join his wife Lam Pek Kim and his children Henry, Willie, Lilly, Jerry, Raymond and Sunny in recognizing his many professional accomplishments and his service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RAÚL DÁVILA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Raúl Dávila, the late, great Puerto Rican actor. Mr. Dávila was a leading light in the Hispanic acting community and a good friend. He will be missed by all who knew or knew of him.

Mr. Dávila was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico on September 15, 1934. He graduated from the University of Puerto Rico and Tulane University. By the time he was in his early twenties, he was acting in soap operas and other works broadcast on the island of Puerto Rico. In spite of his success in Puerto Rico, he soon felt the pull to move to a larger market and to take on more challenges. In late 1963, like so many of his generation, he moved to New York.

Upon arriving in New York, he immersed himself in the vibrant and vital Hispanic acting and arts scene. He began to work as an actor, and starred in many television shows, both in Spanish and English. He, along with other Hispanic actors, fought valiantly for the rights and recognition that Hispanic actors deserved.

One manner in which Mr. Dávila successfully pushed for equal opportunities for Hispanic actors was through his leadership at the Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors, or HOLA, of which he was president many times. Part of HOLA's mission statement reads that the organization seeks "to expand the presence of Hispanic actors in both the Latino and mainstream entertainment and communications media by facilitating industry access to employing professional and emerging Hispanic actors." Raúl Dávila's service to the community, of which he was such a vital part, focused directly on that mission. He sought to open doors for Hispanic actors here in the United States.

Today we often take for granted much of the success that Latino performers have in show business. It is important, however, to remember that this was not always the case. We must recognize those who led the way. For this reason, it is fitting that we honor this Puerto Rican actor, who was not only a pioneer in his field, but also set the standard for others to follow in the decades to come.

We must also recognize Mr. Dávila's artistic achievements, which were many. He was the star of many "telenovelas," popular Spanish-language soap operas, as well as well-received appearances in movies like "The Believers," "The Man with My Face," and "Counterplot." He was perhaps best known for his role in "Carmelo Y Punto." His acting in the play "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" won him a prize in 1972 from the Puerto Rican Cultural Institute, and a prize from the newspaper "El Tiempo." He also never gave up his love of learning about his craft, earning a Masters in Dramatic Arts from the Pasadena Playhouse in California later in life.

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Raúl Dávila, we have lost one of the leaders in the Hispanic acting community. His passion for acting and his dedication to promoting opportunities for other Hispanic actors was truly inspirational. Although he has passed on, his works will continue to inspire and impact the lives of generations to come. Surely, that is the mark of great life. I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Raúl Dávila.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1259—TO AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ON BEHALF OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution, H.R. 1259, to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.

The Tuskegee Airmen, formed from 1,000 pilots, bombardiers and navigators, overcame segregation and racial discrimination to become national heroes and advanced our society by desegregating our armed forces. While in combat, the Tuskegee Airmen completed 15,000 missions and never lost an Allied bomber under their escort.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first people of color in U.S. military history to see air combat. This group of brave soldiers became one of the most respected Army Air Corp Fighter Groups of World War II.

In joining the fight to save Europe and the world from a cruel and heinous regime, the Tuskegee Airmen fought for freedom that they could not enjoy in their own country. In taking to the air during the launch of military aviation, these brave men were also fighting a war against bigotry and racism at home. Thus, they deserve the kind of recognition that the Gold Medal will give them.

The Tuskegee Airmen are now in their 80's, so we must pass this bill immediately to honor these WWII heroes so these medals will not be a posthumous honor.

RECOGNIZING DAVID D. TUNCAP FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David D. Tuncap of Tamuning, Guam for his service to our community in four decades of public service and leadership both in government and the private sector. Mr. Tuncap is one of those rare individuals on Guam whose vision and contributions to our visitor industry have benefited our community and made our island a better place to live.

Mr. Tuncap served in the Government of Guam as a Director of the Department of Commerce from 1975 to 1976 and as the first Executive Manager of the Guam Airport Authority from 1976 to 1978. He also served from 1976 to 1978 and from 1981 to 1996 as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Guam Visitors Bureau. In addition to his government experience, Mr. Tuncap held several senior management positions in the private sector in businesses related to the visitor industry. Mr. Tuncap was a key player in the development of Guam's visitor industry and in the period of rapid growth and expansion of our island's tourist infrastructure in the 1970s and 1980s. During his tenure at GVB he promoted the Chamorro culture as the foundation of the visitor experience to Guam.

David Tuncap has been a leader on Guam both within the visitor industry and as a community advocate. He is recognized as a visionary who helped to diversify and grow our island's economy. On the occasion of his retirement, I join our island in saluting his impressive accomplishments and in thanking him for his years of service to our community.

I know his wife Dolores, and his daughters, Antoinette Jo Ann, Nora Jean, Tania Paulette, are especially proud of his accomplishments. I also join them in commending David Tuncap for his lifetime of achievements and for the fine example of what it means to be a dedicated public servant and a successful business leader.