

and we would all do well to follow his example.

T.E., thank you for your fine example and congratulations on your 50th year at Union State Bank. We wish you all the best in the years ahead.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY AND HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF TWO COMMERCE ATHLETES, BRENDA VILLA AND PATTY CARDENAS, TO THE SPORT OF U.S. WOMEN'S WATER POLO

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 21, 2008*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend two extraordinary athletes who are members of the United States Women's Water Polo Team competing in the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, China. In addition to being first-generation Mexican American Latina trailblazers in the world of competitive water polo, both of these exceptional women call the City of Commerce, in the 34th Congressional District, their home.

As children, Brenda Villa and Patty Cardenas learned to play water polo and hone their skills at the local swimming club, Commerce Aquatics. Looking back on their introduction to the sport, Brenda, now 28, and Patty, 23, credit the City of Commerce and the club's dedicated coaches for encouraging and developing their interest in water polo.

Today, in a \$20 million facility built to Olympic specifications, the city continues to encourage young people—the future Brendas and Pattys—to participate and excel in water polo. In addition to employing two full-time and three part-time youth water polo coaches and allocating more than \$250,000 a year on its programs, the City of Commerce also covers participants' competition-related expenses. These expenses might otherwise prevent the community's economically disadvantaged youth from participating in tournaments.

After Commerce Aquatics, Brenda and Patty continued to play water polo at Bell Gardens High School.

When Brenda entered high school in the fall of 1994, the school did not have a girls water polo team. With Brenda competing alongside and against the male players, the Bell Gardens Boys Water Polo Team won four consecutive league championships and back-to-back California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division III championships.

In the fall of 1998, following Brenda's graduation, the younger Patty entered Bell Gardens High School just in time to join the school's newly-formed Girls Water Polo Team. At that point, CIF rules prohibited Patty from playing on the Boys Water Polo Team. With Patty as part of the high school's first girls team, the female players went on to win four consecutive CIF Championships.

Following high school, both women would go on to realize their dreams of playing competitive women's water polo in college and in the Olympics.

At Stanford University, Brenda took a leave of absence to train with the Olympic Women's National Team for the 2000 Olympic debut of the women's water polo competition in Sydney, Australia. The team won the Silver

Medal. Two years later, Brenda was awarded the Peter J. Cutino Award, an honor given annually to the top female collegiate water polo player in the nation. In 2004, as a member of the U.S. Women's National Water Polo Team at the Athens Olympics, Brenda and her teammates took home the Bronze Medal.

Between Olympic Games, Brenda achieved another victory. In 2003, when she graduated from Stanford with a degree in Political Science, she became the first member of her family to earn a college degree.

Patty stayed closer to home after high school. She enrolled at Golden West Community College in Huntington Beach, California. There, Patty helped her team win the 2002 California State Championship. In 2005, Patty transferred to the University of Southern California where, for the past couple of years, she has trained on the U.S. National Women's Polo Team.

The Summer Olympics in Beijing will be Patty's first Olympic competition and Brenda's third. This time, with both Commerce athletes on the same team, they hope to work together with their other teammates to bring home the Gold.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 34th Congressional District and the state of California, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brenda and Patty on their incredible achievements and extending to them and their teammates our best wishes for a victorious trip to the Beijing Summer Olympics. I can assure you, regardless of how the team places, these two remarkable athletes will always be champions to their many devoted fans in the City of Commerce. They are among our hometown heroes, and we are very proud of them—in and out of the pool.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 23

9:30 a.m.

## Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the Midwest floods, focusing on ways to determine what happened and how to improve managing risk and responses in the future.

SD-406

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs, focusing on responding to the needs of returning United States National Guard and Reserve members.

SR-418

9:45 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the status of existing federal programs targeted at reducing gasoline demand, focusing on additional proposals for near-term gasoline demand reductions.

SD-366

10 a.m.

## Finance

Business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 44, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule set forth as requirements contained in the August 17, 2007, letter to State Health Officials from the Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the State Health Official Letter 08-003, dated May 7, 2008, from such Center, and S.J. Res. 41, approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

SD-215

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James Christopher Swan, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti, Alan W. Eastham, Jr., of Arkansas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo, and W. Stuart Symington, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine information sharing, focusing on connecting the dots at the Federal, State, and Local levels.

