

JOHN JONES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud John Jones for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. John Jones is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to John Jones for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

**HONORING THE FLORIDA
HIGHWAYMEN**

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor the Florida Highwaymen, a group of twenty-six landscape artists who have been called "The Last Great American Art Movement of the 20th century."

Against tremendous odds and severe racial discrimination, these African American artists were able to define themselves as artistic innovators, producing more than 200,000 celebrated paintings.

The works of the Florida Highwaymen are unique. They developed their own individual techniques and captured waterscapes, backcountry marshes, and inlets before residential and industrial development. Their work—which is now proudly displayed in the Florida Capitol and the United States Senate—marks the beginning of Florida's contemporary art tradition and the "Indian River School" art movement.

Painting in the era of Jim Crow, the Highwaymen could not sell their paintings through traditional channels. Galleries and art festivals would not accept their works. The Highwaymen were forced to sell their artwork along roadsides in towns and cities throughout the eastern coastal roads of Florida. From the 1950s to the 1980s, the Highwaymen pressed forward, offering their works at bargain prices to the public. Until recently, countless Americans appreciated their artistry without knowing their identities.

The twenty-six members of the original Highwaymen are still alive. These men and women have earned their place in history. On Saturday, March 30, 2013, in the City of Pembroke Pines at the South West Focal Point Community Center their unique depictions of artwork will be displayed for the community to appreciate and view.

It is with heartfelt appreciation that I recognize their legacy. Please join me in honoring the Florida Highwaymen for their contributions to the world of art.

RECOGNIZING DAVID V. AGUILAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David V. Aguilar for his retirement from his position as Deputy Commissioner with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Mr. Aguilar has dedicated his service leading the agency in protecting our nation's borders and its communities.

Mr. Aguilar joined the Border Patrol in June 1978 at Laredo, Texas, where he held positions of Assistant Patrol Agent in Charge and Patrol Agent in Charge.

From 1988 to August 1996, Mr. Aguilar served as Patrol Agent in Charge of three Border Patrol Stations in Texas (Dallas, Rio Grande Valley and Brownsville). Under his command, the Dallas and Brownsville stations were awarded the Commissioner's Award for Group Achievement.

From August 1996 to November 1999, Mr. Aguilar served as Assistant Regional Director for the Border Patrol in the central region of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service. As such, Mr. Aguilar was the principal advisor to the Regional Director, where he managed, directed and guided the regional program.

Mr. Aguilar was subsequently appointed as Chief Patrol Agent of the Tucson Sector. As Tucson Sector Chief, he had more than 2,000 agents and 200 support personnel under his command. Mr. Aguilar had oversight of eight geographically dispersed Border Patrol stations along 261 miles of the Arizona/Mexico border. In 2003, the Tucson sector earned the CBP Commissioner's anti-terrorism award for achievements under Operation Desert Safe-guard, an operation planned, designed and implemented in the high-risk areas of the Tucson sector.

In March 2004, the Department of Homeland Security designated Mr. Aguilar as the Border and Transportation Security Integrator for the execution of the Arizona Border Control Initiative. In 2004, Mr. Aguilar was also elected as the President of the Southern Arizona Federal Executive Association.

In July 2004, Mr. Aguilar was named National Chief of the Border Patrol, assuming the position as the nation's highest-ranking Border Patrol agent. With expertise and knowledge gained from more than 31 years of service with the Border Patrol, Mr. Aguilar directed the enforcement efforts of more than 20,000 agents nationwide.

In April 2010, Mr. Aguilar was appointed Deputy Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. From December 2011 to August 2012, Mr. Aguilar served as acting Commissioner, CBP's highest-ranking official, leading the agency in border security, while fostering our Nation's economic security through lawful international trade and travel. Mr. Aguilar led a workforce of 60,000, including 43,000 uniformed law enforcement officers.

Mr. Aguilar holds an associate degree in accounting from the Laredo Community College, and attended Laredo State University and University of Texas at Arlington. He is a Senior Executive Fellow of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Mr. Aguilar is the recipient of the 2005 President's Meritorious Excellence Award and in 2008 was a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Aguilar for his outstanding service in protecting our communities and his extraordinary commitment to our country. He has truly contributed to this nation in his efforts to protect our borders.

**HONORING CALIFORNIA STATE
SENATOR NICHOLAS PETRIS**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of California State Senator Nicholas Petris. Known throughout California politics as a brilliant democratic lawmaker with visionary foresight, Nicholas Petris was also renowned for his professionalism, speaking prowess, and tireless advocacy for the underserved. With his passing, we look to Senator Petris' political legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Over a career that spanned four decades, Senator Petris was a hero to many—pioneering initiatives far ahead of their time in areas like environmental protection, mental health rights, and low-income housing. A child of Greek immigrants, Nicholas Petris was born in Oakland and educated in the Bay Area, graduating from the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University Law School. He served in the Office of Strategic Service during World War II and practiced law for about a decade before being elected to the California Assembly in 1959.

In 1965, as an assemblyman, he famously collaborated with State Senator Eugene McAteer to write the bill that created the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, laying the foundation for the non-profit Save The Bay to protect the resource from harmful development. He also worked to direct crucial resources to expand the University of California system.

Upon being elected to the State Senate in 1967, he immediately worked to pass the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, which prohibited involuntary commitment and made quality mental health services more accessible. Furthermore, he continued the decade fearlessly taking on controversial battles: challenging the internal-combustion engine and emission practices of the auto industry and writing laws to ban smoking on airplanes and public transportation. These efforts eventually helped to usher in an era of air quality and clean-fuel regulation in California that was often stricter than the national standard. He also introduced bills to ban DDT and control ballooning vehicle numbers, which, although unsuccessful, demonstrated remarkable prescience in the face of today's environmental challenges.

As a passionate advocate for the poor, Senator Petris passed legislation that required re-development agencies to build housing for