

member of the original company, assumed ownership and eventually renamed it Coors Porcelain Company. During WWI, the US government sought out ceramic companies to assume the manufacture of critical products such as chemical and scientific lab ware, which had been supplied by Germany. Coors Porcelain answered the call and began making critical components in a variety of ceramic materials. In 1986, the company name was changed to Coors Ceramics Company to better reflect its core competencies in a variety of technical ceramics. In 1992, Coors Ceramics was one of four subsidiaries spun-off from the brewery family of companies and became part of ACX Technologies, a new holding company.

CoorsTek recently purchased a 300,000 sq. ft. facility in the Coors Technology Center to expand its manufacturing operations. In 2014, the company announced the opening of its new plant in the Coors Technology Center to produce premium lightweight ceramic proppants, sand-sized solid materials used to keep induced hydraulic fractures open allowing oil and gas to flow.

I extend my deepest congratulations to CoorsTek for their well-deserved Business Recognition Award.

CONGRATULATING 2015 BLUE STAR
NEIGHBOR AWARD WINNER

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mark Johnson who received the 2015 Blue Star Neighbor Award from Blue Star Families, Inc.

Mark spent the winter of 2014 clearing the steps and driveways of service members and their families while they were deployed. He demonstrated leadership, kindness, generosity and a true sense of community through his willingness to lend a helping hand, going above and beyond for his neighbor, Chief Warrant Officer Sean Durkee and the veterans in the city of Waltham, Massachusetts.

Blue Star Families, Inc. held an essay contest about neighbors who helped servicemen while deployed. Friend Kelly Durkee-Erwin, and sister of Sean, entered Mark's story in the contest. In January of 2015, Kelly was alerted that Mark's volunteerism, service and friendship would be rightfully recognized through the Blue Star Neighbor Award.

First Lady Michelle Obama, Jill Biden's Joining Forces, The Creative Coalition and Mark Johnson were recently recognized by Blue Star Families, Inc. in Washington, DC for their service, achievements and support of military families.

Mark is an inspiration to us all. His actions motivate us to strengthen our communities by giving back. I thank him for his service to Waltham families and congratulate him for his achievements.

TRIBUTE TO GARY PAGLIANO

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the career of a distinguished servant of Congress in the field of international energy and national defense. Gary Pagliano, whom I am proud to represent, will retire this month from the Congressional Research Service with 40 years of continual service to his country and to Congress, having joined CRS in 1974.

Gary graduated from the State University of New York in 1971 and received a Master's degree in Public Administration from Cornell University in 1974. He is a proud graduate of the National War College from which he received a Master's degree in National Security Strategy in 1997.

As a CRS specialist, first in energy policy and then in defense policy, Gary wrote about a variety of issues, including U.S. energy programs and policies, OPEC and world oil markets, defense acquisitions, defense contractors, the defense industrial base, and NATO. In 1984, Gary became the first CRS Senior Fellow to spend a year at the Atlantic Council, a program that then ran for many years. In 1997, he was appointed to manage CRS's Defense Budget Section, a position he held with distinction until late last year.

Over the decades, Gary Pagliano has helped set the standards of excellence for which CRS is known today. He leaves behind not only a distinguished public service career but a legacy of leadership and mentorship to colleagues, congressional staff, and defense policy analysts. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to him for his four decades of service to Congress and to our nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF LES
WILLIAMS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember an amazing American and an outstanding patriot. Mr. Les Williams has died at the age of 95. Mr. Williams was one of the heroic Tuskegee Airmen. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service to this nation. He was also a Stanford undergraduate and law school graduate, and a distinguished attorney in my district for many years.

Mr. Williams grew up in San Mateo and was part of a middle-class African American community in San Mateo until the Great Depression financially devastated his family. In order to earn money for his college education, he started a business teaching dance. When America entered World War II, Mr. Williams volunteered to join the Army Air Corps. Only after the war did he learn that his original application was denied because he was African American.

The Army drafted Mr. Williams and placed him into a laborer's job working on the docks, a job that ordinarily would have ended his flying career before it began. As disappointed as

he was, however, Mr. Williams was a patriot. As he later said, "I became a worker. I wasn't very proud of that. I had to go. One thing though, I was going to do what my country told me to do because I was an American and I'll always be an American."

