

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ANNE LUCILLE  
CAPRARA

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 1, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Anne Lucille Caprara, 102, of Gonzales, who passed away peacefully at her home Wednesday, June 22, 2011. She was born January 11, 1909 in Salinas. She was a member of St. Theodore's Catholic Church and Pro Ticino of Northern California. Anne always said, "You're ok as long as you can still get out of bed," and she was able to do that until days before her passing. She was born in Salinas, but was a lifelong resident of Gonzales. She graduated in 1927 from Gonzales High School where she was recently honored for being the longest living alumni.

She met and married a dashing young man from Switzerland, Victor Caprara. They had three children. Anne was a devoted wife and mother. Being a homemaker was her priority in life. The "famiglia" loved having their family and friends gather around their table, enjoying conversation and eating delicious food which Anne enjoyed preparing. Roasting chestnuts was a must during the holidays.

She and her husband traveled to Switzerland twice to meet Victor's family and visit her relatives in Canton Ticino. Her parents were also Swiss immigrants. They looked forward to the annual Swiss Picnics and dancing to Swiss polkas. Anne's family wishes to express their deepest gratitude to her kind and very caring care-givers, Margaret and Leticia and her long time physician, Dr. Christine Ponzo. Anne was preceded in death by her husband, Victor Caprara in 1973; mother, Angelina Sgheiza; father, Valentino Sgheiza; sisters, Corina Tomasini, and Alice Berry; brother, Leo Sgheiza; granddaughter, Lorelei Ann Farmer; and grandson, Michael Dennis Farmer.

She is survived by her daughters, Loraine Farmer and Dolores (John) Billman both of Salinas; son, Dennis (Janice) Caprara, of Gonzales; grandchildren, Robert Lee Farmer, John "Bowdie" Billman, Bren Billman, Anne Marci, Brian Caprara, Leslie Lombardi, and Sheri Hayes, 17 great-grandchildren and several devoted nieces and nephews.

JUSTICE FOR LAURA CERNA

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 1, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a former prosecutor and judge in Texas for 30 years, and now as the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, I have heard and seen the gamut of crimes against individuals, families and property. But I have also, unfortunately, heard and seen far too many cases of justice denied.

I hope that this will not be the case in the prosecution of Laura Cerna's murderer Antonio Gordillo.

Laura Cerna was an American mother living her dream in Spain teaching English when she became the victim of a brutal murder, her body mutilated and thrown into a river. Her son was left without his mother and her grieving family without their daughter and sister.

Spanish authorities have a suspect, Antonio Gordillo, in custody and are currently charging him with "Basic Homicide." This charge comes with a penalty of only 10–15 years in prison.

I am calling on Spain to ensure that justice is served and to prosecute Antonio Gordillo to the fullest extent permitted by Spanish law.

Laura Cerna's family deserves to know that her murderer is behind bars for a very long time, unable to harm others. Americans need to know that they will be safe when travelling to Spain and that authorities will do all that they can to pursue justice, not just for their own citizens but for those visiting from abroad as well.

Laura Cerna was not "just some foreigner" as her murderer described her, but a mother, daughter, sister, teacher, and friend. Antonio Gordillo must be brought to justice and receive the maximum penalty for his heinous crime. And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING AYDIN TURGUT

**HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 1, 2011*

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible achievement of Aydin Turgut, an extremely talented 6½-year-old constituent of mine. Aydin is the son of Tansel and Ava Turgut from Decatur, Illinois.

At 6½-years old, Aydin won the United States Chess Federation National Elementary Championship that was held in Dallas, Texas from May 6–8th. He successfully completed a perfect tournament by winning all seven of his matches, securing first place out of 294 players.

Success does not come without hard work and dedication. Realizing this at a young age, Aydin spends a half hour practicing chess every morning before catching the school bus. While most of his free time outside the classroom is focused on chess, Aydin also plays the piano, soccer, and tennis.

When asked who his hero was in the game of chess, Aydin grinned and pointed to his father Tansel, who is the highest ranking correspondence chess player in the country. In a recent father-son chess match, the two competitors played to a draw.

Aydin is well on his way in following the footsteps of his father. I congratulate Aydin on his accomplishments and wish him best of luck in his very bright future.

IN HONOR OF EUGENE J.  
VAILLANCOURT FOR HIS 24  
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE  
TO THE CITY OF BOSTON AND  
THE VETERANS' SERVICES DE-  
PARTMENT

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 1, 2011*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eugene J. Vaillancourt in recognition of his 24 years of dedicated service to the City of Boston and the Veterans' Services Department. Throughout his nearly quarter century of service to the City, Gene worked passionately and tirelessly advocating on behalf of veterans.

Gene Vaillancourt was born on October 5, 1942, and raised in South Boston. On February 3, 1963, Gene married the late Rita Calla. They had 2 children, Gene and Billy. Gene has 3 grandchildren, Jennifer, Jordan and Erin.

After graduating from South Boston High School in 1960, he entered the United States Marine Corps (USMC). During his career he served in all 4 Marine divisions at Hawaii, Alaska, Japan and several stateside bases. A disabled combat veteran, Gene served 2 tours in Vietnam in both the 1st and 3rd Marine divisions from 1966–1967 and 1970–1971; for his brave and admirable contributions, Gene was decorated with a Purple Heart. A highly decorated veteran, he was also awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for Outstanding Service, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm. He retired from USMC as a Sgt. Major in 1987 with 27 years of service.

In August of 1987, Gene was hired by the city of Boston Veterans' Services Department and was appointed the assistant commissioner in 1992. During his 24 years with the department Gene played a very active role with various veteran related issues and projects including assisting in the installation of many veteran memorials throughout the City of Boston.

During his time at the Veterans' Services Department, Gene lobbied for well earned benefits for veterans including real estate abatements, increased annuities for 100 percent disabled veterans, and annuities for both Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Wives. On July 1, 2003, Gene proudly accepted his appointment as the Commissioner of the City of Boston Veterans' Services Department, and continues to advocate on behalf of his fellow veterans.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with Gene's family, friends, fellow veterans, and the city of Boston to thank him for his incredible service to his country and his dedication and commitment to veterans. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Gene's distinguished career and in wishing him good health and success in all of his future endeavors.

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