

strives to respond to this growing problem by granting assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who provide shelter and reintegration assistance to women and children victims of international trafficking.

Today, in many countries of transit or destination where victims are found, there is an immediate need for temporary and safe shelter, medical and psychological services, access to translators and appropriate NGO consultations and assistance. But the resources are limited or in some cases, nonexistent.

When there is no shelter available for these victims, governments will often place the victim in detention with criminals and then immediately deport her the next day. The need to deport victims immediately due to the lack of shelter thereby increases the risk that the victim will return to trafficking or a dangerous situation back home. Returning these individuals to a threatening environment is a crime in and of itself, not to mention counterproductive and psychologically damaging to the victim.

Another challenge we face is how to effectively reintegrate victims into their families and community structures after being trafficked abroad. For many victims, they return home with the stigma of prostitution or suffer with HIV/AIDS—only to be rejected by their families and communities. In the worst case scenarios, traffickers anticipate this rejection and attempt to retraffic these victims at the border.

To prevent these repeat offenses and to provide victims with a fighting chance to improve their lives, I rise in strong support of the Sanders-Smith amendment. If approved, this amendment will provide international NGOs with a \$2.5 million increase to ensure that victims escape the trafficking world for good.

A TRIBUTE TO ARMANDO AND BETTY RODRIGUEZ ON THEIR FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Armando and Betty Rodriguez of Fresno, CA, who are this weekend celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. As life-long residents of Fresno and active participants in the community, Armando and Betty have had a tremendous impact on their friends, neighbors and fellow community members over the past 50 years, and have demonstrated a loving devotion to one another that make their successful marriage an inspiring example.

Betty and Armando Rodriguez were both born in Fresno and were high school sweethearts at Edison High School, where they graduated in 1947. They were married on July 15, 1950 and 2 years later, Armando joined the U.S. Air Force, serving for 4 years including a tour of duty in Korea. After being discharged, Armando reunited with Betty in Fresno and completed his undergraduate degree. After being accepted to Lincoln University School of Law in San Francisco, Armando began his legal studies while Betty supported

both of them by working in a number of part time jobs.

Armando's deep commitment to serving the public interest through the legal system was demonstrated immediately after he passed the bar exam and returned to California's Central Valley to help establish the California Rural Legal Assistance office in Madera. His commitment to public service has been the hallmark of his career, having served as an elected member of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors from 1972 to 1975, and on the bench as a Fresno Municipal Court judge for 20 years, from 1975 to 1995.

Though he officially retired from the bench in 1995, Armando continues to serve in his capacity as a judge when called upon. He has also been actively involved in the Fresno Torreon Sister Cities program, Arte Americas, Fresno Metropolitan Rotary, and previously served as the state president of the Mexican American Political Association.

Betty Rodriguez has also been active in a number of community organizations, helping to found the League of Mexican American Women, and participating in Ladies Aid to Retarded Citizens, the League of Women Voters, the Mexican-American Political Association, Friends of the Library, and countless other organizations. Despite her many commitments to the community, she has also been a devoted caretaker of the Rodriguez home throughout their 50 years of marriage and has been the behind the scenes leader keeping the family very close.

The key to Armando and Betty's 50 years together has been their undiminished love for each other and for those around them, and their shared and deep desire to contribute to the local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Armando and Betty Rodriguez on celebrating their 50th year of marriage, and expressing our hope that they are blessed with many more joyous years together.

COMMENDATION OF MARIO CRUZ

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mario Cruz, a Victorville High School student, for his numerous and laudable achievements.

Mario's commitment to education is demonstrated by his perfect attendance record and excellent grades. His ability to excel in school is made all the more impressive when one takes into account the exclusive attention he gives to his home duties, while additionally helping to support himself through work and occupational training.

Despite losing both of his parents at a young age, Mario has remained positive in nature and dedicated to building a prosperous personal and community life. Mario's overwhelming triumph over difficult and challenging circumstances is both moving and inspiring.

Mario's long list of educational accomplishments include attaining excellent grades,

being in the top 5% of his class, achieving perfect attendance, serving as a Junior Class Officer and Key Club Officer, attending after school occupational training, and summer school classes for extra credit.

Mario's decision to remain alcohol, tobacco, drug and gang free and his incalculable future potential serve as an invaluable and exemplary model of dedication, honesty, determination, strength of character and success for his community and peers.

Respected and well-liked by all teachers and peers alike, Mario Cruz embodies the finest qualities of America's youth.

Mario has also been fortunate enough to have the unwavering support of a group of Diamond Bar, Pomona, and Victorville residents and community leaders including Dr. Joseph Eiswert, D.M.D., who operates the Smilemakers dental practice; Christine Briggs, the Executive Director for, United Way; Felix and Margaret Diaz; Lyle Henry; Mel Friedland, Esq.; Dorothy Harper, Esq.; John Clifford, Esq.; Marta Melendez of Catholic Charities; Sister Sharon Becker, Vice President, at St. Mary's Medical Center; Rhonda Morken, the Executive Director of One 2 One Mentors; Ronald Wilson, Chairman, President, and CEO of Desert Community Bank, DCB; Peter Schmidt, Vice President of UmLab; Eddie Cortez, Mayor of Pomona, Mike Radlovic 41st. Congressional District Bush Campaign, GOP Chair, and Lincoln Club President; Edda Gahm Diamond Bar Republican Woman's Club, Bush Campaign Chair; Diamond Bar Councilman Robert Huff; Carolyn Elfelt and Dr. York Lee, Walnut Valley Unified School District Board Members; Nancy J. Mc Cracken, Brenda Phyllis Engdahl, Pomona Unified School District; Nick Anis, Diamond Bar Sister City, President; Patricia Anis, Vice Chair Diamond Bar Parks and Recreation Commission; Gil Villavicencio, Owner, Whole Enchilada restaurant chain; and others.

These individuals have pledged their support for "Project Mario," an effort aimed at helping this promising high school junior complete his secondary education and continue on at a four-year college.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Mario Cruz and extend to him this much deserved recognition for his courage of both heart and mind.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR TERESA P. HUGHES

**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to California State Senator Teresa P. Hughes, who is retiring at the end of this year concluding more than a quarter of century in distinguished public service to the citizens of California. During her illustrious career in the California Assembly and Senate, Teresa Hughes has authored and/or co-authored hundreds of important legislative initiatives resulting in improved standards of living for the citizens of our great State. I am, therefore, proud to publicly commend her for her exemplary service and to