Mr. Williams and others also formed a band and Mr. Williams danced. After a performance at a Kaiser shipyard, a general congratulated Mr. Williams and the band. The general also asked if he could help the men in any way and Mr. Williams immediately volunteered, again, to fly. Shortly thereafter, Les Williams was on his way to Tuskegee, Alabama, truly a rendezvous with history.

His training in Tuskegee was rigorous, but even more demanding was the culture of discrimination in Tuskegee. As he later noted, discrimination existed in his hometown of San Mateo, but it was nothing like Tuskegee. For example, failing to wait for a white person to cross the street could get you dragged from the car and beaten. This was a level of violence that Les Williams had not faced before.

Les Williams was a great pilot. He'd never been near a plane before going to ground school, but Les Williams excelled. The white officer who gave him his check out flight test had a 100% record of washing out African American students. But he didn't wash out Les Williams. At the time, the officer noted that Mr. Williams was cocky, but also noted that fighter pilots needed to be cocky. Mr. Williams eventually switched to bombers and enjoyed flying the B-25. However, the war wouldn't wait. By the time the Army Air Corps assembled a full cockpit bomber crew, the war was over.

After the war, Captain Les Williams returned to San Mateo and started a successful dance studio. Here, in his hometown, he again faced a lot of prejudice. He won the right to build his dance studio on a 3-2 vote of the City Council, with at least one resident throwing her purse at him in anger over the idea that an African American could be allowed to build a new structure in a largely white part of town. By 1947, Mr. Williams also entered Stanford University on the G.I. bill, graduating with a degree in history. He continued operating his dance studio for about 25 years and eventually returned to Stanford to study law, graduating in the 1970's. He was an active and distinguished attorney in our community for many years. He is survived by his wife, Elsie, daughters Penny and Paula, two grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, through his dedication to America Les Williams proved one thing beyond a shadow of a doubt: He was a patriot. A man who loved America and who worked hard to overcome the barriers placed in his path, he personified the energetic pursuit of opportunity in this nation. We owe the Tuskegee Airmen our gratitude for helping to break the color barrier, but we owe Les Williams our respect because he not only broke the barrier but also set the bar of achievement higher for all America.

Today, let us remember Les Williams when we think of equality under the law. At 95 years old upon his passing, Les Williams is a man who willed to each of us decades of opportunity, provided we have the wisdom to preserve and to nurture his legacy.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SOFIA MENDOZA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Sofia “Sophie” Mendoza. Her passing was unexpected, and represents a huge loss to the community in San José. Sophie was born in 1934 in Fillmore, California. Her father was a labor organizer, and would often move the family in search of new opportunities. After relocating to Arizona in 1939, Sophie settled in San José while attending Campbell Grammar School and Campbell High School.

Sophie’s father would often tell her “we are born into this life with a purpose to help one another.” Sophie would go on to dedicate her life to fight injustice wherever she saw it, eventually becoming one of the most accomplished community organizers in California’s history. She frequently crossed paths with leaders such as United Farm Workers founder César Chavez, author Ernesto Galarza, and playwright Luis Valdez.

Sophie’s first major accomplishment came early in high school. Campbell High School, which had few Latino students, had French, German, and Math clubs but no Spanish club. Frustrated, she complained to her father who encouraged her to find a solution. Refusing to be marginalized, she circulated petitions, talked to teachers and raised enough signatures to establish the Spanish Club at Campbell High. It was the beginning of a journey pursuing equity and recognition for all.

Sophie met her husband, Gilbert Mendoza, shortly after completing high school and began studying at San José State University. At the end of her third year, the couple married and started a family. Sophie involved her children in organizing from the beginning. Her son was able to name every San José City Councilmember before he started the first grade.

Sophie went on to start United People Arriba, an umbrella organization that brought together grassroots community organizations and managed multiple political projects. She was instrumental in establishing the first major health clinic in East San José, personally led a 2,000 person demonstration against police brutality, and worked with international delegations from Nicaragua and El Salvador to promote peace. When she learned that her children’s schools were receiving unequal funding, she organized the first student walkout in California history. She was a trailblazer who left a lasting impact in San José. I am here today to recognize her as one of San José’s most influential leaders.

Sophie is survived by her children Rick, Agustín, Sandra and William, with five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The oldest sibling of five children, Sophie is survived by her siblings Robert, Larry and Margaret.

Mr. Speaker, we commend Mrs. Sophia Mendoza for her years of dedication and commitment to San José and the Latino community. Her contributions serve as an example of what can be accomplished by uniting our communities and working toward positive change.

