

Harding, who is retiring after thirty-four years of accomplished and distinguished military service. Throughout his career as a senior officer, General Harding has provided invaluable testimony and advice to this body and in particular to the Armed Services Committee. Specifically, General Harding has provided his expert military advice on a wide range of defense and national security issues and especially on the workings of the military justice system in relation to the sexual assault crisis in which the military finds itself. I think I speak for all of my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee when I say that his depth of knowledge, outstanding leadership and professionalism, and deep respect and consideration for all of our men and women in uniform will be greatly missed.

The son of an Air Force officer and grandson of a Naval officer, General Harding entered the Air Force with a direct commission in 1980 after receiving his Bachelor of Science degree and Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arkansas. Over the course of his career, General Harding served six tours as a staff judge advocate at the unified command, major command, numbered air force and wing levels. He also served in a variety of staff positions at Headquarters Air Force and as the Deputy Chief Counsel for U.S. Transportation Command. Before serving as The Judge Advocate General (TJAG) General Harding was the Commander of the Air Force Legal Operations Agency.

During his tenure as TJAG, General Harding led the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps during one of the most turbulent periods in military law and most challenging budget crises in history. He innovatively orchestrated the creation and implementation of the Federal Government's first-ever Special Victims' Counsel Program, ensuring legal representation for victims of sexual assault. This Program was subsequently adopted by the Secretary of Defense and implemented across the Department of Defense.

Additionally, General Harding's focused processing initiatives revitalized the military justice system by drastically reducing court-martial processing times. He also resurrected the publication of the Air Force's standards of professional conduct by leading the drafting, coordinating, and publishing of the first-ever, Air Force Instruction 1-1, Air Force Standards, and he keenly consolidated the Judge Advocate and Inspector General inspection processes by creating a single two-tiered evaluation system to standardize and improve the delivery of legal services. Finally, General Harding astutely guided the Air Force through one of the most challenging budget crises in history by providing sage legal support for multiple manpower and personnel reductions, headquarters reorganizations, and field operating agency consolidations.

Through my role as Member of the Armed Services Committee I have had the pleasure of working directly with General Harding during this time. He has faithfully executed his oath of office and constitutional duties as the top uniformed military lawyer for the United States Air Force and provided this committee and congress with honest, direct, and sound advice. He will leave a lasting legacy on our Armed Forces.

For thirty-four years General Harding has performed his job professionally, honestly, and with great dedication. We will miss his leader-

ship and vision, and wish him all the best as he retires from active duty service to our nation.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF ERNEST J. REYES

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of our friend Ernest J. Reyes who passed away recently at the age of 73. Though Mr. Reyes is sorely missed by friends and family, I know his legacy will endure. He had an illustrious career and was a passionate, hard-working advocate.

Mr. Reyes, a native of Madera, CA, was dedicated to the California real estate community. He was a licensed broker since 1972, served on the San Diego Real Estate Board, and founded Network Realty, a real estate brokerage firm. He also tapped into his knowledge of the real estate market to help families thrive and realize the American dream of homeownership. He co-founded the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals. Under his leadership, NAHREP has become "The Voice for Hispanic Real Estate" and proud champions of homeownership for the Hispanic community." Mr. Reyes was also Chairman of the San Diego Home Loan Counseling Center, a non-profit serving low and moderate-income families through economic literacy education.

Additionally, Mr. Reyes was an exceptional public servant. He was a member of the Hollister Elementary School District Board and served as Secretary. And in 1976, the California Senate Rules Committee appointed Mr. Reyes to serve on the Employment Services Board. He was also appointed by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Administrator Karen G. Mills to Chair the Regulatory Fairness Board, Region IX. And notably, Mr. Reyes served on the staff of the Honorable Leon E. Panetta while he was in Congress.

I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife of 50 years, Patricia Pedregon Reyes, along with his children, Denise Johnson and Daren Reyes, and his three grandchildren. Mr. Reyes was an inspiration and I know his loss will be felt by many, including the 29th Congressional District.

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AMOS RUTHERFORD

**HON. MARK MEADOWS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Amos Rutherford on his 100th birthday, which he celebrates today, March 14th, 2014.

Mr. Rutherford is an exemplary citizen and lifelong resident of Caldwell County. Born in Morganton in 1914, Mr. Rutherford joined the military in 1942. As a medical aidman in World War II, Mr. Rutherford was awarded a Good Conduct Medal, American Theatre Service Medal, and a Victory Medal. These awards reflect Mr. Rutherford's character and the incredible size of his heart.

Returning to Morganton in 1946, Mr. Rutherford worked for Mullis Motor Company, and then spent 30 years at the Esso Exxon station in Lenior. I am proud to honor Mr. Rutherford today, as he has shown time and again an unwavering commitment to our district.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 11th District of North Carolina, I congratulate Mr. Rutherford on his milestone 100th birthday and thank him for his service to Western North Carolina and to our nation.

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A TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDRA  
HELFRICH—28TH CONGRES-  
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Alexandra Helfrich of Burbank.

When her eldest daughter began elementary school, Ms. Helfrich learned that the school did not have any arts programs. She began to fundraise and sought out grant opportunities to bring arts education back into the classroom. Ms. Helfrich worked with other parents, the PTA and Booster organizations to provide opportunities so every Burbank Unified School District (BUSD) student could experience music, visual art, theater, dance, and media arts. Through these collaborations, art programs became available at schools during the school day and after school as well.

Ms. Helfrich has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Burbank Arts For All Foundation since 2007 and served as its co-chair from 2010 to 2013. The Burbank Arts For All Foundation works to ensure every student in Burbank public schools receives a quality arts education as a part of their core curriculum. To support the foundation's mission, Ms. Helfrich continues to serve on its Executive Committee. Ms. Helfrich's volunteer efforts have provided opportunities as well as increased access for children to become creative learners.

Ms. Helfrich has also served the Burbank Unified School District as a parent representative to the District Safety Committee, where she helped update the Special Education Parent Handbook. She is currently serving on the District Local Control Accountability Plan Committee. In addition, Ms. Helfrich, who is a committed school fundraiser, has consistently served on Booster Club Boards since 2007.

Ms. Helfrich is married to Mark Helfrich, a feature film editor and director, and they have two teenage daughters.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Alexandra Helfrich.