

Hyppolite continued success in preserving and promoting an awareness of the diverse groups of the African Diaspora in Miami. Educating the public with a broader perspective of the traditions and struggles many have faced in their efforts to be treated as equal citizens will assure that generations to come will have access to objects and photographs that will enable them to contextualize life in Miami.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
GILBERTO "JOE CUBA" CALDERON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness as I pay tribute to my dear friend Gilberto Calderon who recently passed away. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable man who, over his many years in music, etched his name in history as Joe Cuba, "Father of Latin Boogaloo."

The death of Joe Cuba on February 15, 2009, brought immense sorrow and loss to his family and friends, and to the countless fans and individuals associated with Latin Rhythms and Salsa in the music world. The salsa band leader was famed for weaving a fluid and bilingual mix of musical influences dubbed "The Boogaloo."

Born Gilberto Calderon in 1931 in New York to a family from Puerto Rico, the band leader and conga player helped change the sound of salsa in the 1960s. Until then, most popular salsa had been played by orchestras. But Cuba led a six-member band with three singers who also played percussion and danced a routine.

He had a dynamic group with a signature vibraphone-fronted sound that caused a craze because it was different. Albums such as 1966's *Bang! Bang! Push, Push, Push* incorporated elements of salsa, Latin jazz and R&B and featured lyrics in both English and Spanish.

Joe Cuba's music career started with La Alfarona X in 1950. In 1955 the Joe Cuba Sextet came into being and his vibraharp sound caught on. In 1962, when the group recorded "To Be with You" for Seeco Records, the band began to soar to popularity because of Nick Jimenez's arrangements and the vocals of Cheo Feliciano and Jimmy Sabater.

When the boogaloo era arrived, the majority of the popular New York bands were put out of work. The Cuba sound changed with its recordings of "El Pito" and "Bang Bang." He not only sold millions but enabled The Cuba Sextet to enjoy the No. 1 spot in the Latin music world along with the Eddie Palmieri Orchestra for years to come.

The musician, a friend and contemporary of the late salsa giant Tito Puente, was an extraordinary man who lived a life of achievement which advanced a music that was at the forefront of the Nuyorican movement. Through these melodies brought by America's last citizens, the children of Puerto Rican emigrants, evolved new culture, arts, and politics.

Joe Cuba will be long remembered for his extraordinary commitment, energy, wisdom, discipline, principle, and clear purpose which won the admiration of all who were privileged to come to know and work with him during his distinguished career in and around music. I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to observe and experience his example as a personal inspiration.

Madam Speaker, rather than mourn his passing, I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Joe Cuba by remembering that he exemplified greatness in every way.

RECOGNITION OF CALIFORNIA'S
32ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize California's 32nd Congressional District, which I have had the privilege to have represented for the last 8 years in Congress and which I am proud to call home.

I am proud that my six siblings and I were raised in La Puente. Like many, my parents sacrificed throughout our childhood so my siblings and I could live up to our potential to achieve whatever our talents would allow. Like other families throughout the San Gabriel Valley, my parents instilled in my siblings and me the value of hard work, public service and commitment to family. For most of my adult life I have continued to live in the San Gabriel Valley, calling El Monte home.

California's 32nd Congressional District is a culturally diverse district where residents live and work together as a community to ensure everyone has the opportunity to achieve success and dreams for their families. The communities in the 32nd Congressional District include: the cities of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Covina, Duarte, El Monte, Irwindale, Rosemead, South El Monte, West Covina, and portions of Monterey Park and East Los Angeles.

During my time in Congress I was proud to have been the first Latina on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, where I served as Vice Chair of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee and as Ranking Member during my tenure, and was a member of its Health and Telecommunications and the Internet Subcommittees. I also had the privilege to serve on the House Natural Resources Committee, the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, and the House Education and Labor Committee. In addition, I held several leadership positions, including being the first Latina to chair the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. I also chaired the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Health and the Environment where I spearheaded annual summits across the country on racial and ethnic health disparities.

Throughout my career in public service I worked hard to improve the lives of families by focusing on expanding access to affordable health care, protecting the environment, and job creation. In Congress I have won legisla-

tive victories to provide workforce training for green collar jobs; authorized a Federal study on ways to improve recreational and environmental opportunities for the San Gabriel River Watershed; removed barriers to U.S. citizenship for non-U.S. citizens serving in the U.S. military and reserves; banned pesticide testing on pregnant women and children; helped ensure health care access for Latinos suffering from HIV/AIDS; and promote domestic violence awareness, particularly in communities of color.

I want to thank the residents of California's 32nd Congressional District for electing me to represent them in Congress. I have served during some of the most trying times in California's history, and have worked to help build a better future for our State and country. It has been a privilege to serve and represent the San Gabriel Valley and East Los Angeles in the U.S. House of Representatives for the past 8 years.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my family, especially my parents, Raul and Juana Solis, my husband, and my sisters and brothers for all of their support over the years. They have always believed in me, and have been my source of strength and teachers of the commitment to justice, equality and public service. To my extended family, those I have worked alongside with both in California, thank you for your commitment to public service and justice, and your loyalty.

I also want to thank you, Madam Speaker, all of my colleagues in the House, and in particular California's Congressional delegation. I have enjoyed working with you all during my time in Congress, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with you to build a better country. Thank you and God Bless.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND
REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, delaying the DTV transition will do nothing more than increase spending and will jeopardize our public safety infrastructure. It will require that we spend another \$650 million, and it won't move a single person off the wait list for converter boxes.

In fact, the fund for converter box coupons is not depleted. Only half of the \$1.5 billion in the program has been spent. With a simple legislative change, we could immediately resume sending coupons without delaying the transition process.

Worse still, delaying the transition will jeopardize the spectrum needed by public safety officials for interoperable communication systems—the same vital spectrum requested 5 years before 9/11 that has still not been made available 14 years later.

Let's take immediate steps to eliminate the current back-log of digital converter-box requests to ensure a successful DTV transition on February 17th, and finally pave the way for 21st century communications systems public safety professionals desperately need.