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TRIBUTE TO ANNA MARIA ARIAS

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of an exceptional woman, Anna Maria Arias. On Monday, October 1, 2001, Anna Maria lost a seven-year battle against aplastic anemia and passed away from complications related to a bone marrow transplant procedure at MD Anderson Medical Center in Houston, TX.

Anna Maria Arias was born on July 12, 1960 in San Bernardino, California. She attended San Diego State University but her passion for media and journalism eventually led her to Hawaii Pacific University where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications. When she was offered a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Fellowship to Washington, D.C. Anna Maria saw her opportunity. She accepted the CHCI fellowship and was assigned to the Washington, D.C. bureau of CNN where she became part of the production team at CNN's Crossfire program.

As the founder and president of Arias Communications, Anna Maria enjoyed a varied and accomplished communications career. She worked as a radio news anchor, news-writer, and as a media and campaign organizer for presidential and local candidates at the Democratic National Committee. Anna Maria honed her publishing skills and earned the respect of her peers during her five years as managing editor for Hispanic Magazine. Her editorial direction and keen insight into the issues affecting the Hispanic community were instrumental in making the publication one of the most respected media vehicles in the Hispanic market.

In October of 1994, she launched a brand new, long awaited Hispanic publication and fittingly named it Latina Style Magazine. To this day, the magazine remains the only national publication that is one hundred percent Latina-owned. With a circulation of 150,000 and a readership of more than 600,000, Latina Style Magazine is the first national magazine that covers issues pertinent to the contemporary, professional, Hispanic working-woman from a Latina point of view.

Anna Maria wanted to make Latina Style Magazine not just a medium to express Latina society and culture, but also a source of valuable information to the Latina professional, business owner, and college student to help them succeed in their endeavors. Anna Maria's passion and commitment bore fruit when Latina Style Magazine was selected by the National Association of Hispanic Publications as the Outstanding English or Bilingual Magazine for 1999. During the same year, Anna Maria was honored by the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce with the 1999 Entrepreneur of the Year Award and by the Changing Images in America Foundation with the Entrepreneurship Award.

Everyone who knew Anna Maria will tell you that from her youth, she was one of the most dedicated individuals they had ever met. Once she set her sights on something, there was no stopping her. When family and friends asked

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why she was choosing to undergo the complicated bone marrow surgery, Anna Maria simply said, "I have to do this, we have important work to do and this thing keeps getting in the way." That was Anna Maria, totally devoted to her work and committed to serving others.

Last Sunday, I attended Anna Maria Arias' memorial mass at the Church of Guadalupe and her burial ceremony at Mt. View Cemetery, in San Bernardino, CA. Her husband Robert Bard and her mother Rita Valenzuela spoke of the tremendous courage and determination of one so young.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to please join me in honoring the life and achievements of a great Latina role model and leader, Anna Maria Arias. She has, by example, inspired generations of young Latinas to reach for their dreams. Her enthusiasm, her zest of life, her caring nature, and love for her family, friends and co-workers will never be forgotten. Anna Maria, amiga querida, dios te llamo y nos dejoste un gran vacio. Adios.

RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY PERSONNEL EFFORTS ON SEPTEMBER 11

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of America's public safety and military personnel whose heroic actions at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and the Pennsylvania site saved countless lives. As the Chairman of the House Armed Services Procurement Subcommittee and the founder of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I know well the overwhelming situations our civilian and military responders faced. That they persevered in the face of this tragedy is a testament to the dedication of these public servants.

All of these personnel, whether local, state or federal, civilian or military, paid or volunteer, deserve the applause of this body. To highlight their combined efforts I wish to recognize three individuals. Their efforts represent the heroic actions of the thousands who responded to the calls for help on September 11 and throughout the days following the attack.

Volunteer firefighter/paramedic Eric Jones, Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Braman, and Marine Corps Major Dan Pantaleo were featured rescuing a Marine Corps flag from the burning Pentagon on the front pages of newspapers and magazines around the world. It is this image that will remain in our memories as a symbol of American patriotism, unity and strength.

In the days following the publication of their picture, they received many requests for press interviews. They declined each of these requests, because as true public servants, they neither expect nor desire any recognition for their efforts. What few know is that these individuals, through their countless acts of bravery, not only saved the flag, but also many Americans. At 9:40 A.M. on September 11 all

three were called by destiny to perform heroic feats. As fire raged through the Pentagon, Mr. Jones, Staff Sgt. Braman, and Major Pantaleo rushed inside. These three men along with all the public safety and military personnel at the scene were responsible for rescuing hundreds of men and women injured by the explosion, the building collapse and burning jet fuel during the first minutes following the attack. After the injured had been saved, they remained on the site for many days to recover the bodies of those who perished.

I salute all Americans who answered the call for help on September 11. I am especially proud to highlight Eric, Christopher and Dan as examples of our public safety and military personnel whose contributions saved thousands from succumbing to the consequences of these terrorist attacks.

THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION THAT WILL AMEND THE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of legislation that will amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century ("TEA-21") (Pub. L. 105-178) to provide states with flexibility in complying with the minimum penalties for repeat offenders for driving while intoxicated or driving while under the influence (23 U.S.C. § 164). The bill I am sponsoring is based upon recommendations made by the National Association of Governors' Highway and Safety Representatives in their report entitled "Taking the Temperature of TEA-21: An Evaluation and Prescription for Safety."

Under current federal law, the definition of a "repeat intoxicated driver law" includes a 1-year "hard" suspension of the repeat offender's driver's license; impoundment or installation of an ignition interlock system of the individual's motor vehicles; an assessment of the individuals alcohol abuse and treatment; and community service and imprisonment (23 U.S.C. § 164(a)(5)). If a state does not enact a repeat intoxicated driver law compliant with § 164(a)(5), the Department of Transportation transfers 1.5 percent of funds under § 104(b) to § 402.

In my view, there are two reasons why Congress should improve the current law. First, a 1-year "hard" suspension, in many cases, does not sufficiently deter repeat drunk drivers from driving under the influence. While a 1-year suspension looks good on paper, statistics, sting operations, and just plain common-sense reflect the notion that suspended drivers continue to drive illegally on our roads. For example, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 70 percent of individuals with revoked licenses continue to drive. Second, transferring funds from one transportation account to another may motivate some states to adopt new laws; however, the overall experience since TEA-21 enactment is that many states simply find ways to shift funds within their own accounts.