

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1509, MEDICARE IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1509, the Medicare Identity Theft Prevention Act. There has been longstanding bipartisan support—led by Ways and Means Members LLOYD DOGGETT and SAM JOHNSON—for removing Social Security numbers from Medicare beneficiary cards. A similar bill passed the House all the way back in 2008, but the Senate failed to act. No progress has been made on this issue in the intervening years.

That said, I must express concern about violating regular order in bringing this bill to the floor today. There are technical edits that we believe are important to make before it is signed into law. Unfortunately, because it didn't move through the committee process, such changes are impossible under the suspension of the rules.

Removing Social Security numbers is one step to protecting beneficiaries from identity theft. The Social Security number is especially valuable to identity thieves as it serves as the key to authenticating an individual's identity in order to open accounts or obtain other benefits in the victim's name. Identity theft can be particularly devastating to seniors because their incomes are so modest.

We have held hearings on these issues and our Members have voted for these protections numerous times. No one can question our commitment here. But I would urge that we work to make sure that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration are provided appropriate funds for such a large undertaking as its been the cost and complexity which has held up this issue for so long.

The Social Security number is printed on the Medicare card beneficiaries carry in their wallets. It is used for communication between the beneficiary and Medicare, providers billing Medicare, enrollment transactions with Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare prescription drug plans, and communications within and between Medicare's 50 internal information systems and between Medicare and the Social Security Administration.

This is not as simple as printing new cards as some would lead us to believe. It requires revising numerous computer systems as well as significant beneficiary and provider education. And, there are serious risks to beneficiaries' access to care and out-of-pocket costs if mistakes are made.

The cost will likely be in the hundreds of millions. Yet, the Medicare agency and Social Security Administration have been underfunded by Republicans for years. They are working with minimal administrative budgets. This bill improves on the 2008 legislation passed with bipartisan support because it pro-

vides funding. But we must make sure that the funding is sufficient and that both the Medicare agency and Social Security Administration equitably access these funds.

TRIBUTE TO THE BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE RENEGADE FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bakersfield College Renegades, who captured the 2012 California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) State Championship in football on December 8, 2012.

Winning this championship was truly a team effort on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball. But this thrilling victory was the product of months of skill, hard work, and unequivocal determination to win from every player, coach, and support staff—from summer practices, to winning the first game of the season against Santa Ana College, to defeating City College of San Francisco in the championship game, 35–14. Overcoming obstacles early in the season, this team practiced consistency and perseverance throughout the rest of the season to cap off an amazing 11–2 record, winning games by an average margin of over three touchdowns.

This championship is also a milestone for Bakersfield College, winning its first CCCAA state championship in football and paving the road for future victories. From the first game of the season at Memorial Stadium, our community has been 100% behind this football team, packing the stadium with roaring crowds, especially the championship game at home.

Above all, what makes this achievement so special has been the players' appreciation for each other as they fought hard for victories this season, never losing sight of their ultimate goal—the CCCAA state championship. Players often said they never lost faith and kept pushing each other to ensure win after win. Embodying the team concept, when running back Jalen Sykes, the team MVP, received his trophy after the title game, he handed it to another teammate saying, "This is for the offensive line."

I commend Renegade head coach Jeff Chudy and his coaching staff for their leadership and ability to mold this winning team. Coach Chudy brought all the players together so each one not only knew his individual responsibilities, but also knew of the importance of how the sum of each player's individual role cohesively formed a unit to successfully execute play after play, to win the day and ultimately the season.

As a former student at Bakersfield College, I join our community in congratulating the coaches and players for their achievement. The 2012 Renegade coaching staff includes:

