

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DR. HUGO M.
MORALES

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, it is both an honor and a privilege to rise in recognition of Dr. Hugo M. Morales, an illustrious member of the proud Dominican community here in the United States. During this month as we reflect on and commemorate the contributions that Dominicans have—and continue to make—to our great nation, we can take heart that as the years pass and the landscape of the United States undergoes further transformation, we have pillars in our community like Dr. Morales, whose accomplished medical career and selfless ethic can serve to show others the way.

Earning his medical degree in the Dominican Republic at the University of Santo Domingo in 1956, and later doing post graduate work at the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital from 1961 until 1963, Dr. Morales is a specialist in the field of Psychiatry. From 1957 through 1961, Dr. Morales underwent residency training beginning at Morrisania Hospital in the Bronx, and later at both Harlem Valley State Hospital and Grasslands Hospital, where he was named Chief Medical Resident. From 1962 until 1999, Dr. Morales practiced medicine at several medical facilities, spending the majority of his career however at Bronx Mental Health Center, where he attained the position of Medical Director.

Over the years, Dr. Morales has been licensed to practice medicine in four different U.S. states, and holds numerous board certified licenses. In addition, Dr. Morales has held a teaching appointment as Instructor of Psychiatry at Harlem Hospital, and has been the Attending Psychiatrist at both Grace Hospital Center and Bronx Lebanon Hospital's Fulton Division.

Belonging to more than a dozen professional medical societies, and having been appointed to an even greater number of consultation assignments over the years, Dr. Morales' extensive medical background and expertise has been called upon repeatedly by learning institutions throughout the U.S. and by government agencies on the city, state, and federal level. He has grappled with issues from repairing the foster care system to addressing post-traumatic stress disorder in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks.

Moreover, Dr. Morales has received over a dozen honors for his work, including the Christopher Columbus Award—presented to him by the President of the Dominican Republic in 1992—and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which he received in 1996. In 2002, Dr. Morales was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York (CUNY) by then Governor George Pataki—making Dr. Morales the first and only Dominican to ever hold this position. Through his work with

CUNY, Dr. Morales has spearheaded an initiative very close to my heart—that of archiving the migration experience of Hispanic populations to this country. His historical study focuses on the Dominican community, and documents the resilient, inventive, and dignified manner through which Dominicans have bridged our two great countries.

Madam Speaker, on occasions like today, when I have the opportunity to honor such a venerated member of the Dominican community as Dr. Morales, I realize that words alone are incapable of truly conveying all that this individual means—not only to Dominicans in the United States—but also to the larger Hispanic community, as well. That being said, this is also a deeply touching moment for me, as I have had the pleasure of calling Dr. Morales a personal friend of mine for over thirty years. Madam Speaker, the constellation of Hispanics living in this country continues to bring light and richness to the American experience. That constellation undoubtedly shines brighter today because of individuals like Dr. Hugo Morales.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend my friend, former Representative Michael Bilirakis, for his dedication and service to the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues during his tenure in Congress. Because we represented large Hellenic communities, together we cofounded the Hellenic Caucus in 1996. The caucus now includes more than 120 bipartisan Members of Congress.

Together, Representative Bilirakis and I sought justice for Cyprus and fought for the protection of the Hellenic Islands. The caucus has served to bring a renewed congressional focus on diplomatic, military, and human rights issues in a critical part of the world.

Representative Bilirakis represented Clearwater, Tarpon Springs, and Newport Richie in Florida, where he has contributed to the preservation of the Hellenic community. He is a member and supporter of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, which works on an international level to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence.

Representative Bilirakis was a valued Member of Congress, and it was a privilege working with him these past several years. I will miss his friendship, guidance and support. I am thrilled that his son, GUS BILIRAKIS, was elected to Congress and has taken his father's place as the new Republican cochair of the caucus in the 110th Congress. I am looking forward to working with Representative GUS

BILIRAKIS in continuing the important work of the Hellenic Caucus.

REMEMBERING DOMINICAN
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on this 28th of February, to join with the hundreds of thousands of Dominican residents of my congressional district and the millions of Dominicans around the world in celebrating the 163rd anniversary of their motherland's independence.

The road to freedom and independence is not perfect. It can be just as hard, if not harder, to maintain it as it was to secure it. The Dominican people know this lesson first-hand. Their history includes two wars of independence—first from Haiti in 1844 and then from Spain in 1865—as well as struggles against dictators and oppressive governments. And while self-determination has produced a proud nation, various problems still exist, particularly those that stem from poverty and economic despair.

Yet today is a day that all Dominicans are united in celebrating, regardless of their political affiliations. It is a day that we remember the ideals of the Nation, thankful that there is still hope of a better future. It is a day to honor the sacrifices of our heroes in the only appropriate way—by rededicating ourselves to a more just land for all residents, at home and abroad.

The Dominican Republic has been, and always will be, a land rich in history and culture. The spirit of its people has energized our community, our city and our Nation. So it gives me great pride to congratulate Dominicans around the world on their Independence Day. Any day that we can take to celebrate and rededicate ourselves to freedom and justice is not just a good one, but a necessary one.

IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAMESE
NEW YEAR: TET, 2007—YEAR OF
THE BOAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Vietnamese New Year: Tet, 2007—Year of the Boar. To celebrate this joyous event, the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc., will gather at Bo Loong Chinese Restaurant to rejoice with family and friends and enjoy Vietnamese culture and performances.

The Tet celebration will include recognition of volunteer leaders, Vietnamese culinary offerings, dancing and entertainment by Vietnamese youth of Cleveland. Tet is the time of

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