BLACKHAWK EQUIPMENT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Blackhawk Equipment for their community leadership and economic contribution to Jefferson County.

Blackhawk is a leader in the air compressor industry and provides comprehensive air solutions and services. The company has over 100 years combined experience in the industry and employs four DOE Certified AirMaster + Specialists. Blackhawk is the premier rotary screw, oil-free, and centrifugal air compressor distributor in Colorado. They also specialize in air dryers, cooling towers, air audits, air tools, custom controls, skid packages, portables and rental air.

Recently, Blackhawk expanded in the city of Arvada by moving from a 10,000 sq. ft. facility into a 26,500 sq. ft. facility to accommodate growth. The company hired 5 new employees in 2014 and added \$500,000 in new capital investment.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Blackhawk Equipment for their well-deserved Business Recognition Award.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH: HONORING DR. JULIETA V. GARCIA AND IRMA RANGEL

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of Women’s History Month. The 34th Congressional District of Texas is home to inspirational women who have broken barriers and significantly improved the quality of life for countless South Texas families. Today, I take the time to honor two of them—Julietta V. Garcia and Irma Rangel.

Dr. Julieta V. Garcia built her legacy on making higher education accessible to South Texans. She served as the president of the University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) from 1992 to 2014. In 2009, Time Magazine listed Dr. Garcia among the top ten college presidents, and last year, she was named by CNN Money/Fortune as one of the World’s 50 Greatest Leaders. During Dr. Garcia’s tenure, her relentless advocacy for increasing access to higher education in South Texas is reflected in UTB’s enrollment statistics. The UTB student body is 91% Hispanic, and 71% are first-generation college students. Her forward-thinking leadership laid the foundation for establishment of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Recently, Julieta Garcia took on a new role as the first executive director of The University of Texas—Americas Institute, which focuses on developing the next generation of leaders through a non-partisan venue that convenes discussions on critical issues of global significance.

Irma Rangel, a St. Mary’s Law School graduate, served in the Texas State Legislature from 1976 to 2003. She was the first Mexican American woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Her legislative career fo-

cused on the concerns of women and children and how to provide them a mechanism for progress. She established education and employment programs for mothers on public assistance, built centers to protect victims of abuse, and labored to make voting more accessible for all Texans. In 1994, Irma Rangel was inducted into the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame. Rangel’s contributions will live on through the many families her work brought into the middle class. She died on March 18, 2003, from cancer. The Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy opened its doors at Texas A&M University-Kingsville on August 10, 2006.

During Women’s History Month, we are reminded of those who broke down barriers for future generations. I encourage all to take a moment today to reflect on the contributions women have made to our nation. I thank these women and others who have dedicated themselves to service.

HONORING WILLIAM ‘ZEKE’ GRADER, JR.

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, NANCY PELOSI, MIKE THOMPSON, and JACKIE SPEIER, to recognize the incredible legacy of William ‘Zeke’ Grader, Jr., who has tirelessly served California’s fishermen and coastal communities and as an environmental champion and community leader for many decades. Always willing to share his vast knowledge and expertise with others, Zeke has helped fishermen to define their interest in battles over offshore oil and gas development, land-use, timber harvesting, water allocation, and other issues of social equity and sustainability.

From an early age, Zeke Grader grew up in the coastal fishing community. His father founded Grader Fish, Co., in Fort Bragg, California, to buy, process, and broker fresh, local fish. Zeke spent much of his childhood on the family dock, helping fishermen to unload their catch. He graduated from Fort Bragg High School and moved south to attend Sonoma State University, where he studied political science and graduated in 1970.

Zeke Grader served his country in the United States Marine Corps before obtaining a law degree from the University of San Francisco and passing the California State Bar in 1975. At that time, Congress was deliberating how to assert our national sovereignty over a two-hundred mile wide economic zone in order to curb foreign overfishing in U.S. waters, allow depleted stocks to recover, and conserve fishery resources. Amidst such explosive public interest in natural resource protection, some in the fishing industry felt threatened by the burgeoning environmental movement. Zeke Grader was asked to serve as the executive officer of the newly formed Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations (PCFFA), and he led the organization in a more productive and effective direction by embracing efforts to protect the coastal environment.

With Zeke at the helm, the PCFFA took a leading role in crafting important state and federal legislation to preserve the coastal fishing