Head Coach Jeff Chudy, Defensive Coordinator/LB's Reggie Bolton, and Offensive Coordinator/QB's Carl Dean. The 2012 CCCAA State Championship Renegade football team includes: Mercy Maston, Brian Burrell, Curtis McGregor, Franklin Simmons IV, Grant Campbell, Brock Martin, Robert Burns, Chris Hannible, Juan Carbajal, Kelyon Hollis, Aaron Kolb, Austin Tijeriana, Shannon James, Alfonso Jackson, Jr., Cody Jones, Daniel Cherry, Cole Murry, Chaz Adams, Hamid Camara, Sterling Fuggett, Tyler Schleicher, Joey Stuart, Donny Siewell, Walter Hunt, Brock Baize, Kwame Johnson, Jalen Sykes, Ryan Salinas, Salim Cleghorne, Mason Often, Keith Fingers, Daviyoun Golden, Osvaldo Sombo, Jim Leathers, Bruce Volaski, Zack Puente, Curtis Fainter, Brandon Tillman, John Oglesby, Beau-Riley Pearson, Kevin Boyer, Jorge Villarreal, Alex Cortez, Dominic Rutherford, Brodie Scott, John Christie, Josh Ringer, Braylen Lejander, Jordan Alvarez, Justin Verrell, Christian Barrios, Kenneth Dunston, Donovan Rutherford, Brandon Sarabia, Arturo Patino, Joseph Jaurez, Julio Regla, Ricardo Figueroa, Justin Wallace, Christian Soto, Hilberto Flores, Sabastian Prince, Leonel Del Toro, Ever Mondragon, Tyler Fries, Darryle Baker, Tim Martinez, John Palacios, Mike Dunn, Ron Douglas, Stewart Bandy, Hernan Rocha, Thomas Hearn, Tanner Melson, Dandy Hannible, Clinton Carter, Onosai Sotoa, Jacob Miller, and Randy Armstrong. On behalf of our proud community, Go Gades!

HONORING ALLEN SHORT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. Costa, to acknowledge and honor Allen Short, General Manager of the Modesto Irrigation District, who is retiring on December 31, 2012 after 22 years of service to the agency that provides water and power to thousands of farms, homes and businesses in the San Joaquin Valley of California.

During the past two decades, Mr. Short also has been a leader among the Central Valley's other publically owned water and power agencies, spearheading efforts to develop agreements to meet environmental goals for the San Joaquin River system and the Bay-Delta estuary while protecting and enhancing the Valley's economically critical water and power resources.

Modesto Irrigation District and the neighboring Turlock Irrigation District hold some of the oldest water rights in California. The two Districts jointly own Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir on the Tuolumne River. MID provides irrigation water for 59,000 acres of farm land, electricity for more than 113,000 retail accounts, and treated drinking water to the City of Modesto.

Prior to becoming General Manager in 1993, Mr. Short joined MID as its first Chief of

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Domestic Water Operations in 1990 and was named Chief—Water Resources and Rights Officer in 1992. That position included overseeing Irrigation Operations, Water Rights and Domestic Water Operations. He was responsible for overseeing the construction and operation of the new domestic water facility that MID completed in late 1994.

He had previously held positions as water division manager for the City of San Luis Obispo from 1985 to 1990 and as water treatment operator and treated water supervisor for Stockton East Water District from 1978 to 1985.

As General Manager of MID, Mr. Short has been actively involved in water policy matters at the local, state and federal levels. In the late 1990s, he was instrumental in the development of the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (VAMP), a 12-year program intended to protect San Joaquin River fall-run salmon; to gather information on the effect of San Joaquin river flows on delta environmental conditions and water supply operations, and; to provide flows from the Tuolumne River and other San Joaquin Tributaries to meet California's 1995 Water Quality Control Plan. Mr. Short played a major role in the development of the San Joaquin River Agreement to provide a framework for implementation of VAMP, which began in 2000, and he led non-federal implementation of the program as Coordinator of the San Joaquin River Tributaries Group Authority, an organization representing local water agencies on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced and San Joaquin Rivers.

In 2006 and 2008, Mr. Short worked closely with Senator Dianne Feinstein and Members of the San Joaquin Valley Delegation in the House to draft provisions for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act to protect the water supplies and operations of "Third-Party" agencies like MID during implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement. He has continued to advocate for the interests of local public water agencies in the San Joaquin River Basin as a leading member of the San Joaquin River Tributaries Association.

Mr. Short also has been a leading voice on policy matters for public owned electric utilities in the Central Valley and throughout California. He is the former President of the California Public Utilities Association (CMUA), an 80-year-old organization that represents consumer-owned utilities before the California Legislature and regulatory bodies. While serving on the CMUA Board of Directors as its President, Mr. Short led a reorganization of CMUA to improve its effectiveness in representing the interests of public power agencies. He continues to serve on the CMUA Board of Governors.

Mr. Short also currently serves as Chairman of the Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC), a joint powers authority composed of 15 public power agencies. TANC is the Project Manager and largest participant in the California-Oregon Transmission Project, a 340-mile-long transmission line that brings power to California from the Pacific Northwest to improve the reliability of California's electric grid. Mr. Short joined TANC in 2003 as MID's Commissioner and was elected Chairman in 2008.

In addition, Mr. Short is the President of M-S-R Public Power Agency, an entity organized in 1980 by MID, Silicon Valley Power and the City of Redding Electric Utility to acquire elec-

tric generation and resources for its member agencies. In June, 2012, Mr. Short was invited by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to testify on behalf of M-S-R and the Southern California Public Power Authority at a hearing about implementation of Federal Clean Air Act regulations.

