

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening, September 27, I was unavoidably detained and thereby absent for votes on rollcall Nos. 448, 449, 450, 451, and 452. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 448, "yea" on rollcall No. 449, "yea" on rollcall No. 450, "yea" on rollcall No. 451, and "yea" on rollcall No. 452.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIJAH M. HUTCHINSON, EAGLE SCOUT

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Elijah M. Hutchinson, Boy Scout, from Greenpoint, Brooklyn who will be honored on October 10, 1999, for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest honor a Scout can earn. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, 12 of which are required. The merit badges an Eagle Scout must earn range from First Aid to Camping to Citizenship of the Community, Nation, and the World. What's more, each Eagle Scout must demonstrate leadership in the community, and must complete an Eagle Project that he must plan, finance, and execute. Elijah has accomplished all this and more.

In receiving this special recognition, Eagle Scout Elijah M. Hutchinson will, I believe, guide and inspire his peers toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Elijah on this exceptional accomplishment.

PETE GRANILLO—THCC's 1999 HISPANIC BUSINESSMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Hispanic leader in the Tucson community, Mr. Peter Alonso Granillo. Because Mr. Granillo has had such a positive impact on the business environment for Hispanics and because he has generously supported many charities within the Hispanic community, he has been named the 1999 Hispanic Businessman of the Year by the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Granillo has been a recognized leader within the Hispanic business community for many years. His concern for improving the business opportunities available to minority contractors led him to found the National Association of Minority Contractor's Southern Ari-

zona Chapter. His work with this group has helped it grow into one of the most important business networks for Hispanics in Arizona. He currently serves as its President. Mr. Granillo's local success with the organization has brought him to national prominence and he currently serves as the third Vice-President to the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC)—National Chapter.

In addition to Mr. Granillo's own successful business activities and the success he has generated for the NAMC, he has been instrumental in expanding the influence and success of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the South Tucson Business Association. Both of these organizations have benefited greatly from his leadership and business acumen. Mr. Granillo has also encouraged Hispanic businessmen and businesswomen to work within the already established business networks. He has led the way in joining and in developing relevant membership opportunities within the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and in the American Subcontractors Association.

Fortunately for many charities, Mr. Granillo's business commitments have not taken all of his time and energies. He has been a member, supporter and contributor to the Old Pueblo Optimist Club, the Knights of Columbus and the South Tucson Weed & Seed Committee. His work with the South Tucson Weed & Seed Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, has helped the program achieve recognition as possibly the best Weed & Seed Program in the nation. Aside from his efforts with established community service organizations, Mr. Granillo has a personal project that he organizes each Christmas: a bicycle drive for the low income children of South Tucson. Through this drive, he obtains up to 100 new bicycles and then delivers them to the children on Christmas Day.

Mr. Granillo is a citizen worthy of national recognition for his many contributions to his community, his state and his country. I applaud his efforts to organize and address the concerns of minority business people, especially minority business contractors. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing one of our most enterprising and committed Hispanic business leaders, Mr. Peter Alonso Granillo.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET FOR MEDICARE DESTROYS PROGRAM'S ABILITY TO SERVE PUBLIC, FIGHT FRAUD, AND PROTECT NURSING HOME PATIENTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the HHS appropriations bill slashes Medicare's administrative budget. To quote from the Committee: "The bill makes available \$1,752,050,000 in trust funds for Federal administration of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, which is \$390,785,000 below the fiscal year 1999 comparable level and \$264,077,000 below the Administration request."

The Administration had requested about \$200 million worth of user fees, which have no hope of passing in this Congress. As a result, the Appropriations Committee action is a devastating blow to the Nation's seniors and disabled.

If these figures were to become law, our ability to fight Medicare fraud, waste and abuse will be crippled. Our ability to visit nursing homes and other providers to check on quality and protect vulnerable seniors will be 40% of the amount requested by the Administration. It is no exaggeration to say that this budget will lead to the unnecessary death of older citizens.

Speaker Gingrich must still be here. He is the one who said: "HCFA will wither on the vine." This budget achieves that goal—it destroys our ability to administer a compassionate and effective Medicare program.

TRIBUTE TO KARL BOECKMANN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Karl Boeckmann, who will be presented with the prestigious Nelle Reagan Award for Distinguished Community Service by the Olive View-UCLA Medical Center Foundation for his tireless efforts to better his community.

President Kennedy once said, "For of those to whom much is given, much is required." The Nelle Reagan Award was established to honor outstanding individuals, those who have exemplified leadership, volunteerism, and service. For over twenty years, Karl has generously committed his time and resources to many philanthropic causes, such as the John Wayne Cancer Institute, Goodwill Industries, and New Directions for Youth. He has been honored with the William Shatner Partners with Youth Award, the 1996 Humanitarian Award from New Directions for Youth, and the Ellis Island Award.

As a fellow Certified Public Accountant, I know how important honesty, accuracy, and integrity are to Karl.

He exemplifies these characteristics, and reaches out on a daily basis to work toward the empowerment, education, and care in the development of our children.

Coupled with his own efforts to better his community, Karl's wife, Thyra, shares with him active commitments to ChildHelp, USA, where Thyra has served as a Los Angeles board member and executive vice-president, as well as a member of the Coordinating Council national board. Karl credits Thyra as his source of inspiration for his many humanitarian efforts.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Karl Boeckmann, a citizen who has shown an unwavering commitment to the betterment of his community and is deserving of our recognition and praise.

HONORING CAMPOS BROS. FARMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tony and Fermin Campos for