constituent of the Month, particularly during National Human Trafficking Prevention month in January 2023, for her outstanding commitment to supporting victims of human trafficking.

HONORING TY SAFRENO AND HIS
INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to applaud the innovative and compassionate approach exemplified by one of my exceptional constituents—Ty Safreno who implemented a childcare center as part of his business Trust Automation, Inc.

Ty embodies the true spirit of American entrepreneurship. Utilizing his degree in Manufacturing Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Ty began his business in the 1990's alongside his wife Trudie. In just three short decades, he turned his technology start-up into a staple of the Central Coast. Boasting over 100 employees, Trust Automation, Inc. works on cybersecurity, semiconductors, and other technologic advancements.

What makes Ty remarkable is how he treats and cares for community members. He cultivates a workplace environment that emulates a close family dynamic and is described as brightening people's day. Amongst the Safreno family's achievements is successfully installing the Trust Children's Center, an affordable and high-quality daycare center that services both Trust employees and the San Luis Obispo community. On-site childcare is a feat that only a few companies, let alone a small business, have successfully conquered. Ty's commitment to the well-being of his employees is equally impressive and commendable.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Ty for his well-earned title of 2022 San Luis Obispo Citizen of the Year. I would like to personally thank Ty for his admirable leadership and wish him well in all his future endeavors. His story is an inspiration to small businesses everywhere.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, my electronic voting system malfunctioned and I was unable to submit my vote in a timely manner. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 112.

CONGRATULATING SERBIA ON ITS STATEHOOD DAY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Serbian Caucus, I

offer my congratulations to Serbia on its Statehood Day, February 15th.

Statehood Day is celebrated in Serbia every year on this day to commemorate the outbreak of the First Serbian Uprising in 1804 which evolved into the Serbian revolution against Ottoman rule. These events eventually resulted in Serbia's independence in 1835.

On the same day, February 15, in 1835, the first Serbian constitution was adopted in Kragujevac. I am grateful that this day is also the 142nd anniversary of formal relations between the United States and Serbia.

The U.S. and Serbia have a long history of partnership including serving side by side during World War II.

Former President Donald Trump took historic steps to negotiate a normalization agreement between Serbia and Kosovo and I remain optimistic that this agreement will achieve even more progress in the future.

God bless the United States of America and God bless the people of Serbia.

HONORING DR. EVANS WHITAKER
FOR 20 YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF
ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 2023

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership of Dr. Evans P. Whitaker, President of Anderson University, as well as his wife, Mrs. Diane Whitaker,

In 2002, Dr. Whitaker assumed the presidency of Anderson University in Anderson, South Carolina, and in just 2 decades, the university's student population has more than doubled. Anderson College was chartered more than a century ago in 1911 and was one of the first institutions of higher learning for women in the United States. In 2006, it officially became Anderson University under Dr. Whitaker. In under 20 years with Dr. Whitaker at the helm, Anderson University has grown from barely 1,600 students to roughly 4,200 students, making it South Carolina's largest private university and the 16th fastest-growing regional university in the last decade.

Under Dr. Whitaker's visionary leadership, he has ushered the university into its modern era and established a legacy of accomplishments, including increasing the campus size from 68 acres to 400 acres and bringing the university's academics to the next level. He has also seen the university launch 26 graduate programs, establish the South Carolina School of the Arts, begin the Undergraduate Center for Cancer Research, be recognized by the Chronicle of Higher Education as a Great College to Work For, and experience more than \$100 million in capital improvement, including a new library, student center, athletic facilities, and 2 new academic buildings. Dr. Whitaker is also a leader in the Anderson community, South Carolina, and beyond, and

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