After his retirement from MID, Mr. Short will serve as Executive Director of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, an organization formed in 2012 to represent local water agencies on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced Rivers.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. Costa and me in honoring Modesto Irrigation District's General Manager Allen Short on his retirement and thank him for his exemplary leadership and service to the District.

MY FINAL SPEECH IN CONGRESS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, it's difficult for me to come to the floor today after 20 years in Congress and say "goodbye" to my constituents and fellow colleagues.

When I was 10 years old, I decided I wanted to be a Member of the United States House of Representatives. I want to thank everybody for making possible my boyhood dream. After I graduated from law school, I immediately settled in a town of 3,500 people, Oregon, Illinois, the county seat of Ogle County. I raised beef cattle on a small farm, and at age 38 met Freda, the woman who changed my life dramatically.

In 1990, I ran for Congress and lost in the primary. I decided I would not run again, until Freda encouraged me to fulfill that boyhood dream. In 1992, I won the March primary and the November election against incredible odds. How this unknown country lawyer, with no political experience and who lives outside a town of 42 people, could get elected to Congress is a testament to what we call the "American Dream."

During the Freshmen retreat in Baltimore, Kay Cole James, who later became President George W. Bush's Director of the Office of Personnel Management, warned us that if we ever took for granted the magnificence of the great monuments in Washington—the U.S. Capitol, the Lincoln, Jefferson, and Washington monuments—then it was time to leave. Every time I've seen those monuments—now thousands of times after 20 years—I've thought of Kay's wise counsel. And I've never grown tired of seeing them and what they stand for.

Swearing-in day, the first week of January of 1993, was overwhelming. I saw my name on the voting board and saw mom and Freda in the gallery. Our three kids were on the floor of the House with me. As the time came for us to raise our right hands to be sworn in, my life paraded in front of me within a few seconds: the little 10-year-old boy dreaming of this very moment, the virtually unbeatable odds to get elected, the unspeakable honor of becoming a Member of the House of Representatives, the lives given on battlefields to preserve this country's government, the people who had served from the time of the First Congress under the Constitution.

On swearing-in day, our family made a special trip to view the Emancipation Proclamation at the National Archives, where it was on display only for a few days. We had to get permission to get in before regular hours. Just the five of us stood in front of that document, and my heart pounded. I was from his State. He gave his life to protect the God-given freedom of others.

(The newspaper article written about that experience with the Emancipation Proclamation caught the eye of Loretta Carter Haynes, whose family members generations ago were slaves in Washington, D.C. For years she had been trying to get the National Park Service to ring the bells in the Old Post Office in downtown Washington to commemorate the District of Columbia emancipation act of April 16, 1862, which predated the more famous proclamation by Lincoln six months later. Our office intervened, and today those bells ring faithfully every April 16).

As the Speaker started the ceremony and asked us to raise our right hands and repeat the Oath, my eyes were flooded and my voice cracked as I tried to repeat the words of office, but was unable to voice them because of the awesomeness of the occasion. The kids looked at me then and at the next nine swearing-ins, when the same thing happened every time. This, perhaps, was one of those monuments of which Kay Cole James had spoken.

Committee Assignments are very important in Congress, but I chose two committees that many Members shy away from: Small Business, because I had been raised in small business my entire life and could relate to the people running small businesses, and Foreign Affairs, where I had developed an interest in international relations, especially Asia, when I studied at American University in Washington between 1964 and 1967. Four years later, I was also appointed to what is now known as the Financial Services Committee.

It's hard to imagine the significance of my choosing Small Business and Foreign Affairs committees, especially since few Members ever ask for them as their first choice. I eventually became the Chairman of the Small Business Committee in 2001, where I expanded the services of the Small Business Administration while cutting unneeded personnel by 25 percent and its budget by nearly \$300 million dollars over the course of my six-year term. Because of my interest in Asia and service on Foreign Affairs, the Speaker appointed me as the first Chairman of the US-China Inter-parliamentary Exchange.

There was an Exchange meeting in Beijing between me and President Jiang Zemin in 2003. As we were discussing various issues, I asked myself and prayed how I ended up with this great honor of representing the House of Representatives.

