

Hailing from Alliance, Ohio the University of Mount Union Concert Choir is one of the oldest collegiate choirs in the United States. It is world renowned, touring the U.S. and abroad. Last year, they traveled to Austria and had an opportunity to perform inside many historically significant churches, cathedrals, and abbeys. These remarkable young musicians are from a variety of academic disciplines such as biology, criminal justice, neuroscience, mathematics, political science, and more.

The Choir is led by Dr. Grant William Cook, III, who is a Kent State University alumni and accomplished musicologist. The Concert Choir recently visited Washington D.C. and performed at the National Cathedral on May 8th—Mother's Day. I am proud to recognize such gifted young Ohioans and welcome you to join me in celebrating their achievements.

A TRIBUTE HONORING WALLACE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE—SELMA

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hidden jewel in Alabama's 7th Congressional District—Wallace Community College of Selma, Alabama.

Wallace Community College—Selma is a stellar two-year institution that provides incredible educational opportunities to students of Dallas County and across the Black Belt of Alabama.

Now more than ever, America needs greater innovation in our educational system to meet the increasingly demanding needs of tomorrow. Outstanding higher education institutions in the State of Alabama are producing some of our state's and nation's best and brightest who will lead us into the next era of American cutting-edge technology, research, business leadership, entrepreneurship, science and innovation.

Wallace Community College—Selma (WCCS) is leading that charge in my district through its dual-enrollment program which allows high school students to complete college courses and graduate with a high school diploma as well as an associate degree from this junior college. In 2008, Wallace Community College—Selma graduated 31 students from the Selma Early College High School (ECHS), which was the first of its kind on a college campus in the state of Alabama.

The 2016 graduation class will include 22 dual enrollment students including 20 students that participated in a special partnership with Tuskegee University. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) program with Tuskegee allowed WCCS to increase the participation of underrepresented minority students from Alabama's Black Belt counties in the important fields of science and research. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute dual enrollment program offers high school students an opportunity to take classes at WCCS and Tuskegee and graduate with their high school diploma as well as an associate degree in science.

Mr. Speaker, the dual-enrollment program at Wallace Community College-Selma is accomplishing what it set out to do—giving Dallas County high school students a head start on

college. The benefits of this important opportunity are immeasurable. Cutting the cost and time spent in College while providing high school students significant exposure to the types of classes and fields of interest that will give them an important advantage and jump start on their peers.

Collaborations like these are so critically important to our youth gaining invaluable educational experience while obtaining college credit through dual-enrollment. America must encourage more of these types of efforts as we seek to lead the world in educating our people and attracting a new generation of high-tech and high-paying jobs and careers—understanding that science and technology are critical to our nation's economic growth and sustainability.

As the Member of Congress for the 7th Congressional District, I take great pride in working to offer solutions that will help lay the foundation for creating better-paying jobs, and for our education system to thrive into the future. In order to achieve this, we need innovative approaches to education and create a pipeline with our K-12 school systems, community colleges and universities to provide the resources our students need to become the best trained workforce. Our children deserve our greatest effort and America deserves our best workforce.

I am so proud to acknowledge today the tremendous efforts and outstanding programs offered at Wallace Community College—Selma which exemplify the invaluable role our two-year institutions serve in our communities. This college's leadership and innovation in creating a 21st century learning environment is to be greatly commended. What a jewel to have serving our students in the Black Belt of Alabama. I am proud to represent a district that cares so greatly for the future of the community and the future of this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Dr. James Mitchell for his tremendous leadership as President of WCCS. The faculty, administrators and students of the WCCS are truly outstanding.

This Friday, May 13, 2016 is graduation day at Wallace Community College—Selma. I want to congratulate the entire class of 2016 and especially acknowledge the academic achievement of the 22 dual enrollment students who will receive a special congressional commendation. HHMI Students: Lekeybriana Allen, Connor Blackmon, Ronnie Caver, Brian Crum, Shaqueria Dial, Lauren Ellis, Khamari Gibbs, Kiara Horton, Kalissa Johnson, Kaylin Jordan, Thomas Kendrick, Walter Kendrick, Will Kendrick, Brandon Oliver, LaDaria Shorts, Epiphany Simmons, Khadijah Simmons, Alexis Walker, Marketa Williams, Alanna Young. Dual Enrollment Students: Tyniquea Edwards, and Tori Hatfield.

I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous achievements of the Wallace Students who were Alabama Skills USA Winners: Joniece Collins—First Place in Masonry and was the first woman in the state of Alabama to win this honor. Other winners included Roderick Perkins—Second Place Masonry, Terrence Campbell—Third Place Masonry and Francis Phillips—Second Place Cosmetology in the Men's Hair Design Competition. I want to recognize the outstanding athletic achievements of Ki'Onna Likely who was the 2015-16 Alabama Community College Conference Player of the Year as well as NJCAA Second Team All-American.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all the accomplishments of the outstanding students and graduates of Wallace Community College—Selma and to praise the leadership of Dr. James Mitchell and the hardworking staff and faculty of WCCS.

Congratulation to the Graduating Class of 2016—I wish you the very best in all your future endeavors. We are counting on you to make difference.

JULIANA MEJIA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Juliana Mejia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Juliana Mejia is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Juliana Mejia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Juliana Mejia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING OSCAR GARCIA

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Oscar M. Garcia of Willacy County, Texas. On April 20, 2016, his family gathered at the Garcia Ranch to celebrate his life and legacy, and I want to share the story of this important South Texan with my colleagues.

Oscar Garcia was born on November 4, 1930, west of Sebastian, Texas, on the Las Anacuas Ranch. At a young age, he began working in the fields of South Texas.

His wife, Hortencia Caballero, was born in 1945 near Lyford, Texas, and the couple married on June 15, 1952, in Lyford. Together they raised six children: Alma, Oscar Jr., Rolando, Armando, Reynaldo, and Elizabeth, and they had 16 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Garcia began operating a trucking company in 1948. The business prospered under his management, and, with the profits of the company, he was able to purchase farm land in Willacy and Cameron Counties. Over the years, he amassed thousands of acres of prime land—much of it being the same land that he and his father worked on as sharecroppers or field hands. He grew his business over time, employing many and contributing greatly to the local economy. Mr. Garcia operated his trucking company for more than 50 years and farmed for 40 years.