

My message to those of you still battling the forces of hatred and ignorance is to ignore that group of idiots that want to destroy bridges provided by government assistance. Do not join those chanting the idiotic slogan of "government is the problem and should get out of the way."

Government has a sacred responsibility to play a major role in building bridges that elevate the standard of living for its citizens. It must build roads leading to bridges that take our children to schools, our adults to jobs, our sick to hospitals.

Bridges must enable the working poor to move into the middle class and our seniors to live the remainder of their lives in dignity.

You in the legislative body must always remember that bridges take people to untold opportunities. I am proud of the bridges I helped build while in Congress that now provide for family and medical leave, that gave political freedom to federal employees, that assured that after five years you are vested in your pension plan, that rewrote the higher education law, the elementary and secondary education bill, and, yes, Rep. Hubbard, the one that makes our workplace safe.

Yes, Rep. Penny Hubbard, I know you will continue building bridges that take people from poverty to prosperity, from hopelessness to dreams fulfilled.

Government must not let the excessive greed of some exploit the helpless in the name of providing jobs that pay less than a living wage.

Government must provide the bridges that guarantee a good education for its citizens, a decent job with adequate pay and health benefits, a nice home in a safe neighborhood. If building bridges that establish a strong, vibrant middle class is seen as government being in the way, I say to those . . . well, I say that, and much more.

OK, I have had my say. So, Rep. Penny Hubbard, let me thank you again for remembering that bridges have played an indispensable role in my life. Thanks for remembering that building bridges has made my life worth living.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF GENERAL C. ROBERT KEHLER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, Mr. COOPER and I ask for the House's attention to honor General C. Robert "Bob" Kehler, Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, on his imminent retirement from the United States Air Force.

General Kehler has been an exemplary officer and an outstanding leader. Over the course of his 38 year career in the Air Force, he has made countless sacrifices for our country. We wish to commend his service; the sacrifices of his family, including his wife Marjorie and their two sons; and to express our great appreciation for his leadership and devotion to our nation's security.

It would not be possible for us to do justice to the many and various accomplishments of General Kehler's distinguished 38 year career

in the Air Force, but please allow us to highlight a few.

General Kehler's selection as Commander of U.S. Strategic Command was apt—he started his career as a young nuclear missile officer in 1975. Rising quickly through the Air Force, he went on to command space and missile units at Whiteman, Malmstrom, Vandenberg and Peterson Air Force Bases. His positive leadership has directly influenced countless men and women in our Armed Forces, and the positive effects of his service to our country will be felt for generations to come.

General Kehler has been a vigilant champion of our nation's nuclear deterrent. As Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, he's spent nearly three years ensuring our nation's nuclear forces remain strong and ready—not counting his earlier tour as Deputy Commander of Strategic Command. His efforts were instrumental in our nation's Nuclear Posture Review, and he has worked closely with Congress to ensure that our military has been able to accomplish the essential missions of Strategic Command, including nuclear deterrence. Through his leadership at Strategic Command, General Kehler has been an essential defender of our nation's critical space assets. He has worked closely with the Armed Services Committee, and it has been our great pleasure to work with him. As chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, we are grateful for General Kehler's wise counsel and firm resolve to always do what is best for the nation and for the men and women he leads.

Mr. Speaker, with nearly four decades of exemplary service to our nation, General C. Robert "Bob" Kehler deserves our most heartfelt gratitude and praise. He has been a credit to the military and we hope he will continue to find ways to serve the United States. Thank you, General—and best wishes to you and your family.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL LINN AS NEW CEO EMERITUS OF NIADA

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael R. Linn as the new CEO Emeritus of the National Independent Automobile Dealers Association (NIADA) that is headquartered in Arlington, Texas, in my district.

Prior to his new position, Mr. Linn served as the CEO of NIADA from 1999 to 2013. Under his leadership, membership rose beyond 20,000 members. In addition, NIADA added significant value to the automotive industry with its legislative and regulatory presence in the Nation's capitol. Expanded education programs, which include the Certified Master Dealer (CMD) Program and Certified F&I Professional Program, have greatly enhanced the professionalism of the industry. In 2004, the NIADA Educational Television Network (NIADA-TV) was created to better educate the nation's automotive dealers. In 2006, another educational TV network, Automotive Consumer Television, was developed to also educate consumers about the motor vehicle in-

dustry. All of these occurred during Mr. Linn's tenure. He also currently serves as a Board Member on the National Automotive Advisory Board at Northwood University in Midland, Michigan.

