

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REGARDING FREDDY FENDER

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American patriot, cultural icon and leader in our South Texas community, Freddy Fender, an accomplished artist whose appeal is ageless. Freddy proved his everlasting influence last month when he won the Grammy for Best Latin Pop Album.

A San Benito Texas, native Freddy was born Baldemar Huerta. He began his career as a teenager recording Spanish language recordings of popular English language songs that found an audience in Mexico and Latin America in the 1950s. In the 1960's his career took off in the United States with the hit, "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights."

Those wild, early days eventually put him on a more disciplined path. He went back to school and worked as a mechanic, but he continued singing.

His number one hit, "Before the Next Tear-drop Falls," was his re-entry into popular culture. That album went multi-platinum, and Fender won best male artist of 1976. In the latter part of the century, he spread his wings, expanded upon his talent and worked with Robert Redford in the movie "The Milagro Beanfield War" and other non-traditional projects.

He found his stride, working different parts of the entertainment industry. But he never strayed far from the bounds of music, working with The Texas Tornados.

Very recently, Freddy and his family were tested in the fire when Freddy survived a near-death experience. After a protracted illness Freddy received a kidney from his daughter, thus cheating death, and is still singing and writing his songs.

Freddy's Grammy Award-winning album this year captured the yearning for a simple, romantic return to youth. The cover has a 4-year-old Baldemar Huerta dressed as a cowboy astride a painted pony. "La Musica de Baldemar Huerta" is 10 boleros with little accompaniment, allowing the classic Fender voice to carry the Spanish language bolero with charm and ease. Boleros are poignant ballads generally featuring sophisticated guitar picking and sensual rhythms.

The one thing for which Freddy is known in South Texas is his generosity of spirit in establishing a scholarship fund for average students. An average student himself, and an avowed troublemaker in his youth, he has a unique understanding of the challenges before a young person who has either made a mistake, made only average grades, or both.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring Freddy Fender, a great American treasure . . . a South Texan, a friend, and lifelong cultural icon in North American music.

HONORING THE 2002 PASADENA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AND THE LAWRENCE-CEDARHURST FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Pasadena Strawberry Festival as it celebrates its 29th anniversary, kicking off this year's festival with an opening ceremony at the Pasadena Fairgrounds on May 17, 2002. The multi-cultural weekend event draws a crowd of more than 30,000 to enjoy the strawberries, entertainment, food, activities and fun.

The Strawberry Festival began in 1974 when Helen Alexander, better known as Miss Helen, "planted a seed" to promote the grand opening of the new Pasadena Historical Museum. The seed Miss Helen planted grew into today's Pasadena Strawberry Festival, named to honor Pasadena's heritage as the Strawberry Capitol of the World.

The Pasadena Strawberry Festival is a two-and-a-half day multi-cultural event produced by hundreds of volunteers on the Pasadena Fairgrounds. Continuous live entertainment, arts and crafts, children's games, carnival rides, a fabulous variety of goods, special acts and demonstrations, and of course, "Texas' Largest Strawberry Shortcake," are just a few of the Festival's features. Proceeds from the festival funds scholarships, books for college libraries, and community projects that preserve and promote the study of Texas history.

This year the Pasadena Fire Department and the Pasadena Strawberry Festival have invited the Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department from Long Island, New York, to participate in the Pasadena Strawberry Festival Parade on May 11, 2002. Lawrence-Cedarhurst and the Pasadena Volunteer Fire Department have become sister fire departments and Pasadena has traveled to New York on several occasions to participate in parades Lawrence-Cedarhurst has hosted. There will be approximately 23 firefighters from Lawrence-Cedarhurst including the Chief, one Assistant Chief, four Commissioners and other officers and members. Lawrence Cedarhurst, the first volunteer fire department on the list to be called out for mutual aid to New York, has been to ground zero numerous times and aided in the plane crash on November 12, 2001 in Belle Harbor Queens on the Rockaway's Peninsula. Pasadena Police Chief Paul Cobb and Pasadena Fire Chief Jerry Gardner are Grand Marshals of the parade. The Honorary Grand Marshal of this year's parade will be one of Lawrence-Cedarhurst's members, Charles "Monty" Seaman. Monty is on the Advisory Board and has been a volunteer at the Pasadena Strawberry Festival for more than 10 years. He has been with the Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department for 43 years and has held a variety of positions, such

as Chief, Assistant Chief, President of the Fire Department Benevolent Association and is presently Commissioner. Monty is the brother of Sharon Andreno, President of the Pasadena Strawberry Festival.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain the 2002 Pasadena Strawberry Festival will be grand and exciting, while maintaining the warm, country charm of the original Festival. However, this year's festival of community takes on a new meaning after the tragic events of last year. The selfless acts of the firefighters in New York and around the nation remind communities everywhere of the unyielding commitment to the public good held by so many public servants throughout the country. I welcome the members of the Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department to Pasadena and recognize and applaud these protectors of our neighborhoods for their work on our behalf.

SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the International Criminal Court as it comes into existence at a United Nations ceremony in New York City. As my colleagues are aware, since coming to Congress I have been highly supportive of an I.C.C., and I strongly believe in its principal, that human rights abusers who commit crimes against humanity or genocide should be brought to justice.

Several years ago, I visited the Hague, and was deeply moved by the intense law enforcement and criminal justice efforts there to bring abusers to justice. A permanent international criminal court which can bring future perpetrators of war crimes to full and complete justice is in our national interests.

Support for the International Criminal Court is nearly universal among our allies, among those ratifying the Rome Treaty are our closest friends in the war against terrorism, such as the United Kingdom. The European Union has a common position supporting the court and the list of ratifying countries includes so many of our closest allies that many commentators have referred to the ICC as the Court of the Democracies.

I feel strongly that if we are not to ratify the Rome Treaty at this time, at a minimum, adopt a policy of constructive engagement with the Court. We must be engaged to ensure that we use our Security Council referral power in a responsible manner to both deter war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide to ensure that those who commit such crimes are brought to justice. As leaders of the free world, we must recognize that the only way to achieve a court that we can live with, is to stay engaged in the continuing negotiations over the scope, purpose, and construction of it.

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