SD-342

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine courting big business, focusing on the Supreme Court's recent decisions on corporate misconduct and laws regulating corporations.

SD-226

## Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine skyrocketing household costs and falling home prices, focusing on ways to help American families out of this crisis.

SD-608

10:30 a.m.

## Appropriations

To hold oversight hearing to examine the adequacy of defense contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SD-106

11 a.m.

## Aging

To hold hearings to examine person-centered care, focusing on reforming services and bringing elderly citizens back to the heart of society.

SD-562

1:30 p.m.

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Tatiana C. Gfoeller-Volkoff, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, Richard G. Olson, Jr., of New Mexico, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, David D. Pearce, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lebanon, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

2 p.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of J. Patrick Rowan, of Maryland, and Jeffrey Leigh Sedgwick, of Massachusetts, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, and William B. Carr, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Children and Families Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine childhood obesity, focusing on declining health of America's next generation (Part II).

SD-430

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Carol A. Dalton, Anthony C. Epstein, and Heidi M. Pasichow, all to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

3 p.m.

## Appropriations

## Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009.

SD-124

## Foreign Relations

## International Operations and Organizations, Democracy and Human Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine United Nations peacekeeping, focusing on opportunities and challenges.

SD-419

JULY 24

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on Iran.

S-407, Capitol

## Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider a committee resolution.

SD-406

## Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine tribal courts and the administration of justice in Indian country.

SD-562

10 a.m.

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

## Disaster Recovery Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness to examine ways to ensure the delivery of donated goods to survivors of catastrophes.

311, Cannon Building

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine current policy related to the strategic petroleum reserve.

SD-366

## Finance

To hold hearings to examine the Cayman Islands, focusing on offshore tax issues.

SD-215

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine crimes associated with polygamy, focusing on the need for a coordinated state and federal response.

SD-226

## Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine small market drugs, focusing on companies exploiting people with rare diseases.

SD-106

11:30 a.m.

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of James A. Williams, of Virginia, to be Administrator of General Services Administration.

SD-342

2 p.m.

## Appropriations

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for a second emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2008, and Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, and the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009.

SD-106

2:15 p.m.

## Finance

## Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine tax and financing aspects of highway public-private partnerships.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine ways to improve federal program management using performance information. SD-342  
 Intelligence  
 To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

JULY 25

9:30 a.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Investigations Subcommittee  
 To continue hearings to examine financial institutions located in offshore tax havens, focusing on ways to strengthen United States domestic and international tax enforcement efforts. SD-342

JULY 29

9:30 a.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Investigations Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine the magnitude of outstanding payroll tax debt, focusing on the policies and procedures that are used to collect unpaid payroll taxes. SD-342

10 a.m.  
 Judiciary  
 To hold hearings to examine music and radio in the 21st century, focusing on assuring fair rates and rules across the platforms. SD-366

11 a.m.  
 Appropriations  
 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
 Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee  
 To hold joint hearings to examine food marketing to children, focusing on ways to make it safer. SD-192

JULY 30

10 a.m.  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 To hold hearings to examine ways to improve consumer protection in the prepaid calling card market. SR-253  
 Judiciary  
 To hold hearings to examine the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), focusing on impeding congressional oversight. SD-226

2:30 p.m.  
 Energy and Natural Resources  
 National Parks Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine S. 1816, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a commemorative trail in connection with the Women's Rights National Historical Park to link prop-

erties that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's suffrage, S. 2093, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in the State of Vermont for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 2535, to revise the boundary of the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, S. 2561, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study to identify sites and resources to commemorate and interpret the Cold War, S. 3011, to amend the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 to expand the boundaries of the historic site, S. 3113, to reinstate the Interim Management Strategy governing off-road vehicle use in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina, pending the issuance of a final rule for off-road vehicle use by the National Park Service, S. 3148, to modify the boundary of the Oregon Caves National Monument, S. 3158, to extend the authority for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission, S. 3226, to rename the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in the State of Kentucky as the "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park", S. 3247, to provide for the designation of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park in the State of Michigan, and H.R. 5137, to ensure that hunting remains a purpose of the New River Gorge National River.

SD-366