

What all their fine hearts emote!  
 To win that day and night!  
 All in those darkest of all fights!  
 All in this brilliance,  
 As when one's soul ignites!  
 Shinning All In The Brilliance of Honor's  
 Light!  
 Now In Hearts To Hold!  
 Of which all our children must be told!  
 Will we so be the ones?  
 With such uncommon courage,  
 And grace as you Murph on earth as it is in  
 heave they will be done!  
 And shine as bright as the midday sun!  
 While all in the face of evil,  
 For your Brothers In Arms to death look  
 upon . . .  
 To Follow!  
 To Lead!  
 To help them succeed!  
 But, Where Our Honor Lies!  
 To evil to erase!  
 As with your fine heart they could not keep  
 pace!  
 Out On Point!  
 All In Your Strength In Honor!  
 No one could take your place!  
 As you heard death's haunting call!  
 And the face of death Michael you saw!  
 And yet you did not hesitate!  
 Standing Strong and Standing Tall!  
 As our Lord and his Angel's watched you fall  
 . . .  
 With tears upon their face!  
 How proud of you they must have been that  
 day!  
 Watching you all in Honor's way!  
 Standing back all in such awe . . .  
 As your fine soul up to Heaven would ascend  
 . . .  
 With you new life as an Angel to begin . . .  
 In The Army of Our Lord,  
 to watch over us and defend!  
 This Congressional Man our Nation has so  
 blessed!  
 For Heaven could not wait for one of its best!  
 As we lower you fine body down to rest!  
 With but tears upon our face,  
 as Michael you showed us how to behave!  
 As these word in our hearts At East we  
 made!  
 But Michael,  
 we will hear you in the night!  
 Upon gentle breezes so slight . . .  
 And we see will see your face and realize . . .  
 You are an angel to watch over us both day  
 and night . . .  
 In life,  
 moments are all that we so have!  
 As our time begins To Make A Difference to  
 grab!  
 To Crush Hearts!  
 To But Find Where Our Honor Lies!  
 SEAL . . . ED WITH A KISS,  
 AS MURPH WE SAY GOODBYE!  
 On this day knowing . . .  
 But Where Our Honor Lies!

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP  
 OF MR. SONNY HASHMI IN AD-  
 VANCING INNOVATIVE TECH-  
 NOLOGY INITIATIVES THAT EN-  
 HANCE CITIZEN SERVICES, SAVE  
 TAXPAYER DOLLARS, AND PRO-  
 MOTE BEST PRACTICES ACROSS  
 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Mr.

Sonny Hashmi of Oakton, Virginia for being selected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the management excellence category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Mr. Hashmi serves as the Chief Information Officer for the United States General Services Administration, or GSA. In this role, Mr. Hashmi is responsible for managing GSA's \$600 million information technology budget and ensuring that GSA's IT initiatives effectively align with the agency's strategic goals and government-wide leadership responsibilities in key areas, such as information security and enterprise architecture efforts.

According to the Partnership for Public Service, Mr. Hashmi was instrumental in launching GSA's groundbreaking "Drive to the Cloud" initiative. This program enabled GSA to lead by example in becoming the first agency to transition its email services to a cloud-based platform, along with its collaboration and documents management tools. It is projected that these two migrations from legacy systems to cloud-based platforms will result in \$15 million in savings for the agency by 2016.

Under Mr. Hashmi's visionary leadership, GSA has also worked to ensure its lesson learned and best practices permeate across the Federal Government, and it is a testament to Mr. Hashmi's success that each year, additional agencies follow GSA's blueprint and guidance in moving to embrace shared services and innovative cloud-based solutions.

Mr. Hashmi represents precisely the type of Federal Chief Information Officer our government desperately needs more of. I fully concur with GSA Administrator Daniel Tangherlini's recent observation that, "Sonny not only fixes problems, but also provides newer and better solutions. He is a leader in the best sense. He is all about the outcome and builds a team that shares that desire."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Mr. Sonny Hashmi for being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Management Excellence Medal. Mr. Hashmi and his fellow nominees all boast impressive accomplishments, from working to eradicate polio in India to landing an exploratory vehicle on Mars to saving the Air Force more than \$1 billion in 2012 by reducing energy consumption. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Mr. Hashmi and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. Each one deserves our gratitude and respect.

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF  
 SERVICE BY THE SISTERS OF  
 MERCY

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a momentous occasion—the 120 years of service the Sisters of Mercy have graciously provided the City of Laredo, Texas. For over a century, these Sisters have faithfully contributed to the health and well-being of the residents within my hometown.

Three Sisters arrived in Laredo in 1894 with the mission of building the city's first hospital. They came from Dublin, Ireland, and less than one month after their arrival, they accomplished their goal and opened a medical facility with six rooms and twelve beds. Though they were not formally trained in nursing, they committed to learning in order to serve the needy of Laredo. As the population and health care needs grew, Sisters of Mercy expanded to new buildings to care for as many Laredoans as possible.

Over the last 120 years, nearly 120 Sisters have faithfully served in Laredo, many of whom served for decades at a time. There are presently five sisters who serve the Laredo community: Sister Maria Luisa Vera, who recently celebrated her 50th jubilee and is President of Mercy Ministries; Sister Rosemary Welsh, who has served Laredo for 22 years and is the Executive Director at Casa de Misericordia and the Director of Outreach Services at Mercy Clinic; Sister Olivia Obregon, who has served for a total of 33 years in various nursing supervisory positions; Sister Kathleen Tinnel, who has served Laredo for 12 years both as a pediatric nurse and a minister; and the newest Sister—Sister Beth Yoest—who is on the faculty at St. Peter Memorial School.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Sisters of Mercy for commendably caring for the citizens of Laredo throughout the past 120 years.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-  
 VERSARY OF THE WEST FLOR-  
 IDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUN-  
 CIL

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the West Florida Regional Planning Council and recognize its significant impact and contributions to Northwest Florida.

The West Florida Regional Planning Council was established in 1964 as the Pensacola-Escambia County Regional Council when the need of transportation planning and coordination was recognized. As the third regional planning council to have been formed in the State of Florida, it has since grown to also include Bay, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington Counties and their municipalities. In addition to transportation planning, the Council today provides a forum