

Aging and Adult Services. Dave lent his expertise to several senior task forces and committees, such as the Meeker and Craig Assisted Living taskforce, the Fruita and Parachute Community Center Committee, and the Advisory Committee to the Colorado Senior Lobby Organization.

Mr. Speaker, Dave Norman is a dedicated public servant who goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve his community and his Nation. I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of a person who encourages his fellow Americans to aide our Nation's senior citizens. It is the efforts of people like Dave that help build strong and caring communities. Thank you for your service, Dave, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR RIKLIN,
CITIZEN EXTRAORDINAIRE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honor to recognize today a friend and mentor who has distinguished himself brilliantly in business, politics and community. I speak of Arthur Riklin, who has lived his entire life—outside of college and military service—in

my hometown of San Antonio, Texas. This Sunday, September 12, 2004, the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, commonly known as AIPAC, is honoring Arthur for his service to the community and his steadfast support of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

Arthur is a leader in every sense of the word. He inspires others and leads by example. He currently serves as chairman of the San Antonio Friends of Israel Committee, a group he has nurtured and encouraged the past few years with great success. When you speak with Arthur, you can feel his passion, his commitment, and his dedication. He is an advocate who speaks from the heart about the common values and mutual interests shared by the United States and Israel.

A few years ago, Arthur spoke at Temple Beth-El in San Antonio about the impact of Judaism in his life. He spoke of his early experiences with anti-Semitism growing up in San Antonio, planting within him the seeds of political activism. He ended his talk by urging his friends to be involved in the political process to fight injustice and promote issues of importance. He explained that it meant not only voting, but also getting to know elected officials personally, to share viewpoints, and thereby be in a position to make a difference.

Arthur has done just that—he has made a difference to me and to countless others. A successful businessman whose family had little when he was a child, Arthur has given

back to his community. He served five years as an officer in the United States Air Force, followed by seven years in the Reserves. He has raised money for charitable causes and given of his time generously. Arthur has served in senior leadership positions with numerous organizations, including the USO Council of San Antonio, the Rotary Club, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He helped establish the Judeo-Christian Studies Committee of St. Mary's University and is a lifetime member of the NAACP, both part of his lifelong effort to bring diverse people together in ways that increase understanding and break down barriers. It is no wonder that he has received the Lyndon Baines Johnson Humanitarian Award, the NCCJ's National Brotherhood Humanitarian Award or Hadassah's Myrtle Wreath Award.

Above all else, Arthur is a gentleman, a loving husband, father and grandfather. He is married to Helene Katz, also of San Antonio, and they have three children and five grandchildren. Of all his awards and honors, I know he values them the most.

Mr. Speaker, those in this House who know Art Riklin, and many of us on both sides of the aisle know him, appreciate his quiet, yet persistent voice, and we value his counsel and advice. Arthur Riklin is a gentleman and a citizen extraordinaire. May he go from strength to strength.