

requires the United States to “make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability.” It is essential that the United States continues to move forward and engage China, and it will be equally important that the Bush Administration continues to make a commitment to our ally in Taiwan.

RECOGNITION OF THE HADASSAH GROUP

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the organization Hadassah—the largest women’s and largest Jewish membership organization in the United States. Through its 300,000 members within the United States, this volunteer organization has demonstrated dedication to community service and assistance.

The organization was founded in 1912 and, since that time, has put forth exceptional effort to provide services to the community. In the United States, Hadassah has taken action to heighten the quality of American and Israeli life through its education and youth programs. It has also promoted health awareness, and provided personal enrichment and growth for its members. Beyond the national role that Hadassah plays, I would like to recognize the service of the local chapter in Spokane, Washington.

The Hadassah volunteers in my district have collected donations for the Red Cross to help with the charitable acts they provide; they assist the Ronald McDonald House in providing temporary homes for families with a hospitalized child; they have provided support for the AIDS walks in Spokane and Seattle which create awareness and reflect commitment to providing services to those living with HIV and AIDS; and Hadassah also provides outreach to local synagogues with support programs.

Throughout the organization’s 90-year history, Hadassah has played a strong role in community improvement and support projects. In recognition of these outstanding achievements, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great contributions of this important organization.

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE LOUIS CALDERA

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true patriot and exemplary American, the Honorable Louis Caldera. Few individuals define the realization of the “American Dream” more perfectly than Louis Caldera. As the former Secretary of the Army under the Clinton Administration and current Vice-Chancellor for University Advancement for the Cali-

fornia State University, Louis Caldera has achieved more in 45 years than most people do in a lifetime. What makes these achievements so remarkable is the story behind them.

Louis Caldera was born in El Paso, Texas to Mexican immigrant parents. At the age of four, his family moved to a housing project in East Los Angeles. As the son of working class parents, Caldera encountered the struggles of poverty at a young age, yet was instilled with a strong sense of patriotism, love of family, and profound appreciation of the importance of education. Louis had his first job at the age of ten, when he worked as a parking lot sweeper at a local shopping center. For two years, Louis and his parents woke up at 3 a.m. three nights a week to clean the parking lot in order to pay the rent for a small hair salon they operated in the shopping center. During high school, Caldera worked 40 hours a week at a fast food restaurant while taking a full load of college preparatory courses. Louis was only enrolled in college prep classes after persisting and even having his parents sign an approval. Advisors at his high school suggested that Louis pursue more ‘practical’ vocational training courses. His hard work and determination paid off. Louis was accepted to West Point upon graduation from high school.

After graduating from West Point in 1978, Caldera served as an Army officer and quickly rose to the rank of Captain. He then attended Harvard University, where he received both a Law Degree and a Master’s in Business Administration. After a brief stint in the private sector as a corporate finance lawyer, Caldera returned to the public service as a State Representative in the California State Legislature, where he represented downtown Los Angeles. In 1997 he was appointed by President Clinton to serve as Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the AmeriCorps program. One year later Caldera was appointed by Clinton to serve as Secretary of the Army.

At the young age of 45, Caldera has accomplished more than many individuals do in a lifetime. Throughout every phase of his career, he has achieved the unimaginable while never losing sight of his roots. Louis Caldera truly understands both the unique challenges and incredible opportunities confronting Hispanics in the United States on a daily basis. Caldera is a true community servant and his dedication to the Hispanic community and especially Hispanic youth are highly commendable.

As Secretary of the Army, Caldera was a “Soldier’s Soldier”, visiting troops all over the globe and working day and night to provide enlisted soldiers with the education and skills they need to succeed within the Army and beyond. Thanks to Caldera’s leadership, the Army overcame a recruiting deficit, giving a renewed sense of honor and duty to military service. Caldera created the Army University Access Online distance education program that enables soldiers to earn college and graduate degrees while serving. In addition, he directed the expansion of the Junior ROTC program to hundreds of high school campuses nationwide and spearheaded Army sponsorship of “Operation Graduation,” a three-year public service advertising campaign designed to increase high school graduation rates among at-risk youth.

Caldera’s unceasing commitment to education is reflected in his current position as Vice Chancellor of University Advancement at the California State University. Caldera is an excellent role model and phenomenal leader. His ability to understand the struggles and needs of students from diverse backgrounds sets him apart from others, and Louis’s own struggle to overcome adversity is truly inspirational. Louis possesses a unique knowledge of government affairs, the private sector, and the challenges that Hispanics in the U.S. face on a daily basis. Caldera’s accomplishments speak highly of his character, intelligence, and dedication to the Hispanic community and our Nation. These qualities and countless others make Louis Caldera a truly remarkable man and an invaluable asset to our community. It is a privilege and an honor to recognize Louis Caldera in the company of my fellow members of Congress. Thank you Mr. Speaker. I yield back the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT ALEX SAAVEDRA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Alex Saavedra for over 25 years of dedicated service to the public. He retired from the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office on March 1, 2001, and was recognized for his many contributions to New Jersey on April 3, 2002, at The Empire Club in Little Ferry, New Jersey.

Starting out as a patrolman for the Union City Police Department in 1974, Mr. Saavedra quickly climbed through the ranks; in 1977, he served as President of the Policeman’s Benevolent Association (PBA) Local 67. In 1983, he worked as an investigator in the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office in the Grand Jury Section; in 1984, he was transferred to the Sex Crime/Child Abuse Section; in 1988, he became Senior Investigator; and in 1989, he was transferred to the Criminal Investigations Section. From 1990 through 1992, Mr. Saavedra served as Vice President of the PBA Local 221, and, in 1991, returned to the Grand Jury Squad; in 1997, he was appointed Sergeant, and, in 1998, was transferred to the Narcotics Task Force. In 2000, he began his last assignment in the Fugitive Squad of the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office.

Over the course of his law enforcement career, Alex Saavedra received the following notable distinctions: Silver Life Member Award, Exceptional Duty Medal, Certificate of Commendation, and Certificates of Appreciation from the Kiwanis Club International, The Lions Club International, The Bergen County Police Academy, and The Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Alexander Saavedra for a career devoted to the safety and well being of the citizens of New Jersey. His selfless service will never be forgotten.