

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 *Visión* 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

campaigns for state Senators and Commissioners. Zulma also served as the feminine voice on the first non-partisan radio program in Osceola County directed toward educating the Spanish speaking Community on political issues. She has also worked as a volunteer on the presidential, gubernatorial, congressional, and state representative election campaigns as well. She was elected Secretary of the Osceola County Democratic Party, and is an active member of the Orange County Democratic Party.

Zulma has been honored with awards from Estrellas Cristianas Ministries for Chaplain of the Year, *Tu Revista Mujer* as one of the "Eleven Most Distinguished Women," the Florida Department of Children and Families for Community Partnership, *Impacto Newspaper* as a "Pioneer of the Past Shining Today," Hispanic Women Assembly, LULAC, United Third Bridge, and the Santa Maria Municipality of Peru for Outstanding Service with Twin Cities Development.

I am happy to honor Zulma Velez-Estrada, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her service to the Central Florida Hispanic community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOSE LA LUZ

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize Jose La Luz, an educator and an advocate for workers' rights.

A native of Santurce, Puerto Rico, La Luz comes from a working-class family and spent his primary years living on the Island. La Luz credits his grandfather, a self-made merchant in the mountain town of Ciales, and his mother, a rural school teacher who nurtured and educated poor children in nearby barrios, with being his role models and instilling a sense of compassion and justice in him. They inspired La Luz to advocate for workers' rights such as better wages and working conditions as an adult.

While growing up in Puerto Rico in the 1950s and 1960s, La Luz's grandfather used to take him to the tobacco, coffee and sugarcane fields in Puerto Rico where he witnessed firsthand the plight of poor Puerto Ricans who were toiling these fields to earn their meager livelihoods. Having seen the poor conditions under which workers lived and worked, La Luz began to understand the importance of advocating for the human rights of those who had no voice. The fight for basic rights and justice for all people, no matter who they are or where they are from became his life's passion.

La Luz attended the University of Puerto Rico where he studied social sciences before receiving a sports scholarship from the YMCA and transferring to Springfield College in Massachusetts. He is a graduate of SUNY's Empire State College with a Bachelor's degree in Labor Studies. He also has a Master's Degree in labor studies from Rutgers University.

Widely recognized as a labor strategist and intellectual, La Luz has served as a Visiting Labor Leader in residence at Cornell University. He has also written white papers on organizing strategies in labor unions, and served as an instructor in the Labor Studies Programs at Michigan State and Rutgers University. He became a Wurf Fellow in the Kennedy School State and Local Government Program at Harvard University in 2007. In 2011, La Luz received a lifetime award for his distinguished career as one of America's outstanding labor educators from the United Association for Labor Education.

During his college years, La Luz was involved in the Students for a Democratic Society, and spoke out on issues such as the Vietnam War. He also became involved with local Puerto Rican Farm Workers organizations in the Tobacco Valley in Connecticut and Massachusetts. As a community organizer, La Luz helped secure new rights for migrant workers in the area by putting public pressure on the Labor Department of Puerto Rico and denouncing the deplorable conditions that the migrant workers were working under. He also helped merge the local farm workers with Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers of America.

Among La Luz's most recent achievements is the restoration on May 17, 2011 of public worker rights in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico Law 45 had been nullified by the passage of a new fiscal austerity law, Law 7. Law 7 effectively suspended collective agreement clauses in an effort to repress public employees and strip them of collective bargaining rights. Law 7 also caused the layoffs of over 19,000 public sector employees in Puerto Rico and aggravated an already dismal unemployment rate. La Luz was fundamental in speaking out against the injustices by insisting on the need to restore bargaining rights for public workers. La Luz made the case for the restoration of rights as he led a grassroots lobbying campaign along with other union leaders and the President of Puerto Rico's Senate. His efforts resulted in the passage of Law 73 which restored the employee contracts and rights that had been suspended by Law 7.

It is with great honor and pride that I honor Jose La Luz's exemplary contributions to workers' rights and the Hispanic community.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE TO RICK CRAIG AND LAURA DYBERG

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2013*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the incredible job Rick Craig and Laura Dyberg have done as board members of the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District. Both of these individuals have enriched and fulfilled the lives of the citizens they have worked for.

Rick Craig served four years on the Board of Directors and three of those four years, as chairman. During his tenure with the board, he served on the Planning and Facilities Committee and was instrumental in helping their "Measure N" program to succeed.

Laura Dyberg served on the board since 2005 and was the Board Secretary for many years. She served on the Planning and Facilities, Personal and Public Relations and Program Committees. She was instrumental in finding a qualified general manager, in the dedication of Harich Field, and with the renaming of the Twin Peaks Recreation complex.

Luckily for the community, both of these exceptional individuals will continue their service in various capacities for the betterment of the recreational community. I wish both of them well and look forward to hearing about their new accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD G. RAJARATNAM

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2013*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, California are exceptional. Riverside County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Richard G. Rajaratnam, MD, FRCS, FACS, is one of these individuals. This year, Dr. Rajaratnam will end his tenure as Medical Director for the Kaiser Permanente Riverside Medical Center.

Dr. Rajaratnam has managed and led the Kaiser Permanente Riverside Service Area as Area Medical Director for the Southern California Permanente Medical Group. He has been instrumental in achieving breakthroughs in research and medical advancements. These breakthroughs include the A.L.L. program, Diabetes Care advancement, Choosing Wisely, Patient-Centered Medical Home, and the development of the UCR Medical School to create physician leaders for tomorrow. Dr. Rajaratnam has embraced advancements in technology and science to improve the health of the over 370,000 Kaiser Permanente members in Riverside County.

Through his leadership, Dr. Rajaratnam has led the Kaiser Permanente Riverside Medical Center to be the recipient of multiple prestigious awards, including Leapfrog, California Award for Performance Excellence (CAPE—Baldridge Criteria), Independent Health Care Association for Excellence in Medical Groups, Medicare 5—Star status, and the Office of Patient Advocate in the State of California maximum four-star rating for quality excellence. He is a vital member of the local medical community, having served as a Board Member of Riverside County Health Foundation, California Delegate to the American Medical Association, CMRI Physician Reviewer for the state of California, Board member of Inland Empire Health Information Exchange, Past President of the Riverside County Medical Association, UCR School of Medicine Graduate Medical Education Committee as well as Community Advisory Board.

While retiring from his current position as Medical Director, Dr. Rajaratnam will continue to be a participant in the medical field and contribute his experience, knowledge and expertise to his peers and future physicians.

In light of all Dr. Rajaratnam has done for Riverside County, it is only fitting that he be honored for his many years of dedicated service. Dr. Rajaratnam's tireless passion for the industry in which he serves has contributed immensely to the betterment of Riverside County and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I commend Dr. Rajaratnam for his tireless work with the Kaiser Permanente Riverside Medical Center and express sincere thanks and appreciation for his years of dedication to health care advancements, research, and the overall health of his fellow citizens. I know that many are grateful for his service and salute him as he prepares to end his tenure later this year.