

Americans, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one individual in particular from the First Congressional District who has represented the epitome of leadership and civil service within Northwest Indiana, the Honorable Mara Candelaria Reardon, Indiana State Representative, District 12. A lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, Representative Candelaria Reardon's continued dedication and commitment to her community is to be commended. Being the first Latina elected to the Indiana General Assembly, Representative Candelaria Reardon's service is an inspiration not only to the Hispanic community, but to women of every cultural background, which is fitting as we also recently celebrated the 90th Anniversary of the Woman's Right to Vote on August 26, 2010.

Mara Candelaria Reardon was born in East Chicago, Indiana. She is the daughter of Isabelino "Cande" Candelaria, the first Puerto Rican appointed to a city council in Indiana, and Victoria Soto Candelaria, the first Latina elected as President of the Indiana Federation of Teachers. Growing up in a family where community activism and Hispanic heritage were core values has undoubtedly been the foundation of her remarkable career.

Representative Candelaria Reardon has extensive experience in the public and private sectors. Her introduction to public service began while working for my office as a Federal Projects Coordinator. Mara Candelaria Reardon was elected Representative for Indiana State District 12 in 2006, and she continues to passionately serve the constituents of her district stating, "Their concerns and goals will serve as the focal point of my efforts in the Indiana House of Representatives. I look forward to the opportunity of working with local officials and community leaders to ensure that their needs are addressed." Throughout her tenure in the Indiana General Assembly, a main goal for Representative Candelaria Reardon has been working to lower property taxes, fighting for realistic tax policies.

In addition to her impressive career, Representative Candelaria Reardon is involved in numerous commendable organizations. Currently, she serves as Treasurer of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, an organization that works to create and expand state legislation that supports minority communities throughout the state of Indiana. Recently, she was elected as Treasurer of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL). The NHCSL is a national organization that unites Hispanic state legislators who work to positively impact the quality of life within Hispanic communities across the United States. Through the NHCSL, Representative Candelaria Reardon is able to work on issues such as quality education, healthcare, affordable housing, comprehensive immigration reform, and job creation on behalf of the Hispanic community in her district and across the nation.

Mara's dedication to Indiana District 12 and the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by her devotion to her wonderful family. She and her loving husband, Matthew, have two children, Christian and Victoria.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, let us pay tribute to leaders such as Representative Mara Candelaria Reardon, who have contributed so much to the improvement of our communities and our nation. I respectfully ask that you and

my other colleagues join me in commending Representative Candelaria Reardon for her lifetime of service to the Hispanic community and the community of Northwest Indiana. I am proud to serve as her representative in Washington, D.C.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT CAMMARATA FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Mr. Robert L. Cammarata on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the City of Taunton Department of Human Services.

A tireless and dedicated community leader, Robert Cammarata's career epitomizes public service. He has distinguished himself with his hard work for the people of Massachusetts, and I congratulate him on his accomplishments.

Mr. Robert L. Cammarata was born in 1948 in the village of Ossining, New York. His family moved to the City of Taunton in 1955. Mr. Cammarata served his country as an Army Reservist. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Human Services from New Hampshire College. He is the proud father of Robyn Cammarata Bryant and Thomas Cammarata.

Mr. Cammarata began employment with the City of Taunton in 1974 as the Director of the Taunton Council on Aging. Following a merger of City Departments in 1982, he became the Director of the Department of Human Services. During his tenure, Mr. Cammarata has developed and instituted a variety of programs and services for the citizens of Taunton. He was instrumental in expanding services for seniors of Taunton, including but not limited to, transportation, health programming, nutrition programming including both home delivered meals and site meals, in-home mental health services, bilingual services, nursing services and social and recreational programs. Notable programs that Mr. Cammarata instituted or facilitated include the Elder Outreach Program, Dial-A-Ride, Home Delivered Meals Program, the Elder Mobile Outreach Team for mental health services, Computer & Internet Center for Elders and the UMass Community Nursing Program.

As Human Services Director, Mr. Cammarata also helped conceive, provide and expand many programs for all citizens of Taunton. Noteworthy programs include: the Taunton Safe Neighborhood Initiative, which includes the Community Policing Program, Crime Watch Program, Graffiti Removal Program and was instrumental in assuring communication between policing entities, probation departments, school departments, human services and clergy; Jobs for Youth Program; provision of Basic Needs that included food pantries, emergency utility assistance, emergency rental/mortgage assistance and the establishment of the first homeless shelter in Taunton.

Robert Cammarata was a member of many local, regional and statewide organizations and committees. Locally and regionally, he served as Board Member, Chairman, coordi-

nator and/or as a general member of the Taunton Safe Neighborhood Initiative, Taunton Emergency Task Force, Greater Attleboro/Taunton Regional Transit Authority, Bristol Elder Services, Inc., Advisory Council, Greater Taunton Health and Human Services Coalition, St. Francis Samaritan House, Bristol Plymouth Regional High School Council, Italian Social Club and the Kiwanis. Statewide, Mr. Cammarata was a Chairman/Board Member of the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, Cape and the Islands Regional Councils on Aging, Local Officials of Human Services Council and a member of many committees through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. In 2006, Mr. Cammarata received the Council on Aging Director of the Year from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging.

Over his thirty-four years of public service, Robert L. Cammarata has assisted many elders, individuals and families in accessing needed services to assure that they live safe, healthy, happy and productive lives. He has mentored many human service professionals during his life and we honor Mr. Cammarata for who he is and what he has accomplished.

HONORING THE RUTHERFORD DUST SOCIETY OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rutherford Dust Society. They are being recognized by the Friends of the Napa River this evening for their sterling work to restore the Napa River in the Rutherford area.

The Rutherford Dust Society was founded in 1994 by growers and vintners in tribute to the legacy of our grape growing and winemaking forebears. In 2002, the Society's board voted to empower a subcommittee to be known as the Rutherford Dust Restoration Team (RDRT). The Restoration Team, chaired by Davie Piña, was tasked with initiating a plan to manage and restore the Napa River. Among other objectives, RDRT focuses on reducing sediment loading into the river downstream; restoring habitat for salmonids and other aquatic species; restoring a continuous corridor of riparian habitat for birds and wildlife; replacing invasive plants with native species; and engaging landowners in the process to maintain regulatory compliance.

After seven years of hard work and planning, the RDRT broke ground on phase 1 of its restoration project, which will rehabilitate over four miles of the river. RDRT is a pioneering project in that it is one of the few comprehensive reach-scale restoration projects in the region to move beyond just planning into on-the-ground implementation. This rare achievement would not have been possible without the leadership of Mr. Piña and the Dust Society's board.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank everyone involved with the Rutherford Dust Society for the example they set as consummate stewards of the land. We wish them the best of luck on their continued efforts to improve our environment for agriculture and the community.