

his contributions to town and country have helped transform Laredo into an international center of commerce.

As the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, he handled major federal neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and homelessness programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. As Assistant Secretary he oversaw rehabilitation programs such as Community Block Grant, Hope for Ownership of Single Family Homes, Home Investment Partnership, and various other programs that establish funding for housing and support services.

Among other accomplishments in his distinguished career, Mr. Ramirez created the Laredo Affordable Housing Finance Corporation in 1990. He has worked hard to help some of Laredo's poorest neighborhoods. Working to improve housing in the Laredo community, Saul Ramirez's tireless efforts ensure that our citizens have a decent place to live.

A former mayor of Laredo, Mr. Ramirez is no stranger to the unique needs of his community. Serving at a time of great community growth, he has helped to provide guidance and leadership for our changing city.

Saul Ramirez is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including Newsweek Magazine's "25 Most Dynamic Mayors" in 1996. He has served as Director of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, as a Board Member of the U.S. Council of Mayors, and with the Texas Municipal League.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the important contributions of Saul Ramirez. His hard work and community dedication have helped to transform Laredo into the city it is today.

HONORING NEAL McBRIDE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Neal McBride for being recognized as 2005 Citizen of the Year by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations. This special honor is truly well-deserved.

Mr. McBride has been an active member of the community within the South County region since the late 1980s. He has served as the chair or coordinator for numerous civic groups including the South Run Coalition, South County Schools Alliance, the Laurel Hill Development and Arts Center and the Cold War Museum. In addition, McBride has also served as an officer with the Federation of Lorton Communities and Newington Forest Community Association. He is director-at-large of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition, a member of the Lorton Heritage Society, a Lorton Arts Foundation Advisory panelist and a member of the Laurel Hill Planning Task Force.

In 2003, Mr. McBride was honored by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors with the title of "Lord Fairfax." Mr. McBride, a retired health care management specialist with the

U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, has lived in South Springfield since 1981.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Neal McBride for all of his efforts on behalf of the Mount Vernon area. He has served his community well, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. McBride's past accomplishments and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
NICHOLAS DAVID LARSON

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine Lance Corporal Nicholas David Larson of Wheaton, Illinois. Corporal Larson was killed on November 9, 2004 when his unit took fire from terrorists in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Nick was killed in the ensuing firefight. He had been serving in Iraq since mid June 2004 and his tour was set to end in January 2005.

Lance Corporal Larson was 14 years old when he did more than 100 push-ups for a recruiter. Nicholas told his mother after 9/11 that he joined the Marines because "I just want to make a difference."

He began his service after graduating from Wheaton North High School in 2003. He was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. Corporal Larson followed in the footsteps of his father, who served in the Navy.

Teachers and administrators at Wheaton North High School described Nicholas as quiet and focused and an intense student. And always knowing he wanted to be a Marine.

Lance Corporal Larson was a young man of only 19 when he made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country. Our deepest sympathies to his beloved family: David and Anne Larson, and his sister Katie Larson. The entire community joins in mourning Nicholas's loss.

We honor the memory of Lance Corporal Nicholas David Larson and the dedication and bravery with which he served our nation and the people of Iraq.

IN HONOR OF MR. BENJAMIN DE
LA SELVA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Benjamin "Ben" De La Selva. Ben was born in Somoto, Nicaragua, in 1939. He immigrated to the United States in 1961, subsequently serving in the U.S. Army for six and a half years. In the mid 1960s he studied French and Polish at the Defense Language Institute, DLI, and then served a year in Vietnam (1966-67) with the 173rd Airborne as Prisoner of War interrogator and French lin-

guist. Ben was in Dakto, Central Highlands, at the onset of one of the Vietnam War's bloodiest battles. After leaving the military and getting a college education through the GI Bill, Ben was hired at DLI, where he occupied numerous positions from 1972 to 2005.

During his rise from teacher to dean at DLI, Ben trained thousands of military linguists, guided several generations of language teachers, and mentored many supervisors and managers who now occupy leadership positions. Moreover, he supervised every DLI language program and participated in the development of much needed Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Arabic curricula. During the last 20 consecutive years, Ben served as dean of every DLI resident school, a credit to his solid leadership qualities. As a dean, he participated in several pioneering initiatives including Team Teaching, the Faculty Personnel System, and the introduction of up-to-date teaching methods. Likewise, Ben was at the forefront of DLI's giant leap to modern-day technology. Ben retired on January 3rd, 2005, but is still associated with the U.S. government in his capacity as President of the DLI Alumni Association, a non-profit organization he founded in November 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Ben is an excellent example of the immigrant young man who arrives in the USA with a high school diploma, serves in the military, gets an education through the GI Bill, pursues and flourishes in a governmental career, and 40 years later retires with an impeccable and distinguished record. Ben truly believes he has achieved the American dream. He exemplifies the highest aspirations of this nation. I am proud to honor him today.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM
SOLOMON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about a remarkable, courageous man who has dedicated himself for the betterment of Texas, and the lives of those around him. Mr. William Solomon is a fine member of my home community of Dallas, Texas and I am proud to announce that he has been recognized for his outstanding work as the latest recipient of the Linz Award, Dallas County's oldest award for recognizing exceptional community and humanitarian volunteer efforts.

Bill Solomon began working in 1967 at the company that his grandfather founded in 1918, Austin Industries, Incorporated, the largest commercial and industrial contractor in Dallas. In 1970, Bill was named president of the company, and he continues to serve as chairman of Austin Industries today.

