

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING MR. WALLACE  
"WALLY" EVANS, JR.

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness but profound respect that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, and a true champion of workers' rights, Wallace "Wally" Evans, Jr. Wally dedicated his life to serving the needs of members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), and he was tremendously successful in his efforts to improve the quality of life for workers in Northwest Indiana and across the nation. Mr. Evans passed away on Friday, November 29, 2013, but his legacy will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of the many people whose lives he touched.

Wally began his career in 1961 as a frozen foods manager at Burger's Supermarket in Munster, Indiana. In 1974, he became a full-time organizer and business representative for Local 1460 of the Retail Clerks Union, Lake County. Throughout the years, the UFCW began to grow and merge with other locals. Wally held numerous positions within the UFCW, including president of Local 1460, secretary/treasurer of Local 1550, and executive vice president and director of collective bargaining of Local 881. He also served as a union trustee for the UFCW Calumet Insurance Fund as well as the Chicago Midwest Pension and Health Funds, and as vice president of the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor AFL-CIO.

Mr. Evans also dedicated much of his time to many organizations and committees throughout his lifetime. Wally served as a Democratic precinct committeeman in Highland, was a member of various boards for the state of Indiana, served as a youth commissioner in Lansing, Illinois, and was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansing.

Wally leaves behind a loving family. He is survived by his wife, Sheila, his adoring sons, Steven and Jason, and their wives, Rachel and Andrea. Wally was also blessed with nine beloved grandchildren. He also leaves to cherish his memory many other dear friends and family members, as well as a saddened but grateful community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in remembering the great life of Mr. Wally Evans. His remarkable contributions to the Labor Movement, both locally and across the nation, are worthy of our deepest admiration. His life of service is to be commended, and his legacy serves as an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT  
ALEX ANTHONY VIOLA

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Staff Sergeant Alex Anthony Viola who was killed in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan on November 17, 2013 while serving with the 7th Special Forces Group at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Staff Sergeant Viola was born in New York and moved to Keller, Texas at the age of nine. He earned a degree in engineering from the University of North Texas before embarking on his lifelong goal to serve in an elite military unit.

Upon graduating from college he entered the Navy and was accepted for the elite Navy SEAL program. While injury prevented him from completing the program, he never gave up on his dream. Staff Sergeant Viola joined the Army National Guard in 2009 and began Special Forces training in the spring of 2010.

Staff Sergeant Viola lost his life to an improvised explosive device five weeks after starting his first deployment to Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Viola was a true patriot whose persistence and commitment are to be applauded. His mother said it best, "He was just a great guy and I'm not saying that because I'm his mother. This is what he wanted to do, and he kept trying and training. We were just in awe of him, his drive to do that."

I wish to extend my condolences to Staff Sergeant Viola's family and hope that they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on both his grateful country and his proud Special Forces family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RODNEY  
FERNANDEZ

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the life of Rodney Fernandez, a pioneer of affordable housing in Ventura County, California. The impact that Mr. Fernandez made on the community is significant and noteworthy. Mr. Fernandez was the Founder of the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), a non-profit community development corporation and an affordable home builder, established in 1981, and served as Executive Director of CEDC until his retirement at the end of 2011.

In the mid-1970s through the Cabrillo Improvement Association, Mr. Fernandez assisted Latino farm workers living at Cabrillo Village in Satcoy to prevent the razing of their substandard homes and eviction by the farm's

owners. Under Rodney's guidance, the farmers pooled money to purchase the land where their homes were located. The group then formed a cooperative, redeveloped their community and ultimately became captains of their own economic destiny through homeownership.

This work gave birth to the non-profit organization, CEDC, as a means to continue to empower and provide housing for those who cannot afford market-rate homes. Under Rodney's leadership, CEDC has grown from a start-up non-profit focused on farm worker housing, to a full-service, diversified organization that develops and manages affordable housing as well as offers homeownership education and lending services, and resident leadership development opportunities. Over 32 years, CEDC has developed 1,465 units of safe, high-quality affordable for-sale and rental housing in eight cities within Ventura County for farm workers, persons with low incomes, minorities (mostly Latinos) and the elderly.

Rodney dedicated his career with CEDC to increasing the supply of affordable housing, while empowering community leaders and being a leading advocate for economic development in the process. CEDC has received honors from various organizations over the years, including the American Institute of Architects, the American Planning Association and other professional groups, including the prestigious "Affordable Builder of the Year" award from Build It Green in 2012.

Rodney was especially committed to seeing that youth and residents in CEDC-built communities and the surrounding neighborhoods excelled at home and in life. In 2011, CEDC's Board of Directors established the Rodney Fernandez Community Building Fund to assist in cultivating the leadership capacity of CEDC residents to attain their goals and empower themselves to take action and improve the quality of life in their communities.

In heartfelt recognition and appreciation of the tremendous, far-reaching and impactful contributions that Mr. Fernandez made to Ventura County and beyond, I wish to send my sincere condolences to his wife, Melinda, his immediate family, and to all who knew him. His work and legacy are valued, and his presence in the community will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATING THE  
ISHPEMING HEMATITES ON  
THEIR 2013 DIVISION 7 HIGH  
SCHOOL FOOTBALL STATE  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. DAN BENISHEK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ishpeming High School Hematites in earning the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Division 7 Championship this last Saturday, November 30, 2013, at Ford Field in Detroit.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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