

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE BERLIN AIRLIFT GRATITUDE FOUNDATION

#### HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 1999*

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Berlin Airlift Gratitude Foundation.

The Berlin Airlift began on June 26, 1948. Hostilities increased between the Soviets and the western Allies over access to the city of Berlin. As a result, the Soviets denied Berlin all access to the western portion of the city that was controlled by the American, British, and French forces. Automobile and railroad transportation, as well as any water traffic, was prohibited leaving the 2.2 million residents of West Berlin helpless.

In response, the western Allies took flight in an effort to airlift food, fuel, raw materials, and other supplies to the hopeful citizens of Berlin. These deliveries soon began reaching 500–700 tons a day in the summer of 1948, and continued to expand throughout the 322-day blockade of Berlin. Persistence paid off as the Soviets lifted the land and water blockade on May 12, 1949, ending the dreadful blockade. It is not surprising that the airlifts continued even after the blockade ended in an effort to build supplies for the needy Berliners.

The Berlin Airlift Gratitude Foundation and its director, Mr. Heinz-Gerd Reese, have for the past 50 years preserved the memory and achievements of the Allies keeping Berlin free by way of the Berlin Airlift. The Berlin Airlift Gratitude Foundation and its members have provided the families of the 78 victims of the Berlin Airlift with financial assistance since 1959.

They have provided their full support in all Berlin Airlift reunions over the years, not only in Berlin, but all the bases in Germany that supported the Berlin Airlift. They have invited the veterans of the Berlin Airlift to visit Berlin at their expense to commemorate the 50th year of the Berlin Airlift on May 9–13, 1999. The highlight of the reunion will come on May 12, 1999, which is the anniversary of the official ending of the Berlin Airlift.

Through their efforts, they have honored those who served and hopefully enlightened future generations on how precious freedom is, and the sacrifices that must be made to achieve it. The Berlin Airlift Reunion to honor the veterans of the Berlin Airlift is also a tribute to citizens of Berlin for choosing freedom over communism and working under very difficult times and conditions to make the Berlin Airlift the great success that it was.

### NORTHWEST INDIANA HISPANIC COORDINATING COUNCIL CELEBRATES ITS 11TH ANNUAL BANQUET

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 1999*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 30, 1999, numerous outstanding Hispanics from Indiana's First Congressional District will be honored for their notable contributions to Northwest Indiana. Several Hispanic students from local high schools as well as individuals and community organizations will be recognized at the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council's 11th Annual Banquet. The Hispanic Coordinating Council consists of several organizations that have committed themselves to improving the quality of life for the Hispanic residents of Northwest Indiana as well as providing an effective avenue for promoting Hispanic interests and their shared cultural heritage.

The students who will receive awards for Outstanding Academic Achievements include: Guillermo Amezcua, Clark High School; Crystal Bannister, Calumet High School; Alejandro Barraza, Thornton Fractional South; Patricia Campos, Andrean High School; Veronica Delgado, East Chicago Central High School; Adriana Dominguez, Whiting High School; Angela Espinoza, Indiana Academy; Nicholas Ferrer, Munster High School, Leonarda Gajardo, Bishop Noll High School, Esteban Gonzalez, Emerson School of Visual and Performing Arts; Melissa Hernandez, Morton High School; Linda Hinojosa, Merrillville High School; Adriana Lopez, Hobart High School; Samantha Martinez, Gavit High School; Cassandra Mateo, Portage High School; Amy Mendoza, Lowell High School; Angela Monsivais, Thomas A. Edison Jr.-Sr. High School; Danielle Ontiveros, Valparaiso High School; Eliezer Rolon, Thornton Fractional North; Lisa Russi, River Forest High School; Rebecca Spindler, Hanover Central Sr. High School; and Katharina Velez, Hammond High School.

The students who will receive awards for Outstanding Athletic Achievements include: Vanessa Bustos, Thornton Fractional North; John Cantu, Alex Ramos, and Mark Gonzalez, Hobart High School; Rosalinda Cedano, Bishop Noll High School; Katherine Flores, Calumet High School; Enrique Fontanez III, Portage High School; Rafael Gonzalez, Central High School; Antonio Greppi, Andrean High School; Francisco Hernandez, River Forest High School; Paul Navarro, Merrillville High School; Cesar Rodriguez, Whiting High School; Nicholas Rodriguez Gavit High School; Alfonso Salinas III, Hammond High School; Patrick Santana, Thomas A. Edison Jr.-Sr. High school; Ruben Trevino, Munster

High School; Alfonso Vargas IV, Morton High School; and Benjamin Ybarra, Clark-Whiting High School.

The Council will also present the President's Award to Lou and Stella Torres. Leonor Velasquez will receive the Cesar Chavez Exemplary Service Award. The Outstanding Family Award will go to Ralph and Thelma Mora. Michael Lopez of East Chicago, Indiana, will receive the Community Service Award for his dedication and contributions to Northwest Indiana. Finally, the Humanitarian Service Award will go to the following organizations: Ameritech, Asociacion Benefica Hijos De Borinquen, National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, and the Puerto Rican Parade and Cultural Committee of Northwest Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding all of the award recipients chosen by the Northwest Indian Hispanic Coordinating Council. All of these individuals are most deserving of the Honors bestowed upon them. Moreover, I would like to commend the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council for committing itself to the preservation of the Hispanic culture. Without the contributions of Hispanic-Americans, the rich, diverse, ethnically flavored culture of Northwest Indian would not be complete.

### IN HONOR OF THE BAYONNE FAMILY YMCA AND THIS YEAR'S HONOREE, BAYONNE CHIEF OF POLICE, FRANK PAWLOWSKI

#### HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 1999*

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bayonne Family YMCA on its Seventh Annual Distinguished Service Awards Cocktail Party and this year's honoree Bayonne Police Chief Mr. Frank Pawlowski.

The Bayonne Family YMCA is a nonprofit organization that has taken the lead in addressing the social needs of the community. By providing essential services such as after-school programs, day care, temporary housing, and summer day camp, the YMCA has provided assistance to those in need or at risk.

Headed by Mr. Joseph Tagliareni, Chairman of the Child Care Program annual fundraiser, and Mr. Alan Russotto, Chairman of the Souvenir Ad Journal, the Bayonne Family YMCA will be hosting its seventh annual awards dinner on April 23. Each year the YMCA highlights the accomplishments of one member of the community for his or her dedication and exemplary leadership. This year the YMCA is honoring Bayonne Police Chief Mr. Frank Pawlowski.

A lifelong resident of Bayonne, Chief Pawlowski has committed himself to the betterment of the community. After serving his

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