Mr. Solomon is also a renowned civic leader, a member of the Dallas Citizens Council, the World Presidents' Organization, and the Northaven United Methodist Church. He serves on the boards of the A. H. Belo Corporation, the Southwestern Medical Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Hoblitzelle Foundation. In addition to this, he has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and our country have always relied on the contributions of those individuals who have the ability to rise above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of others, both personally and professionally. Bill Solomon has demonstrated an unfailing and tireless commitment to the betterment of Dallas County, the State of Texas, and the entire Nation. With his steady guidance and strong leadership, in 1991, he founded the Dallas Together Forum, where he has potentially made his greatest impact. This multi-racial group of approximately 30 Dallas business leaders met monthly to discuss ways to reduce racial tension and improve minority economic opportunities. The Dallas Together Forum helped defuse racial tensions in the '80s and early '90s, and its impact on racial harmony is still felt today.

Bill Solomon is a dedicated community servant, activist, and leader. He is a credit to Dallas, and through his tireless work, my home town has become a better place to live. I am proud to join his family, his colleagues, Zale Corp. and The Dallas Morning News in congratulating Bill Solomon on a job well done.

IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS IN TECHNOLOGY/SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AT THE NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology (HOST), the New Jersey Institute of Technology's student chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). HOST/SHPE was honored for its outstanding achievements at the Region IV Student Leadership Conference (RSLC) Gala Banquet on March 19, 2005.

The Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers represents a group of extremely talented and dedicated students who, at a young age, have already shown amazing promise and success. The HOST/SHPE RSLC offers new members the opportunity to share valuable knowledge and learn from other SHPE leaders. The goal of RSLC is to provide students with the leadership skills necessary for success in the business world, as well as the organizational, managerial, and technical skills essential for developing and enhancing the infrastructure of their respective SHPE student chapters and pre-college programs. In addition, students learn how to interact and network with SHPE corporate officials, which can lead to long-lasting, professional relationships. Under the strong leadership of Daniel Lozano, the conference has been organized to assemble more than 200 students from across the eastern United States, including Puerto Rico.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the achievements of the students in HOST/SHPE, as well as the strong commit-

ment on the part of the RSLC Committee and Daniel Loranzo to organize this worthwhile event. I applaud the students' dedication and their success, and wish them the best as they head towards an already bright future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 17, 2005, I was unable to vote on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 18, Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian and Lebanese people by the government of the Syrian Arab Republic (rollcall 89). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING DAVID HANNON, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SOUTH SHORE HOSPITAL ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute David Hannon who is being honored today for his outstanding work as President and Chief Executive Officer of the South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, Massachusetts.

Since Mr. Hannon's tenure as President and CEO began in 1986, South Shore Hospital has experienced considerable growth and development, adding programs consistent with the highest quality of medical care in the region, and bringing to the community a level of excellence that was once the domain of prestigious academic medical centers in major cities. In addition, David has promoted sustained investments in hospital infrastructure, including new medical technologies and health care equipment.

These initiatives have enabled the hospital to grow from a small community facility to a regional medical center offering highly complex and sophisticated care—from acute and outpatient services to home health and hospice care—to more than 650,000 residents in southeastern Massachusetts.

In addition to caring for the medical needs of the community, he has also taken an equally strong interest in the outstanding work of the 3,000 employees who are the very heart and soul of South Shore Hospital. Through their collective efforts, South Shore Hospital has become a leading health care provider in the state of Massachusetts, with a record of clinical excellence and superb patient care. That is reflected in the hospital being the first in the Commonwealth to earn maximum recognition with commendation from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations for three consecutive review periods.

On behalf of a deeply grateful community, I want to join with my colleagues in the House

of Representatives in thanking David Hannon on a job well done.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COUNTY SHERIFF OF ATASCOSA TOMMY WILLIAMS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Atascosa County Sheriff Tommy Williams.

Tommy Williams is an excellent example of a Sheriff who understands the needs of his community. Sheriff Williams has been serving his community since 1973, when he first became sheriff of Atascosa.

Sheriff Williams is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Master Peace Officer certificate. Williams has also served as President of the Sheriff's Association of Texas. He is a member of the National Sheriff's Association, Sheriff's Association of Texas, the Poteet VFW Post and the American Legion Post.

Sheriff Williams believes that an informed public is better equipped for preventing crime in our streets and neighborhoods. As part of his duties and responsibilities, Sheriff Williams provides security for the operation of county and district courts as well as enforcing county ordinances and other state laws.

Sheriff Williams is a major resource for his county and sets a great example for his law enforcement community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the past and future accomplishments of Atascosa County Sheriff Tommy Williams.

HONORING THE OCCOQUAN WATERSHED COALITION

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Occoquan Watershed Coalition (OWC) of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Established in 1994, the Occoquan Watershed Coalition is a nonpartisan, broad-based citizens group that works to improve communication and expand dialogue regarding major issues concerning the Springfield District portion of this environmentally sensitive region.

The coalition actively works with the Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and citizen and homeowner associations to protect and improve both the environment and the quality of life of the area's residents. Specific examples of the OWC's efforts include their involvement in the closure of the Lorton Prison Complex and subsequent redevelopment of the area. The coalition also closely monitored numerous transportation decisions including the refurbishment of the Yates Ford Bridge and paving of Yates Ford Road.