Prior to joining NIADA, Mr. Linn served as the Executive Director of the Carolinas Independent Automobile Dealers Association that serves the industry in both North and South Carolina. With over 26 years of extensive experience in the motor vehicle industry, he is extremely knowledgeable of industry issues and the issues facing today's professional automobile dealer.

Prior to working in the motor vehicle industry, Mr. Linn enjoyed a career in the motion picture and television industry as an Executive Producer. He is a graduate of LaSalle University with a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA) and is a Certified Program Planner. He has written several training manuals on the car rental industry, Federal labor laws and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Michael Linn is a native of North Carolina.

The National Independent Automobile Dealers Association, founded in 1946, has represented the used motor vehicle industry for over 67 years. NIADA's mission is to assist its members in becoming more successful within the automotive industry by bringing valuable information, services and benefits designed to prepare them for an ever-changing and ever-challenging marketplace.

Again, congratulations to Michael Linn as the new CEO Emeritus of NIADA.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,154,624,205,951.04. We've added \$6,527,747,157,037.96 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING RIO HONDO TRUSTEE ANGELA ACOSTA-SALAZAR

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angela Acosta-Salazar, a member of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees, for her tireless work in increasing access to higher education.

Professionally, Angela has committed herself to the issues of higher education and community empowerment. Through her service as Trustee she fostered relationships and strengthened communications between the college and its student body. As an educator, Angela has educated hundreds of students in the Social Sciences and has created a space

that encouraged personal development and academic excellence. As a public servant, Angela has generously dedicated her time to the Rio Hondo College Foundation.

Having served as a Los Angeles Community College District adjunct instructor for over ten years, her commitment to education should be an inspiration to all at Rio Hondo College. Although she now completes nine years of service to Rio Hondo College's Board of Trustees, she leaves behind a legacy and a mission that will not end when she steps down.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Ms. Angela Acosta-Salazar. Let us congratulate her on her many accomplishments to the Rio Hondo Community College District and our community. We wish her good health and success in all future endeavors.

TO RECOGNIZE THE LIFE OF MR.
FREDDIE SLACK

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Frederick Slack, Sr. who passed away at the age of 90 on his beloved farm in Forest Grove, Bucks County.

Fred, a lifelong resident of the Village of Forest Grove, was a school bus driver, a farmer, a pilot, a World War II veteran, a baseball fan and a loving family man. However, many knew him for his farm which was his pride and joy. In 1996, The Fred Slack Farm became the first farm in Buckingham Township to be added onto The Pennsylvania Farm Preservation. Fred and Evelyn were so proud.

Fred was a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and was an avid proponent of Farm Preservation efforts, both in Bucks County and across the state.

For decades, Fred and his late-wife Evelyn were proud to grow some of the best tasting corn and tomatoes in the area. Visitors to their farm were always greeted with warm and welcoming smiles and the couple treasured the memories made at their humble property.

My thoughts and deepest sympathies go out to Fred's friends and family—his four children, eight grandchildren and his great grandchild. May they all take comfort in knowing that Fred's legacy lives on in the fields he worked and the lives he touched—neither soon to be forgotten.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
LETICIA DIAZ

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize a great leader in the Central Florida community.

Leticia M. Diaz, a native of Cuba, is one of the founding faculty of Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law and was

appointed dean in 2007. During her tenure as dean, the law school has emerged as a leader in legal education in Florida, featuring nationally recognized Moot Court and Trial Team programs, a growing faculty, and a \$7 million expansion of its campus with the opening of a 32,400-square-foot Legal Advocacy Center in 2011. Diaz is the first Cuban-American female to hold the position of dean at an ABA-accredited law school in the United States.

Under Dean Diaz's leadership, Barry Law School's student enrollment has increased nearly 40 percent—from 571 in 2006 to 793 in 2013. Diaz was instrumental in launching the Summer in Spain study abroad program in 2009. Under her leadership, the school has opened three centers: the Juvenile Justice Center, the Juvenile Life Without Parole Defense Resource Center, and the Center for Earth Jurisprudence. The school's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has been honored eight years in a row by the American Bar Association for its service to the community.

