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PROTECTING THE PURPOSE OF
THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for the past six weeks, Democrats have attacked Majority Leader TOM DELAY's character, leadership and intentions.

Although Democrats continue to smear Congressman TOM DELAY, they forget that they are responsible for preventing the Ethics committee from investigating the charges directed at Mr. DELAY. Since the beginning of the 109th Congress, House Democrats have refused to allow the Ethics Committee to meet to address this issue.

Four Ethics Committee Republicans have pledged that as soon as Democrats permit the Ethics Committee to function again, they will vote to form an investigative subcommittee to review various allegations concerning travel and other actions by Congressman DELAY.

Majority Leader DELAY has said all along that he wants to appear before the Ethics Committee to address recent accusations. Unfortunately, Democrats prefer to attack his character for political purposes rather than officially investigate these allegations. Democrats should stop playing politics with the House Ethics Committee, and should give Congress-

man DELAY the opportunity to defend himself through the Congressional ethics process.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO
HIPOLITO ACOSTA, DISTRICT DI-
RECTOR, USCIS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today to extend my thanks and gratitude to Hipolito Acosta for his service to Houston, Texas and the United States as District Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office during the last three years and his 24 years serving our country.

A native Texan, Mr. Acosta was born in Presidio, Texas and started his career with USCIS as a U.S. Border Patrol Officer in Marfa in 1975. Throughout his career he has received numerous awards as well as international recognition for his leadership in customer service and enforcement duties. He is a four-year Navy Veteran and a former member of the Illinois National Guard. He is also one of the most highly honored legacy INS officers, including six Commissioner Awards and the prestigious Newton-Azrak Award for courage and heroism displayed in the line of duty.

His domestic career included front line and leadership roles in the fight against alien smuggling in key positions such as Criminal Investigator in Chicago, Special Agent with the El Paso District and Border Patrol Sector, and

as Supervisory Special Agent in Brownsville, Texas. High profile investigations and successful undercover operations involving thousands of smuggled aliens from Central America, Europe and the Middle East were trademarks of his investigative career.

In 1989, Mr. Acosta was selected as Assistant Officer in Charge of INS operations in Manila, Philippines, assuming command of the office in February 1991. During his tenure in the Philippines, Mr. Acosta developed relations with host country government officials, to include the Office of the President and was one of six U.S. diplomats to receive high recognition by President Corazon Aquino. While in Manila, he developed the first ever citizenship program for thousands of Philippine World War II veterans. He was highly recognized as the driving force in the citizenship program abroad with the naturalization of over 7,000 applicants.

Following his tenure in the Philippines, Mr. Acosta was appointed to Officer in Charge in Monterrey and Ciudad Juarez. Later, as District Director for the INS Mexico City Office, he was responsible for overseeing sixteen different offices in Latin America and the Caribbean with operational jurisdiction over 42 countries, including a pre-inspection station in Aruba and refugee office in Havana, Cuba. In 2002, Mr. Acosta returned to Texas and assumed leadership of the INS Houston District and then became the first District Director of the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service in Houston.

I commend Mr. Acosta for his service to the United States and congratulate him on his retirement.