People have asked what I consider to be the most memorable events of my career. Was it interacting with presidents? Meeting a certain foreign leader? No: it has been the opportunity to mentor students and many of my young staff. In November of this year, I received a note from a constituent who also attends the same church as I do in Leaf River. He had helped in our 2012 primary. He wrote to me thanking me for a conversation I had with him in November of 1999 while he attended an annual Youth Conference I hosted. In his letter to me, he stated: "I shared with you some of the struggles I was experiencing

as a new Christian in a hostile high school environment. Your words of encouragement touched me deeply, and you wrote me a note in my little book that I have kept for almost 13 years. I scanned this note today and wanted to send it to you as a way of saying thank you for being a mentor to me, both when I was just a kid in high school and now as an adult who is interested in a career in public service. Your model for serving the people of the United States as an extension of your service to God is something worthy of great respect and admiration."

He then attached a copy of the note I had written him: "November 19, 1999. Adam, continue to believe that people who really care need to stay involved, even when circumstances dictate the opposite. Be of good cheer. God Bless. Donald Manzullo, United States Congress."

I've always believed that God has a purpose and a plan for every life. After the 2012 primary, Freda and I received a letter from a lady who attends our church in Leaf River: "I know God has a plan for your lives so I'm not going to say I'm sorry about the outcome of the election—'cause I'm not. It's just time to put your fishing boat and nets away, and 'Follow Him.'"

Where He leads, I don't know.

In closing, my mind goes back to my dear, fellow Illinois congressman, Abraham Lincoln, who, in his Gettysburg address, stated: "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but we can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

Years from now no one may remember the many times I spoke on this House floor or the causes I championed. People might look at my portrait hanging in the Small Business Committee hearing room and wonder, "Who is he?" But the answer is simple. We all have a part in Lincoln's unfinished work. I am just one man, whose deep love for this country caused him to leave his private sector job and enter into a life of public service. For that great honor, I will always be grateful to the citizens of the 16th Congressional District of Illinois who allowed me to serve on their behalf. I encourage all Members to truly remember whom they represent: not a political party; not organizations but people.

TRIBUTE TO MARY JESSIE
GONZALEZ ROQUE

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a very special woman, Mary Jessie Gonzalez Roque, known by her friends as "Susie." She was an inspiring community leader, a trusted staff member, and a dear friend who is sadly no longer with us.

As all Representatives know, good staff makes a Member, and they are essential to the operations and effectiveness of Congress. Susie was a valued employee of mine who retired after thirty-three years of dedicated service to the 20th District of Texas.

Susie's parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico before she was born so

that they might have a piece of the American dream. They raised Susie, their first born, and her four siblings in San Antonio. Susie exhibited her value of education throughout her elementary, high school, and college careers. She parlayed this love of education and her skill at helping others into a job as a teacher at Burbank High School in San Antonio during the 1970–1971 academic year.

In 1971, Susie obtained a summer job in the District Office of my father, the late U.S. Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez. She was hired full-time to handle casework for the 20th District of Texas and her summer job turned into a thirty-three-year career. Susie expressed pride in working for my father, a notable figure in Texas and U.S. politics. He was celebrated in San Antonio as being a man who gave a voice to those who could not speak for themselves. Susie was vital to my father's efforts in this endeavor because she worked in close contact with people who could not navigate through the often convoluted systems of federal bureaucracies by themselves.

I was blessed to be elected to represent the 20th District of Texas in 1998. Like my father before me, I recognize the value of providing good constituent services to those whom I represent. Therefore, I hired Susie to continue in her casework position so that she could continue to provide important services for constituents. Her many accomplishments led me to promote her to be my District Office Director.

Additionally, Susie was a leader in our community and an incredible advocate for Mexican-American women. She was one of the founding members of the Mexican American Business and Professional Women's Club of San Antonio. Throughout her life she fought to help Mexican-American women achieve equity in the workplace and the community.

In the five and one-half years that Susie worked for me, she proved herself invaluable to me, my staff, and the constituents of the 20th District of Texas. I am sincerely proud to count myself among those who have had the opportunity to know and work with Susie. She was part of the Gonzalez family. She was there not only for the ups and downs of political life, but she also shared in our family's joys and sorrows through the years. Her enduring dedication to serving the 20th Congressional District will continue to set the standard for service to our community. Susie enriched all of our lives and that is why we mourn her today and will greatly miss her tomorrow.

COMMENDATION OF JEANNINE
CAMPAU PALMS

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the contributions of Jeannine Campau Palms.

Ms. Palms has dedicated her life to preserving a safe and clean environment for future generations and working towards justice for all people. Among her many accomplishments, the creation of the Buhr Park Children's Wet Meadow is particularly noteworthy. The Buhr Park Children's Wet Meadow is a group of wet meadow ecosystems in Buhr

Park, Ann Arbor, Michigan. The meadows preserve habitat for local plants and wildlife, filter stormwater runoff, and serve as an educational site for both children and adults.

