

the Air Force, "Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do."

CONGRATULATING HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD ISD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students, faculty, and staff from Hurst-Euleless-Bedford Independent School District on receiving the prestigious honor of being named the Top District in the State of Texas by Education Resource Group.

Education Resource Group looks at the 200 largest districts in the state, which enroll the majority of students who attend Texas Public schools. Giving careful consideration to academic, demographic, staffing, and financial information, they determine the award recipient. The award measures the relationship between operating expenditures and student achievement.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Hurst-Euleless-Bedford ISD. The district strives to provide an exceptional education to its students, and has received national recognition for its outstanding academic, athletic, and fine arts programs. The district maintains a high quality faculty and staff who host a learning environment that promotes character, achievement, and personal responsibility.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent many of the students, faculty, and staff of Hurst-Euleless-Bedford ISD in the 26th District of Texas. Their outstanding educational standards set a great example for all academic institutions. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING JAVIER LOPEZ, M.D.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my dearest friend and mentor, Javier Lopez, M.D., whose advocacy, love and devotion on behalf of his second family—all of us privileged to be in his care—has made our lives stronger by not only his medical brilliance, but even more significantly, by his kindness, wisdom, compassion, and selfless service in healing our broken bodies and broken hearts.

As a life long advocate on behalf of the poor, the isolated and the elderly, Dr. Lopez lives the principles of his Roman Catholic faith by serving as an instrument of peace and hope every day, as he has done for nearly 50 years along Broadway Avenue. His vocation of healing will continue, as his practice evolves from his daily routine on Broadway Avenue to continuing his missions of medical miracles, ministering to the poor of Colombia, Honduras and to places in the world where medical resources are few yet the need is great.

As a young man, Dr. Lopez journeyed to Cleveland from his homeland of Medellin, Colombia, to complete his residency at St. Alexis

Hospital—saying farewell to his family, friends and to the rich culture of Colombia. The people of North and South Broadway were immediately taken by Dr. Lopez' integrity, kindness, compassion and humble nature, and he was also moved by the kindness and gratitude shown to him. Dr. Lopez could have set up his practice in any suburb, but he chose to remain on the tough streets of Cleveland, where he was needed the most.

For the past 50 years, Dr. Lopez' practice was entrenched with a rare and genuine love, concern, compassion and respect for every patient—young, old, of every race and of every economic background.

His most impactful work has been, and continues to be his service to the poor. In our country, where the uninsured are routinely denied health care, they found solace at the office of Dr. Lopez. He never turned anyone away for lack of insurance, nor inability to pay.

Dr. Lopez continues to be a champion of health care justice and reform. He is an outspoken activist in support of universal health care; he has fought diligently on behalf of his patients when crooked health insurers refused to pay, and he worked tirelessly to stop the closing of St. Michael Hospital. After St. Michael's ultimately fell to a system wrought with corruption and greed, Dr. Lopez could have moved his practice away from North Broadway—but it was never even considered—he stayed where he was needed the most.

Dr. Lopez' dedication to his patients is eclipsed only by his devotion to his family. His wife of more than 50 years, Nancy Lopez, has been and continues to be his strongest source of support, love and friendship.

His sons David and Daniel, David's wife Priscilla, his granddaughter Ana and his daughter-in-law to be, Carmen Nogales—continue to be the center and light of his world.

Dr. Lopez's office manager, Toni Maruszak, has been an invaluable and consistent source of support to Dr. Lopez for more than a decade. Her amazing memory, excellent organizational skills and ability to juggle a million things at once always ensured that the office ran smoothly.

More importantly, Toni's remarkable interpersonal skills and great sense of humor provided comfort and reassurance for countless patients during difficult moments.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of Dr. Javier Lopez. Despite his great achievements in medicine, he remains humble, grateful and virtually egoless. He offers the same kindness and attention to the homeless alcoholic as he does to the successful CEO. He is the heart and soul of Broadway Avenue—there is no one like him and he is irreplaceable.

His presence here has been a gift of healing and hope for countless people, including myself and my family—and will continue to be. Dr. Lopez walks shoulder to shoulder in the ranks of healers like Gandhi and Mother Teresa—guided by faith and a genuine belief in the words—"Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me."

Vaya con Dios, mi amigo—de hoy, mañana, y siempre.

Go with God, my friend—today, tomorrow and forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the record a "yes" vote for rollcall vote 671. I was present in the chamber on September 29, 2008, and thought my vote had been cast on the rule but was not counted.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. RICHARD E. REYES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true patriot serving in our military, Sergeant Richard E. Reyes. Sgt. Reyes serves proudly in the United States Marine Corps, and hails from Sanger, California. He has recently been named the USO Service Marine of the Year, and I want to send my sincere congratulations.

Sgt. Reyes served as team leader with Company C, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, which is stationed in Iraq. While serving in the Persian Gulf, Sgt. Reyes led his team on 70 combat missions and was instrumental in the capture of over 35 insurgents. During combat operations in July 2007, his platoon's base came under enemy attack with small arms and machinegun fire. Located just 250 meters from the ambush, Sgt. Reyes maneuvered onto a nearby rooftop, identified the insurgents, and relayed the enemy's location to the platoon commander.

He was still undetected by the enemy, and he and his team engaged the insurgent group with high explosive rounds, which reduced enemy fire on the base, but exposed his position on the rooftop. Sgt. Reyes was determined to end this engagement, which had been going on for 45 minutes. He then moved his team onto another rooftop and single-handedly directed attacks by U.S. jets and helicopters. After several attempts, the enemy's position was destroyed.

Just 3 days later, Sgt. Reyes again demonstrated superb leadership and courage when he engaged an insurgent from the rooftop of his platoon's base and directed a counter-attack. During the firefight, Sgt. Reyes and his team maintained their position and coordinated a diversion using artillery smoke. As a result of his initiative, perseverance, and dedication to duty, an additional two insurgents were captured in this engagement.

Sgt. Reyes is a Sanger High School graduate, and while he was there, he was a three sport athlete. He played for his school's water polo team in the fall, he wrestled in the winter, and swam in the spring. Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at age 17. Sgt. Reyes is the son of Rosa and Gustavo Reyes, and he has two brothers and two sisters.

On behalf of all my colleagues in the House and Senate, I would like to congratulate Sgt. Richard Reyes for being named the USO