

Mr. Hastings has been highly regarded for having a strong network of personal, business, and religious relationships. His dedication and work ethic have earned him numerous awards for his contributions to business and educational development including the Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Businessman of the Year (1989), Junior Achievement Hall of Fame (2001), Alumni Achievement Award from Texas State University (2010) and the U.S. Department of Commerce Border Champion Award (2012). As a founding member of the Laredo Community College Education Foundation and endowment fund Mr. Hastings' mission will continue to touch the lives of many.

Mr. Hastings is survived by his wife of 36 years, Mrs. Gloria V. Montemayor Hasting; their loving children, Daniel B. Hastings III (Lucina), V. Nicole Hastings and David B. Hastings; and grandchildren Daniel B. Hastings IV and Dillon B. Hastings. A noble friend to the people of my district and hometown; there is no doubt that Mr. Hastings will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late Daniel B. Hastings, Jr. His hard work and generosity have truly impacted many lives and our community.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLOSE UP FOUNDATION'S PROGRAM FOR NEW AMERICANS

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the nation's preeminent civic education organizations, the Close Up Foundation, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their Program for New Americans.

Close Up is a nonprofit nonpartisan organization that informs, inspires, and empowers young people to exercise the rights and accept the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy. Over the past forty years, Close Up has brought hundreds of thousands of students and teachers to Washington for week-long civic learning experiences. Close Up believes that a strong democracy requires active and informed participation by all citizens and seeks to reach participants of every race, creed, geographical community, socio-economic level, and academic standing. The Close Up Foundation partners with educators, schools, and youth organizations throughout the country to help young people develop the skills and attitudes to become informed and engaged citizens.

Today we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Close Up Program for New Americans. This unique civic learning program has helped more than 20,000 recently immigrated and migrant high school and middle school students understand American democracy, government, and U.S. political traditions. Using experiential education methodologies, the Program for New Americans helps young people understand both the rights and responsibilities of democratic citizenship.

The program is comprised of three parts: service learning in preparation for the pro-

gram; a week in Washington in which students use the city as a classroom to learn about the government and develop an action plan to address a community need; and implementation of the action plan at home. The goal of the Program for New Americans is to help these young people adjust to and become an active participant in the communities in which they live.

The Washington portion of the program focuses students on the founding documents of our nation—the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—to provide them with an understanding of our nation's democratic principles and traditions. Through study, workshops, and visits to the memorials and monuments of the nation's capital, students examine the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our society.

As Congress begins consideration of immigration legislation we should keep in mind the importance of innovative programs such as the Close Up Program for New Americans in providing young people with opportunities to engage with their government, its institutions and representatives and learn to apply those civic skills in their communities. It is essential that our nation's youth acquire the knowledge and the critical skills and attitudes necessary for active citizenship in our democracy.

I applaud the work of the Close Up Foundation and the outreach that they have done in the immigrant and migrant communities for a quarter century. I hope that Congress will continue to support these programs that build informed and active citizens and strengthen our communities.

HONORING WALTER SEGALOFF, FOUNDER OF AN ACHIEVABLE DREAM ACADEMY AND 2013'S VIRGINIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of a local community leader, businessman, and humanitarian from Newport News, Virginia—Walter Segaloff.

I have known Walter throughout my career in public service representing the citizens of Newport News. He has dedicated his life to improving the lives of his fellow citizens. When he owned Virginia Specialty Stores, he would often interview young people seeking jobs but noticed many lacked the needed skills, despite having graduated from high school. Walter knew these young people had great potential that was going to waste and he wanted to do everything he could to make sure they had access to the right opportunities.

Walter took matters into his own hands. He joined forces with other local business leaders, citizens, Newport News Public Schools, and the City of Newport News to help improve the lives and educational outcomes of our City's most at-risk young children. Out of this effort, An Achievable Dream was born in the summer of 1992 as a summer education and tennis program.

Due in large part to Walter's dedication and tenacity, An Achievable Dream quickly expanded since that first summer. In 1994, it be-

came a full-time, extended day school serving 400 children in grades three through five. A year later, An Achievable Dream expanded the extended day program to students at Dunbar-Erwin Middle School. By 2000, An Achievable Dream Academy was founded as a year-round full time elementary school and by 2007 a separate full time middle and high school opened under the An Achievable Dream name.

An Achievable Dream provides a social, academic, and moral educational framework for its students and every day starts with a motivation rally where each student shakes the hand of an adult. The Achievable Dream program is structured to give young people the skills needed to succeed in life. Those skills are taught at An Achievable Dream on the tennis court, in the classroom, on field trips, and in sharing experiences with successful and caring adults in our community. Today, An Achievable Dream is educating more than 1,200 at-risk students in Newport News and is putting these students on the path to success.

Often, young people don't think too much about the future, and don't realize that choices made today may limit those in the future. Walter has worked to ensure that the students at An Achievable Dream have every opportunity to be successful in life.

As a public-private partnership with Newport News Public Schools, the City of Newport News, the Newport News Police Department, the Newport News Sheriff's Department, the U.S. Army, the Rotary Club, Riverside Health System and the College of William and Mary, An Achievable Dream has received national recognition as one of the most effective urban school programs in the country and has provided a model for integrating support from the business community to support quality educational opportunities for at-risk students.

On April 19th, the Virginia Press Association will honor Walter as its Virginian of the Year for 2013. Walter was nominated by our hometown newspaper, The Daily Press, in recognition of his decades of dedication to improving the educational opportunities of thousands of at-risk young people living in Newport News and the Association was unanimous in selecting Walter as this year's recipient.

Walter recently stepped down as CEO of An Achievable Dream, but he leaves behind a strong legacy. His vision is expected to expand to other localities in Hampton Roads, helping improve the lives of thousands of more at-risk young people in our community.

I commend Walter for being recognized as this year's Virginian of the Year and I thank him for his years of dedicated service to improving the lives of so many young people in Newport News.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, for centuries America has been blessed by God. Americans today and in previous generations looked to God for guidance on both private and national designated days of prayer and fasting.