

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHARLEY DIAZ, USCG

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the career achievements of Charley L. Diaz as he retires from the United States Coast Guard. Charley has dedicated over thirty years to serving this great nation in the United States Coast Guard.

As a second generation American, he answered the call to serve by attending the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1982. Quickly rising up the ranks, he thwarted narcotic, terrorist, and other maritime threats. He returned to school and attained high honors at both the United States Naval War College and Harvard University. His work even caught the attention of Hollywood and authors alike; he briefed famed spy novel/military author Tom Clancy on maritime drug smuggling techniques for his book and later turned movie, "Clear and Present Danger." Under his leadership, the crew rescued the distressed fishermen of "The Perfect Storm." To top it all off, Charley is a proud recipient of four Meritorious Service medals, three United States Coast Guard Commendation medals, the Humanitarian Service medal, and the Legion of Merit.

Mr. Speaker, fellow members, please join me in congratulating Charley, who is retiring with over thirty years of service. Charley, we wish you and your family all the best!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding players of Marcus High School's boys' basketball team as they celebrate their second consecutive title as 5A state champions. Capably led by Head Coach Danny Henderson, the team's history is a story of success.

The Marcus Marauders demonstrated their determination last year by winning the 2011 state championship. This year, I am very pleased to see they have retained the title of 5A state champions. In the last three seasons, Marcus High School won 115 of its 121 games, proof that the team's drive is matched by its athletic ability. Teammates Phil Forte and Marcus Smart scored 39 points defending their Class 5A championship with a 56-52 victory over Fort Bend Travis. The Marauders closed out the 2011-2012 season with a four point victory. Forte was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2012 Class 5A state championship game.

I am proud of these young men and their coaches; they have been excellent athletic

ambassadors for the Town of Flower Mound and the Lewisville Independent School District. Joining me in saluting their tremendous achievement are their fellow Marcus High School students and the LISD administrators, staff and teachers who have supported their efforts. I am pleased to recognize the Marcus High School boys' basketball team of Flower Mound, Texas as 5A state champions for 2012.

HONORING CANDY O'DONEL-BROWNE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Candy O'Donel-Browne, a tireless advocate for victims of domestic abuse in California's San Joaquin Valley. As we observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week, this is a fitting time to honor Mrs. O'Donel-Browne. As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, VRC, I was proud to nominate Mrs. O'Donel-Browne for the Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy, one of five annual awards given by the VRC. Each year, the Ed Stout Award honors professionals or volunteers whose efforts directly benefit victims and survivors of crime. Mrs. O'Donel-Browne has spent her life doing just that.

After seeing the lack of services for victims in our Valley's rural communities, Mrs. O'Donel-Browne and a few other concerned community members created Mountain Crisis Services, Inc., MCS, in Mariposa, California, in 1990. Since the beginning of MCS, she served as a dedicated and innovative board member and now serves as President of the Board of Directors. Though the work is challenging both physically and mentally, Mrs. O'Donel-Browne has shown exceptional creativity and flexibility, easily filling the role of Executive Director when needed. Due to her diligence and dedication, the life saving services offered by MCS never cease.

In 2008, Mrs. O'Donel-Browne again noticed a void in victims' services in Merced County. After a sister agency was forced to close its doors, MCS opened a fully functioning office and shelter in only six weeks. When the agency finally shut down its services, the Valley Crisis Center stood at the ready to assist victims in Merced County. During this time, she often articulated the need to ensure that no victim should be left without services or access to safety.

MCS has transformed from a single domestic violence agency with a staff of 12 to a dual domestic violence and rape crisis agency with a staff of 30, serving two counties with vastly different populations. Although this transition occurred in a time of economic recession and tight state and federal budgets, she surmounted the odds and did so with professionalism, passion and grace.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues to stand with me in thanking Mrs. Candy O'Donel-Browne for her devotion to the domestic violence movement and to the victims she so faithfully serves. Please join me today in recognizing her remarkable achievements and wish her and the communities she serves many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary bravery and sacrifice of our service men and women by celebrating National Military Appreciation Month.

Since 1999, veteran and service organizations have held events around the country to demonstrate to current and former men and women in uniform and their families that we honor their service. From Military Spouse Appreciation Day to Victory in Europe Day, and from Loyalty Day to Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day, the month of May is a time for our Nation to come together. It is important for all of us to recognize the tremendous service of military members and families across the globe.

The men and women who serve in uniform are guided by their tremendous sense of duty to America and their fellow citizens. In California's 37th District, we've had over 190,000 troops deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001. It has been my honor to represent these constituents and I am extremely proud of their service.

In my district, we suffered the loss of 12 remarkable servicemen. We remember Long Beach residents: Pfc. Stephen A. Castellano, Sgt. 1st Class Randy D. Collins, Sgt. Anthony J. Davis, Jr., Sgt. Israel Garcia, Pvt. Ernesto R. Guerra, Pfc. Lyndon A. Marcus, Jr., Spec. Roberto L. Martinez Salazar, Spec. Astor A. Sunsin-Pineda, Pfc. David T. Toomalatai, Pfc. George D. Torres and Staff Sgt. Joshua Whitaker, as well as Carson resident Pfc. Daniel P. Cagle, who were all killed in action.

As we acknowledge our former, current and future military men and women, it is essential that we provide the resources necessary to help wounded warriors and their families adjust to life outside of the military. I am extremely proud that from 2007-2010, under Democratic Leadership, Congress showed unprecedented support for the troops, their families, and veterans by strengthening health care for more than 5 million veterans, giving troops a pay raise, and strengthening support for military families.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to praise our most heroic citizens. I hope you'll all join me in reflecting on the valor and courage our solemn warriors display in defense of our freedom.

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