Diaz's publications range from analysis of the FDA's role in consumer protection to environmental law with a focus on consumer health. In 2009 she spoke at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government on international piracy issues, with an emphasis on environmental law.

Her professional involvement includes serving on the ABA Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities. She has taken a leadership role on Hispanic issues, including penning an article on the DREAM Act that was entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in December 2010 and hosting a White House Hispanic Action Summit at the law school in September 2011. She and alumni met with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor in December 2011 when the inaugural group of Barry Law graduates was sworn in to practice before the Supreme Court. Diaz is also a past member of the Board of Directors of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando.

Diaz was listed as one of 25 influential Hispanics in Central Florida in a 2012 issue of *Vision* magazine, a publication of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando. She received the Outstanding Hispanic Female in the Legal Field award at the inaugural Hispanic Women Who Make the Difference Awards in 2008 and earned the "Leading Lawyers" recognition from the South Florida Business Journal in 2009. In 2013, Diaz was named Outstanding Female in Education during La Prensa's *Mujeres Destacadas* awards.

Before joining Barry's faculty, Diaz practiced law in the areas of personal injury, toxic torts, and workplace chemical exposure, while teaching part-time at the law school. She currently teaches in the area of environmental law, environmental justice, toxic torts, and product liability.

Diaz earned her Juris Doctor degree at Rutgers Law School in New Jersey in 1994. Prior to entering law school, she earned her PhD in organic chemistry from Rutgers University. She spent two years as a postdoctoral research chemist at Hoffman-LaRoche in New Jersey, where she primarily worked on the synthesis of anti-HIV compounds.

Dean Diaz has brought together leaders from throughout the country to the Central Florida area to discuss the important issues of the day and has convened meetings and

events that bring together varying perspectives on issues that affect our community. Central Florida is a better place for the work and leadership that Dean Diaz has provided to our community.

I am happy to honor Leticia M. Diaz, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her service and her work to educate, train, and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ZULMA VELEZ-
ESTRADA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize Zulma Velez-Estrada, an outstanding Central Floridian who has dedicated her life to lifting up the voices and pioneering the causes of Hispanics.

Zulma Velez-Estrada was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Management from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus and her Master's Degree in Finance Management from American University, Puerto Rico. Zulma began her professional career at Health Care Manufacturing Industries in Puerto Rico. She was also a Management Consultant for the Energy and Environmental Research Studies Department for the University of Puerto Rico for three years until she decided to migrate to Florida in 1991.

Moving to Florida was a significant change for her and her five children. Since moving to Florida, Zulma has dedicated her life to working with her community. She became a Governmental Operations Consultant and began doing Community Outreach for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in Osceola County. Zulma developed and coordinated a Community Awareness Program with the goal of empowering frontline staff and engaging communities in Osceola and Orange counties. She also organized the first Hispanic Leaders Meeting with the Department of Children and Families and developed their Hispanic Media Database. Zulma coordinated the participation of Osceola County employees at their first 150k Meals Packing Event for underprivileged Osceola County children. Zulma also coordinated the first Pastor's Seminar on Domestic Violence in Osceola and Orange counties in cooperation with the DCF and domestic violence prevention organizations.

Zulma was the Hispanic Outreach Coordinator for the Democratic Party, Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration (PRFAA) Interim Manager, and Director for the Non-Partisan Education and Registration Program "Que Nada Nos Detenga" for the PRFAA. Under her leadership, 63,000 new voters were registered from 2003 to 2004. While at PRFAA, Zulma also developed the First International Voting & Education Festival at Lake Eola Park in Orlando.

Ms. Velez-Estrada worked for four years as International Business and Trade Specialist for the Metro Orlando International Affairs Economic Development Commission, where she worked with the Latin and Hispanic European markets, lead business missions and hosted international governmental and private industry representatives, and found new businesses opportunities for Central Florida. She developed and implemented the International Export Roadshow and counseled over 125 companies on how to export products abroad. She also developed Trade Missions to Venezuela, Chile, Argentina, and Puerto Rico.

Zulma has helped increase Hispanic participation in elections. She managed political