

gave him a Bible. It was quite an experience for all of us," Blizard said.

"It was reported the next day that Arafat enjoyed our visit very much and he sent word that we are welcome again," Blizard said.

Several of the men said they would like to go back.

"We have made wonderful friends in the Middle East and are eager to see them again. We have come to love the Palestinian people, and we look forward to our return there," Blizard said.

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#### TRIBUTE TO ARTURO RODRIGUEZ

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my close friend, Arturo Rodriguez, who has been the president of the United Farm Workers since 1993. Arturo assumed the presidency of the UFW following the death of the organization's founder, Cesar Chavez. Although no one could ever replace Cesar Chavez, just as no one could ever replace Martin Luther King, those of us who care deeply about the UFW and the plight of farmworkers have been tremendously impressed by Arturo's leadership and accomplishments these past 6 years.

Under Arturo's direction, the UFW won 16 straight secret-ballot elections—most by big margins—and signed 21 new contracts with growers. He also organized some highly publicized, well-attended marches on behalf of the UFW. The marchers always include many teenagers too young to have personal memories of Cesar Chavez, but eager to continue the work of the UFW.

When he was a teenager living in San Antonio, TX, in the mid 1960's, Arturo first heard from his parish priest about Cesar Chavez and the burgeoning UFW. Inspired by the struggle, Arturo became an active supporter of the farmworkers. At the University of Michigan in 1971, for example, Arturo organized support for UFW boycotts.

In 1973, Arturo met Cesar Chavez, which changed his life in two ways. For one, he joined the UFW, working for two decades to plot and implement strategy. The second was a bonus: Arturo met and fell in love with Linda Chavez, Cesar's daughter. The couple were married in 1974 at La Paz, the UFW's headquarters near Bakersfield, CA. Today Arturo and Linda live at La Paz with their three children.

Prior to becoming its president, Arturo worked on many key issues for the UFW. In 1975, Arturo helped organize union representation elections in the Salinas Valley, including the UFW campaign at Molera Packing Co.—the artichoke ranch where the first election under the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act took place. Two years later, he organized union elections in Imperial Valley vegetable fields and Ventura County citrus orchards.

From May through September 1992, Arturo coordinated UFW help for grape workers walking off their jobs in the largest Coachella and

San Joaquin Valley vineyard demonstrations in 20 years. He became president in May 1993, a few weeks after the death of Cesar Chavez.

Arturo has renewed UFW's presence both in the fields and in the halls of government. In Sacramento and in Washington, he joins our struggle to prevent the restoration of the discredited and disgraced bracero program.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Arturo Rodriguez, whose lifelong commitment to civil rights and economic justice inspires us all. I am proud to be his friend and to fight by his side against further exploitation of America's farmworkers.

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#### UNVEILING OF STAMPS HONORING THE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate members of the United States Submarine Force as the U.S. Postal Service unveils a series of stamps which pay tribute to the Force for "A Century of Service to America." Earlier today, I was privileged to join the Postal Service, the U.S. Navy and veterans from across eastern Connecticut in introducing these stamps, which commemorate the Centennial of the Submarine Force. In this series, we can witness the stunning progress we have made from the Navy's first submarine—the U.S.S. *Holland*—to the *Ohio* and *Los Angeles* Class submarines of the late Twentieth century. However, these stamps honor much more than technological prowess. They remind us of the selfless service of tens of thousands of veterans who patrolled the depths of the world's oceans guaranteeing victory over tyranny and security for all Americans.

"A Century of Service to America" is a fitting theme for the Submarine Force. "A Century" recognizes the magnitude of the anniversary. Nearly a century ago, the Navy took ownership of its first submarine, the U.S.S. *Holland*. Since then, 648 submarines have entered the force—nearly half of which have been built in Groton, Connecticut, also known as the "Submarine Capital of the World." Our submarines have become technological marvels, the crown jewels of our nation's fleet. Consider how far we've come: the mighty *Ohio* class submarines are nearly as wide as the *Holland* was long! Today, our best and brightest are working to get the next generations of submarines, the *Seawolf* and *Virginia* Class subs, into the fleet. These will be the quietest and the most advanced submarines ever launched giving their crews an almost limitless range of new capabilities.

"Service" is a tribute to our submariners who risked their lives, everyone who supported their efforts, and the men and women who designed and built five generations of submarines. Over the past one hundred years, 400,000 men and women have either served aboard submarines or provided mission support. Over 3,500 veterans of the Submarine

Force have made the supreme sacrifice for their country. Veterans of the Submarine Force during World War II paid the highest price in lives lost. Admiral Chester A. Nimitz, a submariner himself before he led the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during the Second World War, said: "It is to the everlasting honor and glory of our submarine personnel that they never failed us in our days of great peril."

In southeastern Connecticut, we also know that the men and women of Electric Boat serve their country. They design and build some of the most sophisticated machines the world has ever known. Members of the Submarine Force have been so successful in safeguarding our nation in part because of the craftsmanship and hard work of generations of EB employees.

Finally, we focus on what the Submarine Force means to America. It turned the tide in the Pacific during the Second World War accounting for fifty five percent of all enemy shipping destroyed while comprising only two percent of all Naval forces. During the Cold War, the "Forty-One for Freedom" *Polaris/Poseidon* and succeeding *Trident* submarines ensured that our nation would never be the target of nuclear aggression. Daring intelligence missions provided a clear picture of the capabilities and the goals of the Soviets and other nations which threatened our national interests. As Secretary of Defense Cohen said in urging the Postal Service to honor this anniversary, "the peaceful end to 45 years of confrontation is the modern legacy of the Submarine Force."

Mr. Speaker, America owes a great debt to the members of the Submarine Force—past and present. A series of stamps is a small gesture of a thankful nation to honor their service, their sacrifice, and their role in guaranteeing that successive generations of Americans have been able to enjoy the freedoms that make this country the greatest nation on earth.

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#### EXCEL PROGRAM FOR GOVERNMENT OF GUAM EMPLOYEES

### HON. ROBERT A UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the governor of Guam, Carl T.C. Gutierrez, acknowledges the hard work of government of Guam employees. The governor's employee recognition program, better known as the Excel Program, is the highest and most competitive employee awards bestowed by the governor. This program showcases the outstanding employees and programs within the government of Guam.

Over 60 governmental agencies and departments participate in this program. Awardees are chosen within each department's nominees for 55 occupational groups. These groups range from clerical to labor and trades to professional and technical positions. The various awards reflect individual and group performance, valor, sports, community service, cost savings, and integrity.

My sincerest congratulations go to this year's awardees. I urge them to keep up the