

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER JUAN ROBERTO RAMIREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of United Independent School District Board Member Juan Roberto Ramirez in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Juan Roberto Ramirez is the Secretary on the United I.S.D. Board of Trustees. Even though Ramirez is the District 6 representative, he says his goal is to serve the District as a whole and give the students the best education programs possible. "Let's not forget that we work united for what is best for our children," Ramirez said.

Ramirez is a retired U.S. Customs Agent. He is a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, serving his country in the U.S. Army. After graduating from high school, Ramirez attended Laredo Community College and earned a degree in Business Administration. He is also a graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Academy. Presently, Ramirez works full-time as a Career Advisor for the Laredo Job Corps, is a self-employed businessman, and a notary public. Ramirez served as Vice-Chairman of the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors from May of 2002 to July of 2004.

Ramirez is grateful for being elected and he feels honored by the confidence the voters have in him. He promises to work hard for his constituents. "I have an open door to hear everyone's concerns," Ramirez said. "It's an extraordinary experience to be able to work for the kids in the district, to be part of a team that makes decisions for kids and staff." Ramirez says it's a thrill to be part of the Board, "it's a great honor to work for my District."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of United Independent School District Board Member Juan R. Ramirez.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY FINK AND MARCY MARXER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend two of my constituents, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer. For the second year in a row Fink and Marxer, residents of Kensington, Maryland, won a GRAMMY® for Best Musical Album for Children. Their winning album is entitled "cELLAbration: A Tribute to Ella Jenkins."

The album celebrates the music of Ella Jenkins, "The First Lady of Children's Music" and the winner of the 2004 GRAMMY® Lifetime Achievement Award. The project was a gift to Ella Jenkins in honor of her 80th birthday.

Fink and Marxer won their first GRAMMY® last year for "Bon Appetit! Musical Food Fun," and every album they have released since 1997 has been nominated for this prestigious honor.

As a Member of Congress, I have worked to address the need for broad support for music education and to assure that every child has access to the benefits of active participation in music. I believe that music education is imperative to our children's growth and well-being. During their 21-year musical career, Fink and Marxer have inspired children with their gift of music.

I applaud Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer and wish them continued success in the years ahead.

MARCH IS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Kidney Caucus, I want to make everyone aware that March is National Kidney Month. A growing epidemic, diabetes has a significant impact on kidney disease. Diabetes is the single leading cause of kidney failure in the U.S. today.

Approximately 17 million people living in America, or more than 6 percent of the population, have diabetes. Because a cure for diabetic kidney disease has not yet been found, treatment involves controlling the disorder and slowing its progression to kidney failure. Recent research has shown that the presence of high blood pressure may be the most important predictor of which diabetics will develop chronic kidney disease.

Therefore, the detection and control of high blood pressure are very important in diabetic patients. March is National Kidney Month and the Kidney Caucus in partnership with the National Kidney Foundation is urging all those at risk for kidney disease, including diabetics, to get checked out by their doctor.

Treatment to prevent diabetic kidney disease should begin early, even before kidney damage develops. To accomplish this, experts must make diabetic patients aware of the severity of this disease and its symptoms, and must educate diabetics on ways to control the disease.

IN HONOR OF TILLIE FOWLER,
FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American, Tillie Fowler, who served this House with honor and with passion for eight years.

She was not only a colleague and friend to many of us but she was an unquestioned expert on national security. Her highest priority was always taking care of our men and women who serve in uniform. She established such a strong reputation as a tireless worker for her district, our state, and our nation that she quickly rose to one of the most important leadership posts in our conference.

Even after she left this House, she continued to serve when called upon, taking on a

number of difficult assignments given to her by the President and Secretary of Defense.

As much as Tillie Fowler will be remembered for her dedication to this House, I will always remember her for the respect and compassion with which she served. At a time when we talk about civility in the House, it would do us all some good to reflect on the way in which she treated all the members and staff in this body with grace and respect.

Our prayers go out on this day to Buck, Tillie's husband of 34 years, and their two daughters Tillie and Elizabeth. The news of her sudden hospitalization and quick passing was a shock to them and all of us as well.

The family can take great solace, though, as they reflect on a woman who dedicated her life to public service and who will long be remembered not only for what she accomplished but for the way in which she set about to serve others. Today indeed is a tragic day for the people of Florida, our nation and this House. We have lost a great American, a great colleague, and a great friend.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT JORGE LUIS RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Laredo Independent School District Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Jose Luis Rodriguez has always been interested in education, and has been a member of the Laredo ISD School Board since May 2000. He is the School Board Trustee for District 2 which oversees Dovalina Elementary school, Macdonell Elementary School and Daiches Elementary School.

LISD Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez is a credit and an inspiration to his community and a tremendous resource to his county. He believes in helping the children of his community strive to be the best individuals they can be, by giving them a quality education. He instills in the children the value of hard work and determination, and has been able to implicate many positive changes for students, parents, and LISD faculty.

Rodriguez is grateful for being elected and thanks his constituents by working hard and earning their confidence. He is currently employed in construction management and automotive sales.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Laredo Independent School District Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez.

INTRODUCTION OF HATE CRIMES STATISTICS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues, Representatives WEINER,