

October 28, 2000

276th Infantry Regiment in the European Theater of Operations for 16 months. During combat, he worked the front lines administering medical treatment to the wounded and performing emergency surgeries. Mr. Berrera carried out his many duties with exemplary courage.

On March 20, 1945, Mr. Berrera was injured and received 2nd degree burns to his eyes from a mine explosion. On April 15, 1946, Joe returned to the United States receiving his Honorable Discharge on May 8, 1946.

Upon return to civilian life, Mr. Berrera owned and operated the Metro Barbershop in Los Angeles near Cal State L.A. from 1948 to 1989, and he and his wife raised four wonderful children. His two daughters, Kathy and Carol, are both happily married and have successful lives. His son John is a Foreman in the Los Angeles County Fire Department. His other son, Joseph, who passed away in 1992, had been employed by Northrop Grumman constructing Stealth Bombers.

After 41 years of running his own business, Joe retired to enjoy a well-deserved leisure life. Today, he continues to be a happy and modest man surrounded by a wonderful family and many friends.

I would like to urge all my House colleagues to join me today in recognition of Mr. Joe Berrera's remarkable service and contribution to our Nation and to offer our personal congratulations as he receives his Purple Heart Medal this Veterans' Day.

FOR THE RELIEF OF PERSIAN  
GULF EVACUEES

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 24, 2000*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of a bill that unanimously passed the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims and our Full committee. This private relief bill on behalf of 54 families and individuals seeking permanent resident status in the United States has much merit.

These families, known as Persian Gulf evacuees, have lived and worked in this country being evacuated out of Kuwait, at the behest of the United States government, just prior to U.S. Military Intervention in the Iraqi invasion of that country.

Many of these individuals, by order of then President Bush, were evacuated to keep them out of harms way when the United States intervened militarily in Kuwait, and hid them in their homes against Iraqi retaliation. Once here, the majority of the 2,000 evacuees adjusted their own status, often through asylum procedures. These 54 families remained in limbo, facing deportation and loss of work permits in the United States.

The Persian Gulf evacuees, are well educated, English speaking, mostly professional individuals perfectly capable of working and supporting themselves here in the United States without becoming wards of any State in which they have settled.

This action is good for this Congress and for America, and I support its passage.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PUERTO RICO STATUS PLAN

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 27, 2000*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4475, the FY 2001 Department of Transportation appropriations bill, includes provisions which I support that will promote informed self-determination for Puerto Rico. It is historic that Congress has authorized the President to cooperate with the Elections Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to develop a legally valid and politically realistic program to support political status resolution for Puerto Rico. However, it was necessary to ensure that Congress can review the program plan before funding can be expended. Given the powers vested in Congress to determine the ultimate status of Puerto Rico based on a legitimate process of self-determination, the process of Congressional review contemplated by this legislation is entirely fitting and critical to a successful status resolution program.

MR. LUIS P. VILLARREAL

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 27, 2000*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Luis P. Villarreal, who received the 2000 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring for his work in developing science education and research programs to assist minority students at the high school and university level. Mr. Villarreal is a professor of molecular biology and biochemistry at the University of California, Irvin (UCI). He was selected as one of ten individual recipients to receive this prestigious award.

Mr. Villarreal began his academic career when he enrolled in a community college to become a medical technologist. Encouraged to continue his education, he went on to complete a four year degree in chemistry and then entered graduate school. As a researcher in biology, Mr. Villarreal is currently doing research on the connection between cervical cancer and viruses. He also manages a million-dollar annual budget for the minority science program at UCI.

One of his greatest accomplishments is to help struggling students achieve success in college, and to encourage them to become scientists. One of his students remarked that he is relaxed, but brilliant and very funny. Through his mentoring program, Mr. Villarreal has guided many under-represented students into the sciences. These students participate in a rigorous academic and research training program that is mentored by faculty members. The program includes paid internships, tutoring, academic advising, faculty seminars and participation at national conferences.

I ask my colleagues to please join with me as we honor Mr. Luis P. Villarreal for his outstanding academic and educational achievements.

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HONORING MR. GARTH GARDNER

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 27, 2000*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today and honor Mr. Garth Gardner, an extraordinary American Citizen who served our Nation with honor and bravery during World War II. On November 11, 2000, this Veterans Day, I will proudly present the Purple Heart Medal to Mr. Gardner for his acts of bravery during WWII.

Mr. Garth Gardner was born on September 25, 1922 in Carbon County, Utah. He graduated from Carbon County High School in 1940 and attended Carbon County Jr. College for two years. At the age of 19, Mr. Gardner enlisted as a cadet in the U.S. Army Air Force. On March 27, 1945, Mr. Gardner departed to New Guinea, where he flew 29 missions against the enemy in a B-24 liberator with a crew of 10 servicemen.

Following his return to the United States, Mr. Gardner was married to Mary Ponti on December 30, 1945. In 1948, Garth graduated from USC, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Following his graduation, Garth bought a house in Pico Rivera where he and his wife raised their three sons. Mr. Gardner worked for the County of Los Angeles Flood Control District for 25 years and upon retiring from the County in 1976, became a California Probate Referee—a position he has held for the last 26 years.

In March 2001, he will retire from the Pico Rivera City Council after 29 years of service. He has served 8 terms, including his final term, as Mayor. One of his major accomplishments is completing the flood control project, which began in 1991 and will be completed in 2001. This important project begins at the Pacific Ocean and extends 26 miles to the Whittier Narrows Dam and costs \$250 million.

Mr. Gardner will always remain active in his community and continue a life of service. I would like to urge all my House colleagues to join me today in recognition of Mr. Garth Gardner's remarkable service and contribution to our Nation and to offer our personal congratulations as he receives his Purple Heart Medal this Veterans' Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. DOMINICK  
CONDO AND DR. SALVATORE  
LAPILUSA, "2000 MEN OF THE  
YEAR"

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 27, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dominick Condo and Dr. Salvatore LaPilusa, who are being honored by the Sicilian Citizens Club as "2000 Men of the Year" at the 73rd annual dinner-dance celebration.

On Saturday, October 28th, two of New Jersey's most talented and dedicated physicians will be honored for their contributions to medicine, to the health of the residents of the City of Bayonne, and to philanthropic causes.