

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT ISAAC
PALOMAREZ

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sergeant Isaac Palomarez.

Mr. Palomarez served in the United States Army as a Sergeant and was assigned to the A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Mr. Palomarez courageously died in combat May 9, 2008 in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I believe his service and commitment to our country most worthy of being preserved in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Isaac Palomarez was born April 14, 1982 and graduated from Loveland High School in 2001. Mr. Palomarez joined the Army in 2004, following in his father Candido's footsteps, who served in the Army in the 1960's.

Palomarez is survived by his parents Candido and Elma Palomarez and will be remembered as a loving son and loyal friend to many.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Palomarez's selfless service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Mr. Isaac Palomarez.

HONORING THE DEEDS OF SER-
GEANT MIGUEL HINOJOSA AND
MICHAELA SULLIVAN

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to honor U.S. Marine Sergeant Miguel Hinojosa and 15-year-old Michaela Sullivan, both of Brentwood, California.

Sergeant Hinojosa and Ms. Sullivan are an example to us all because they acted quickly to save a young child's life. They do not view their deeds as heroic, which is exactly why we need to recognize their selflessness.

On a hot day last month, Ms. Sullivan noticed that a 5-year-old friend and neighbor, who was swimming at their apartment complex, was struggling to stay afloat in the deep water and she rushed into the pool to pull the young girl out.

When Sergeant Hinojosa saw the unconscious child who had just been pulled out of a swimming pool, his instincts took over, and he immediately began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and chest compressions. By the time an oxygen tank arrived on the scene, the girl was breathing.

Thanks to the alertness and quick actions of the high school sophomore and the well-trained 13-year Marine veteran, a young child's life was saved. Had it not been for the quick thinking of Sergeant Hinojosa and Ms. Sullivan, a parent's worst nightmare might have come true for one Brentwood family.

These two citizens have demonstrated what it means to be a true American hero, and I wish to express my sincere gratitude.

RECOGNIZING GRACE THORPE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Grace Thorpe, an environmental justice activist who fought to protect the Native American community who passed away on April 1, 2008 at the Claremore Veterans Center.

Ms. Thorpe dedicated herself to the improvement of health and the environment for the Native American community. As a result of her efforts to prevent the Sac and Fox leaders from accepting grants for storage of nuclear waste in nation territory, many Native American tribes were able to establish Nuclear Free Zones. Ms. Thorpe later served as the Director for the National Environmental Coalition of Native Americans, as well as on the advisory council for Native American affairs at Greenpeace. She authored "Our Homes Are Not Dumps: Creating Nuclear Free Zones" and brought awareness about the environmental injustices in the Native American community.

Ms. Thorpe was also a dedicated public servant. She served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II in New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan, and was awarded a Bronze star for her performance in the battle of New Guinea. She further served as a Tribal District Court Judge and was a Congressional Liaison to the American Indian Policy Review Commission in the U.S. House of Representatives. She earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, obtained a paralegal degree from the Antioch School of Law while in Washington, DC, and was an Urban Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

I applaud Grace Thorpe's achievements and important contributions in bringing environmental justice and awareness to the Native American community. These contributions will not be forgotten.

HONORING CHIEF FRANCISCO
ORTIZ ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and a dear friend as he retires after 30 years of dedicated service to the New Haven Police Department—Chief Francisco Ortiz. Chief Ortiz, or Cisco as he is affectionately known throughout the community, has dedicated a lifetime to public service and his presence at the department will most certainly be missed.

In a career that has spanned over four decades, Cisco has demonstrated what can only be described as an unparalleled commitment to public service and law enforcement. Joining the New Haven Police Department as a patrolman in 1978, he quickly rose through the ranks and gained invaluable experience in every major unit within the Department. Cisco

went on to earn a master's degree in law enforcement from the University of New Haven and is a proud graduate of the 170th Session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy in Quantico. He was invited to attend the prestigious Senior Management Institute for Police at Boston University and attended the inaugural class of the Management Training Institute, a joint initiative between Yale University and the City of New Haven.

A long time advocate of the community policing philosophy, Cisco is also a senior fellow and one of the founders of the Yale Child Study Center's Child Development/Community Policing Program—a program designed to provide police personnel with the special psychological expertise which is needed when dealing with children and families who are witness to, or victims of, violent crime. I have had the privilege of working directly with Cisco on this program and today it stands as a national model for communities across the country.

Cisco's involvement with the community goes far beyond his professional contributions. He also serves on a number of local civic and service organizations including Easter Seals/Goodwill, the Connecticut Puerto Rican Parade Committee, the Connecticut Special Olympics, and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. Cisco has also been an invaluable resource to myself and my staff. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to extend a special note of thanks to him for his participation as a member of the recommendation panel for the Maria Baez Perez Scholarships—a program which I sponsor in memory of one of my former staff members who we lost only a few years ago.

With all of his experience in the Department and in the community, it was no surprise when Cisco was named Chief in 2003—becoming the first Latino in Connecticut to attain the highest rank in a law enforcement agency. It was a very proud day for him, his family, and our community. I have no doubt that Cisco will continue to be involved in our community. His desire and commitment to making New Haven a better place to live, work, and grow will not fade with his departure from the department. Every community should be so fortunate.

Today, as family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate his retirement, I am so pleased to extend my very best wishes to Chief Francisco Ortiz, his wife, Myra, his children, Jennifer, Francisco, and Mariah, as well as his granddaughter Mariah, for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO FLINT CENTRAL HIGH
SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
HONOREES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2008 Flint Central High School Alumni Association honorees. The eighth honorees will be recognized at a dinner to be held on May 15 in Flint, Michigan. This year the Alumni Association is honoring Henry Hatter, Lynn Chandnois, Dr. Catrise Austin, Lawrence R. Gustin, Judge Robert E. Weiss, Dean Ludwig, James Beaubien and posthumously Gracie Field.