

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WALTER PETERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Walter Peterson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Walter Peterson is a sophomore at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Walter Peterson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Walter Peterson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS AND POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they join together on May 3 to celebrate Polish Constitution Day—a day when the Americans of Polish heritage reflect on the struggles for freedom and celebrate the victories, customs and history of their beloved Polish homeland and share their cultural gifts with the entire Greater Cleveland Community.

The first written European constitution, the Governmental Statute of Poland, was instated on May 3, 1791. Poland's Constitution was the result of nearly five centuries of struggle and perseverance by the people of Poland to diminish the power of the King and to create facets and institutions of government vital to the foundation of a constitutional government. An important document in the world history of democracy, the Polish Constitution established the separation and balance of powers, freedom of religion, and social justice by abolishing key elements of serfdom.

Formed in 1949, the Polish American Congress is a national umbrella organization representing over ten million Americans of Polish descent and origin, and serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. The Polish American community in Cleveland is deeply rooted in their commitment to the values of family, faith,

democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream.

Since its founding, the Polish American Congress has created programs to successfully integrate people of Polish decent in the U.S., including the Displaced Persons Program, which allowed almost 150,000 Polish immigrants to enter the U.S. after World War II. The Polish American Congress has a legacy within our Cleveland community and across the nation of offering services of support to veterans, families and individuals. As in years' past, the Greater Cleveland Community will join in celebration of Poland's rich history and culture by joining Cleveland's Polish community in attending events such as the Polonia Ball, the Grand Parade and the Photographic Exhibition.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the leaders and members of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day. Their collective and individual efforts in sharing, preserving and promoting their heritage, history and culture with Greater Cleveland serves to strengthen and illuminate the textured and diverse fabric of our community.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE OF DARRIEN GISH

HON. WALT MINNICK

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Darrien Gish of Nampa has just been named one of the top honorees in Idaho by the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each State and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Gish is being recognized for his work with the Canine Companions for Independence. He is devoting fourteen months of his own time to train and care for the puppy Delphia. He also earned his own money to fund Delphia's health care. Mr. Gish spends time every day working with Delphi on basic skills so that eventually she can assist people with disabilities perform everyday tasks like turning on lights and opening doors.

In light of numerous statistics indicating that Americans today are less involved in their communities, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Mr. Gish are inspiring examples to all of us and are among our brightest hopes for tomorrow.

Mr. Gish should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud him for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. He has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities and that America's community spirit continue to hold tremendous promise for the future.

HONORING THE INDUCTION OF ENCARNACION "CARNY" GUERRA INTO THE 2009 CLASS OF THE LAREDO BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the induction of Encarnacion "Carny" Guerra into the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. Carny Guerra has always been hard working, ambitious, a knowledgeable businessman, and it has shown through his work in Laredo, Texas.

Carny Guerra's business know-how first emerged while attending a dance in Laredo, Texas. While waiting in line and watching a great number of people pay their entrance fee he got the idea that he should enter the ballroom business. Soon after he purchased a building and with the help of his five daughters Cynthia, Sylvia, Judith, Belinda, and Elaine the Casa Blanca Ballroom was born.

As every new business encounters initial problems Carny had trouble booking bands and he decided that the best way to solve this would be to use local South Texas bands. As he found new bands he began to record their music and promote them to local radio stations. These local bands soon became celebrities in the area, thus selling out the Casa Blanca Ballroom performance after performance. Working with bands and radio stations on a daily basis Carny saw his next step to be the purchase of a radio station which furthered the popularity of both his ballroom and the bands.

Now some years later Carny Guerra's business has flourished and become Guerra Communications, which now owns a Tejano, hip-hop, and country radio station. In Addition, Carny is credited with giving many of today's popular bands their start.

Carny, after many years of hard work, is now enjoying his retirement and the company of his 5 daughters, 17 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments and honor the inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame Encarnacion "Carny" Guerra.

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