The Buhr Park Children's Wet Meadow is one example of Ms. Palms' life's work. A life committed to creating sustainable communities, promoting social justice, and preserving our nation's natural resources.

H.R. 1845, THE MEDICARE IVIG
ACCESS ACT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I support this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 1845, but I must express concern about once again violating regular order in bringing this bill to the floor today. Neither the IVIG Access Act nor the Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers (SMART) Act went through the committee process, thus depriving Members of the opportunity to discuss these policies in an open forum.

One consequence of this lack of dialogue is that this bill does not provide any funding to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement the new Medicare Secondary Payer rules, something that could have been corrected in committee were Members able to do so. This is yet another example of placing additional burden on an already woefully underfunded administrative agency.

HONORING ROBERT NEES

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. COSTA, to acknowledge and honor Robert Nees, Turlock Irrigation District's Assistant General Manager for Water Resources, who is retiring on December 31, 2012; and to thank him for his dedicated 33-years service to the District.

Established in 1887, the Turlock Irrigation District, TID, was the first publicly owned irrigation district in the state. In 1893, TID built La Grange Dam on the Tuolumne River in partnership with Modesto Irrigation District, MID, to divert water into their canal systems. In addition, TID operates Don Pedro Dam, Reservoir and Power House, facilities that it owns jointly with MID. Today, TID provides irrigation water to more than 5,800 growers on 150,000 acres of farmland and serves electricity to 100,000 accounts.

Mr. Nees joined TID in 1979 as the District's Public Information Officer and developed TID's first legislative and public affairs program. In 1993, Mr. Nees became TID's Water Resources and Public Affairs Administrator, taking on responsibility for all of TID's water-related issues, and in 1995 he was named as TID's Assistant General Manager of Water Resources and Regulatory Affairs. Mr. Nees' current title is Assistant General Manager of Water Resources and his responsibilities include overseeing TID irrigation operations and working with local, state and federal agencies

on issues affecting the District's water supply and hydroelectric operations.

In 1995, Mr. Nees helped negotiate a settlement agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, MID, the City and County of San Francisco, CCSF, conservation groups and state and federal agencies. The agreement included minimum stream flow schedules at La Grange Dam to benefit fish; a program to monitor Chinook salmon populations and habitat in the Tuolumne River; and programs and activities to enhance habitat in the Tuolumne River downstream of Don Pedro Dam.

The following year, Mr. Nees developed and implemented a communications plan for TID and participated in the development of the 1996 Fourth Agreement with the City and County of San Francisco that apportioned costs among CCSF, MID and TID arising from the Districts' responsibilities as FERC licensees for the Don Pedro Project hydroelectric facilities.

In 1998, Mr. Nees represented TID on the San Joaquin River Group Authority during development of the Vernalis Adaptive Manage-

ment Plan, VAMP, and the San Joaquin River Agreement, which together established and implemented an alternative means of meeting the San Joaquin River flow objectives contained in the State Water Control Board's 1995 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. Initiated in 2000, the 12-year VAMP program also included protective measures for fall-run salmon and studies of how different San Joaquin River flow levels affect delta resources and water supply conditions.

Mr. Nees led TID's voluntary effort to develop a groundwater management plan that included mitigation of overdraft conditions, as well as conservation, recharge, and conjunctive-use activities. When state law made the program mandatory in 2011, Mr. Nees oversaw TID's effort to comply with the requirements for agriculture water use efficiency and improved water measurement and conservation.

Mr. Nees also has been TID's lead on a variety of other complex water supply, operations and environmental compliance matters for the District. These include overseeing develop-

ment of TID's municipal water treatment system, including the 2000–2002 installation of an infiltration gallery in the river to serve both as a future diversion point for a treatment facility for domestic water, and provide more river flow in the critical portion of the Tuolumne River below La Grange Dam for fish habitat.

Since 2009, Mr. Nees has worked on the relicensing by FERC of the Don Pedro Project. The current hydroelectric license expires in April 2016. Bob assembled a relicensing team consisting of TID, MID and outside consultants, and Bob has lead the team through all the key steps in the relicensing process, which is now nearing its conclusion.

Those of us who work on California water issues will miss Mr. Nees' expertise and his calm and steady hand.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. COSTA and me in honoring Turlock Irrigation District's Assistant General Manager for Water Resources, Robert Nees on his retirement and thank him for his exemplary leadership and service to the District.