

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TERRI CRUZ AND HER MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF ARIZONA

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many achievements of Ms. Terri Cruz, my friend and a matriarch of the Hispanic community in Phoenix, who has advocated for the social well-being of thousands of Arizonans throughout her lifetime.

On March 28, 2012, Terri was recognized with an Arizona Latina Trailblazer Award presented by Phoenix College Raul H. Castro Institute and Latino Perspectives Magazine. Such an event provided the opportunity to reflect on her many contributions to the Latino community in Phoenix and Arizona.

More than 43 years ago, I met Ms. Cruz while she was working with the Migrant Opportunities Program and SER Jobs for Progress, two very important programs in our community. At the same time, Ms. Cruz was also serving as one of the founding board members of Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., a nonprofit agency based in Phoenix. Today that agency provides social services, education, economic development, and housing programs throughout Arizona. Terri's known trait of serving with compassion, professionalism, and dignity is apparent in all areas of CPLC's work.

For the past 20 plus years, Terri has worked as a social service provider with CPLC, the organization she helped start. Her small frame and friendly disposition is no match for her powerful advocacy skills, which has undoubtedly allowed her to effectively represent and advance the needs of countless Arizonans. In tribute, CPLC named one of its buildings for Ms. Cruz, and in 2008, she was quoted in The Arizona Republic as saying, "I learned that people are what's important. If people need help, you help them. If you have, you share."

As a child of the depression era, who lost both parents by the time she was six, Terri understood the value of hard work and the importance of caring for others. When she was old enough, she began working at a laundry, married at the age of 15, and became a mother to eight children. Terri assumed the challenge of being a single parent, while simultaneously beginning her work as an advocate for our community, and the issues most important to us. Despite her limited education, Terri's "can do" attitude led her to eventually pursue career opportunities as an office assistant, job developer, and a personnel manager.

Ms. Cruz has also encouraged civic participation and over the past two decades has been one of our most reliable volunteers at my annual Citizenship Day event, where she assists citizenship candidates in preparing their application packets.

Additionally, Ms. Cruz's leadership skills has benefited the many boards and commissions

on which she has served. In 1985, she was appointed by former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt to the Nursing Care Institution Administrators Board, while concurrently serving as the National Chairman of the Hispanic Senior Citizen Foundation Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Ms. Terri Cruz and her continued commitment and service to the people of Arizona.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ZEITA MERCHANT

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Lieutenant Commander Zeita Merchant for her service to the country and her contributions to the work of the House of Representatives. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation during the last Congress, I was very fortunate to have her join our staff as a fellow in 2010. I was pleased that she agreed to continue her fellowship during this Congress with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Lieutenant Commander Merchant made invaluable contributions to our work. In particular, she assisted in organizing a forum I co-hosted on the military's efforts to address hazing, as well as recruitment, retention, and promotion challenges for women and minorities across the Armed Services. Her unique perspective and hard work were critical to the success of this event.

Lieutenant Commander Merchant also contributed her expertise on port security matters to our ongoing oversight of the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration.

In addition to her work in the homeland security area, Lieutenant Commander Merchant contributed to hearings on stimulus spending and the implementation of weatherization and green energy loan programs.

We were fortunate and blessed to have Lieutenant Commander Merchant join us for a term as a fellow. I wish her continued success in her next assignment as the Executive Officer of Marine Safety Unit Texas City and note that she will be the first African American woman to serve as the executive officer of a marine safety unit. I am certain that her crew members will benefit from her determination and her exceptional leadership.

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I thank Lieutenant Commander Merchant for her service and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME'S CLASS OF 2012

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I rise to commend five exceptional business leaders from Northwest Indiana who were recently honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame's Class of 2012. Created by The Times and BusNess magazine, induction into the Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame is determined by a panel of local civic and business leaders. While there were many deserving nominees, the individuals selected as the 2012 Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame inductees are: Milford Christenson, Wil Davis, Linda Woloshansky, Tom Gryzbek, and Steve Pangere. For their many contributions to the enhancement of Northwest Indiana, these honorees were recognized at a ceremony that took place at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana, on Friday, March 9, 2012.

Milford Christenson, of Highland, is the president of Christenson Chevrolet. For decades he has been a leader in the philanthropic community of Northwest Indiana. Milford served in the United States Army during World War II as a member of General Patton's Third Army and earned a Bronze Star for his service. A 1947 graduate of Indiana University, he is a proud member of the Indiana University Alumni Association. In 1951, Mr. Christenson and his family purchased a Chevrolet dealership in Griffith and, twelve years later, moved to their current location on Indianapolis Boulevard in Highland. Christenson Chevrolet was named Indiana Dealer of the Year by Time magazine in 2001. Milford Christenson's story is proof that with hard work and determination, anything is possible.

Wil Davis, of Gary, is the owner/operator of the Gary Jet Center, located at the Gary/Chicago International Airport. A Brooklyn native, Wil graduated from Cornell University and later entered the United States Navy. After serving on active duty during the Vietnam War, Mr. Davis joined the Navy Reserve and served until 1987. In 1989, he visited the Gary Airport, and one year later, Wil and his wife, Jean, along with two partners, purchased a small regional airline and moved its base of operations to Gary. Since then, he has developed the Gary Jet Center into a growing and thriving business, which is a tremendous benefit to the citizens of Northwest Indiana.

Linda Woloshansky, of Ogden Dunes, is the president and chief executive officer of The Center of Workforce Innovations in Valparaiso. An East Chicago native, Ms. Woloshansky graduated from Andean High School and Indiana University. Linda learned early on that good employment opportunities allow people

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