

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN HAYWOOD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 22, 2009*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Haywood County Sheriff's Office for their outstanding commitment to serving our community. With a population of more than 50,000 and over 550 square miles in the county, the 100 dedicated individuals in the Haywood County Sheriff's Office must maintain constant vigilance to ensure the safety of all those they serve.

Haywood County's Sheriff, Bobby Suttles, has done a phenomenal job since he assumed his post in early 2009. The previous Sheriff, Tom Alexander, served his community honorably for over 22 years. Sheriff Suttles began working with Sheriff Alexander and the Haywood County Sheriff's Office in 1995, joining the team as a deputy. His exemplary service led him to become Chief Deputy in 2003, and he was thus the natural choice when Sheriff Alexander retired in February of 2009. As a community, we look forward to working with Sheriff Suttles as he continues the remarkable legacy inherited from Sheriff Alexander.

The Haywood County Sheriff's Office has an extremely distinguished history in the community. They are able to react immediately to new and unexpected challenges. One of the most successful projects implemented by the Haywood County Sheriff's Office is a special squad of deputies called the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team which focuses on woodland operations, land navigations and man tracking. These skills are invaluable to other facets of the Haywood County Sheriff's Office, for example the Team has assisted the county's Drug Enforcement Unit with the service of high risk warrants and drug surveillance. The deputies on the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team undergo an additional sixteen hours of training per month and must maintain higher than average fitness standards. As this is a voluntary program, the deputies involved purchase much of the specialized equipment out of their own pockets, demonstrating their exemplary dedication and commitment.

In addition to their role as law enforcement professionals, the Haywood County Sheriff's Office also takes part in the Explorer Post program. This program affords young adults between 14 and 21 years of age access to community service projects that enable them to learn about the law enforcement profession. Participants have the opportunity to do "ride alongs" observing the work of deputies, participate in community fingerprinting, and take part in other events geared towards crime fighting and community involvement. Through this program they are also taught essential teambuilding and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in support of the Haywood County Sheriff's Office and our dedicated law enforcement professionals across the country. Without these committed individuals, none of us would be able to enjoy the quality of life or the security we experience in our great Nation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARIA LARRIUZ

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 22, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Maria Larriuz, a dedicated community servant and activist.

Maria Larriuz, born in 1934 and raised in Guayama, Puerto Rico, moved to New York in 1955 and married Angel Manuel Larriuz in 1958. They raised two children together: Angel Manuel Larriuz, Jr. and Bernice Burkarth.

Ms. Larriuz was an active leader in her community's trusted civic associations, contributing in a variety of roles to the New Lots Lions Club for the past 30 years and serving as secretary of the Homeowners Association, Inc. She was also a member of the Rosetta Democratic Club, helping District Leader Earl Williams at meetings, and served as a volunteer hostess for the inauguration of President Barack Obama earlier this year. Ms. Larriuz was also someone who championed breast cancer awareness and the high incidence of diabetes in her community.

Ms. Larriuz was honored on numerous occasions for her work, receiving the Melvin Jones Fellowship from the Lions Club and an award from the Knights of the Blind, and now rests eternally at the Pinelawn National Park with her loving husband who served our country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering Maria Larriuz, whose extraordinary accomplishments will continue to be felt in her community for many years to come.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RETIRED MONSIGNOR THOMAS A. DAVIS

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 22, 2009*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize retirement of Monsignor Thomas A. Davis and his dedication and service as a Pastor and community leader in Laredo, Texas.

Monsignor Davis was born in Tipperary, Ireland on May 31, 1933 to Joseph and Brigid Davis. He has conducted missionary work and been involved with the Catholic Church for many years. More than a half a century has passed since Monsignor Davis began. He has spent his career in five different nations, driven by his devotion and humble beginnings. He will retire on October 28, 2009.

He began his career in 1954 in Ireland and would spend six years in a Monastery. Thereafter, he would spend another six years at St. Kieran's Seminary in Ireland. In 1968, he was ordained for the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas. In the years following his ordainment, he earned his Masters in Education Degree from Our Lady of the Lakes College in 1974. The next few decades, he continued faith-based and Church involvement in Robstown, Texas to Arteaga, Mexico to help communities and churches. His work would continue as his

passion with his faith grew stronger. His contributions to Laredo, Texas have proven monumental for the community, spending a total of 31 years at San Agustin Church, Mother Cabrini Church, and Saint Patrick's Church.

In 2003, Msgr. Davis established the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Patrick's Church, which ensures Laredo residents have a place to go in times of need at any hour. This chapel is the only one of its kind in the area and is a great contribution to the efforts of the church and outreach.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the faith and dedication of Monsignor Thomas A. Davis.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2009*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009, which reauthorizes the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program for four years. The Ryan White program provides critical funds to cities, states and non-profit organizations for medical treatment and support services for people living with HIV and AIDS. The program currently serves more than 500,000 HIV-positive low-income people throughout the United States, many of whom would not be alive today without it.

The continuing need for the Ryan White Program cannot be overstated. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are more than 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States today, and every 9½ minutes, another person is infected.

Racial and ethnic minorities continue to be severely impacted by HIV/AIDS. African Americans account for 49% of new AIDS diagnoses, and Hispanics account for 19%. All minority groups combined represent 65% of new HIV infections, 67% of people living with HIV/AIDS, 71% of new AIDS cases, and 70% of deaths caused by AIDS.

Eleven years ago, in order to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS among minorities, I worked with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and the Clinton Administration to develop the Minority AIDS Initiative. This initiative provides funds to community-based organizations in order to build their capacity to serve minority communities and deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate care and services.

This bill recognizes the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS among minorities and reauthorizes key provisions of the Minority AIDS Initiative. The bill requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on activities under the Minority AIDS Initiative across governmental agencies and identify best practices in capacity-building. It also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare a plan for the use of Minority AIDS Initiative funding, taking into consideration the GAO report.

I thank my good friend Delegate DONNA CHRISTENSEN, along with the other Members