

Ricardo's contributions to our community surpass his duties with Local 770. He is currently the Vice President of the Labor Council of Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), a current board member of the National Association for Hispanic Elderly and a former trustee of the California State University system. He also serves as the President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, which is the largest labor federation in the country.

Ricardo's remarkable and longstanding career exemplifies his passion and commitment to our community's working people. I am pleased to join the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council in honoring Ricardo F. Icaza.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE CAREER
OF DR. LEVI WATKINS, JR.

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great appreciation and respect to recognize a true pioneer in the field of health care and in the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. has distinguished himself as one of the nation's most highly regarded cardiac surgeons. He has been an inspirational figure for the medical community, African Americans and the entire nation. After 40 years in medicine, Dr. Watkins has announced that he will retire from Johns Hopkins Medicine located in my congressional district.

Dr. Watkins attended Tennessee State University and graduated with a degree in biology with honors. Inspired by his experiences during the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Watkins, who had set his sights on medical school, decided that "it was time Vanderbilt was integrated." In May of 1966, Dr. Watkins became the first African American to be admitted into Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine. This was just the beginning of the many "firsts" that Dr. Watkins would amass as he blazed his trail of success. When he subsequently graduated from Vanderbilt School of Medicine in 1970, Dr. Watkins became the first African American to do so.

In late 1970, Dr. Watkins began a surgical internship at Johns Hopkins University Medical School in Baltimore, becoming the first African American in that program. He interrupted his internship in 1973 to complete two years of cardiac research at Harvard Medical School. It was at Harvard where Dr. Watkins experienced his first scientific breakthrough with his research into the connection between the renin angiotensin system and congestive heart failure. This discovery later led to the use of angiotensin blockers in the treatment of heart failure.

After returning to Johns Hopkins and completing his residency, Dr. Watkins became Johns Hopkins' first African American chief resident in cardiac surgery. Three years later, in 1978, Dr. Watkins became an assistant professor in the Division of Cardiac Surgery at Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Some months later, in February 1980, Dr. Watkins performed a ground breaking procedure. He implanted an automatic implantable defibrillator into the human heart, saving a woman's life and becoming the first surgeon to perform the operation. This operation has

saved many lives by shocking the heart back into its normal rhythm when the heart starts to go into arrhythmia.

Critically, Dr. Watkins didn't just save lives, he also changed them. An active participant in the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Watkins was a member of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was pastor. Dr. Watkins drove the church station wagon on Sunday mornings and was active in the Montgomery bus boycotts. When Dr. Watkins joined the Johns Hopkins University's admission committee, he made it his mission to diversify both the admitted students and the faculty. He assisted many future Black doctors in entering and graduating from medical school. Dr. Watkins actively wrote letters to qualified candidates encouraging them to apply to the school. His relentless determination and hard work increased minority representation at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine by 400% in four years.

Dr. Watkins created the Johns Hopkins' Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration in January of 1982 and has held the event every January since that time. The event honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his ideals and has brought an array of speakers to the hospital to address students and faculty members, including Reverend Jesse Jackson, actor Danny Glover, and the late Coretta Scott King. Thankfully, even after his retirement, Dr. Watkins will continue to play an integral role in the annual commemoration.

In 1991, Dr. Watkins was promoted to be a full professor of cardiac surgery, becoming the first African American at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to hold this position. He was later appointed Associate Dean in the School of Medicine and Dean of the university's postdoctoral programs and faculty development.

It is with a sense of great appreciation and admiration that I thank Dr. Watkins for all he has done for the medical field, the Black community and the entire nation. Baltimore is very fortunate to have such a dedicated pioneer to call its own. I wish Dr. Watkins all the best in his retirement and thank him for his visionary work that has made a profound impact on our country.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whom Dr. Watkins knew well, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." By this or any measure, Dr. Watkins is truly a great man.

SHORT-TERM EXTENSION OF
SPECIAL IMMIGRANT PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters on H.R. 3233, between myself and the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, October 2, 2013.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
*Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your consultation with the Foreign Affairs Committee on H.R. 3233, which temporarily extends the period during which certain Iraqis previously employed by the United States Government may be granted special immigrant status. I agreed to the Foreign Affairs Committee being discharged of our referral so that the bill could be promptly considered on the House floor this evening. I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding regarding the Foreign Affairs Committee's continuing Rule X legislative jurisdiction over portions of H.R. 3233, which is not affected by that waiver decision.

I appreciate your assistance in expediting this important legislation for floor consideration.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2013.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Ray-
burn House Office Building, Washington,
DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3233, to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas.

As you noted, the Committee on Foreign Affairs was granted an additional referral of the bill. I am most appreciative of your decision to discharge the Committee on Foreign Affairs from further consideration of H.R. 3233 so that it could proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you waived formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on the Foreign Affairs is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CON-
TINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESO-
LUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged to hear my Republican colleagues stand in support of the District of Columbia's ability to expend its own local funds. I agree. As a member representing a district that neighbors DC, I have been a long-time supporter of budget autonomy for our nation's capital. It should be able to spend its local dollars without waiting for approval from this Congress. I hope my colleagues will remember this debate and work towards a long-term legislative fix for this issue.

However, we have a way to solve the immediate problem for the District of Columbia