

HONORING CODY ALECIA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Cody Alecia, of Denair, California.

What has America come to when a 13-year-old student must be concerned for his safety when he waves the American flag? This past week, Denair Middle School, located in my home district, asked one of their students, Cody Alecia, to remove an American flag he has been proudly displaying on the back of his bicycle for two months. Cody and his family were told that the flag needed to be removed for his own safety, in light of problems that arose during the previous school year when students carried the Mexican flag to the school on Cinco de Mayo. Thankfully, on November 12th, the school district reversed the decision and has informed Cody that he can once again display his flag.

I am pleased that the Denair Unified School District has made the correct decision and is once again allowing Cody to display his flag. However, I am deeply concerned about the circumstances that led to Cody being asked to remove his flag in the first place and want to make every member of the House aware of it. I raise this issue on the floor of the House because I believe what happened to Cody gives us a snapshot of our current national culture. The flag of the United States of America is a symbol of everything that this country stands for—unity, prosperity and freedom. Every morning, in classrooms across America, students of all ages and nationalities pledge their allegiance to the flag and to this country. For an American student to ever be told that displaying the American flag in America may make him a target for violence is a travesty and terrible testament to what is happening in our country.

I am proud of Cody for choosing to display his patriotism, his respect for the men and women who have fought and died for this country, and his love of this country. And I am proud to represent this community, which has displayed such overwhelmingly positive support for Cody. I want to thank “The American Legion Patriot Guard” and the other riders here today, especially the Merced American Legion, Post 83, Patriot Guard, for their organization and passion to the cause. I would also like to thank everyone else who chose to walk and ride to Denair Middle School with Cody this morning and to display their pride in the American flag and the ideals that it represents. I hope many more people will be inspired by Cody's example and will choose to fly the flag more often.

ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION 34TH ANNUAL GALA**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which hosted

its 34th Annual Gala on Saturday, November 6, 2010, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award at this annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Dr. M. Nabil Shabeeb, M.D., FACS.

A successful General Surgeon who runs his private practice in Northwest Indiana, Dr. Shabeeb has dedicated his life to medicine. His practice specializes in thyroid and parathyroid surgery, breast cancer surgery, and laparoscopic surgery, as well as cancer support group programs. In addition to his busy medical practice, Dr. Shabeeb has committed himself to many organizations and foundations that positively impact the medical community and the people of Northwest Indiana.

In 1977, Dr. Shabeeb graduated from the College of Human Medicine at Damascus University. He went on to complete his five-year residency at the University of Illinois Metropolitan Group Hospital in 1984. Soon after, he established his private practice in Northwest Indiana. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Shabeeb has gone above and beyond his medical duties as a General Surgeon, serving on numerous medical boards and dedicating much of his time to countless organizations. He has been a member of the Lake County Medical Society since 1984, and has served as a delegate and board member since 1992. At Community Hospital in Munster, Dr. Shabeeb served as Chairman of Surgery from 1992 to 1997, and President of Medical Staff from 1997 to 2001. Currently, Dr. Shabeeb serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Munster Medical Research Foundation, the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, and the Community Cancer Research Foundation. He is also a founding member and Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Cancer Resource Center, a program of the Community Cancer Research Foundation. The Cancer Resource Center is an exceptional program that provides support, counseling, and education to cancer patients and their family and friends free of charge. To date, visits to the center have totaled more than 19,000. For his outstanding commitment to medicine and his many community efforts, in April, 2010, Dr. Shabeeb received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Syrian American Medical Society—Midwest Chapter, an educational and humanitarian medical organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Dr. Nabil Shabeeb, for their outstanding contributions to their communities and beyond. Their unwavering commitment to

improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational. For these reasons, the Asian American Medical Association, its members, and Dr. Shabeeb are to be recognized, and I am proud to serve as their representative in Washington, DC.

HONORING STEVE CROPPER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Steve Cropper. On October 17, 2010, Steve was inducted into the Nashville Songwriter's Hall of Fame.

He has been listed as one of the Top 100 guitarists of all time by Rolling Stone Magazine, and for good reason. Being raised in Memphis, Steve bought his first guitar at age 14. Since then, he has led a musically charged life of which most could only dream.

He has played and co-written with the Blues Brothers, Wilson Pickett, Otis Redding and Eric Clapton, just to name a few. “Sittin’ On the Dock of the Bay”, which he co-wrote with Redding is the 6th most-played song of all time.

Steve is a friend and a true asset to our great state of Tennessee and it is a privilege to recognize him here today.

HONORING THE BENZIGER FAMILY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Rep. LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the Benziger Family, whose economic, environmental, and philanthropic contributions in the Sonoma Valley have earned its businesses due recognition as 2010 Sonoma Valley Business of the Year. Both Benziger Family Winery and Imagery Estate Winery have pioneered a sustainable approach to agriculture and a humanitarian approach to business. Their active presence continues to strengthen and enrich Sonoma Valley communities.

Starting in the mid-1990s, Benziger Family Winery began its transition into biodynamic agriculture. They eliminated chemicals and other artificial elements in favor of a more holistic and organic method that capitalizes on the vitality of a vineyard that is allowed to thrive in a natural state. Benziger Family Winery has even been recognized by the National Resources Defense Council for its water conservation strategies. Imagery Estate Winery was founded in the same tradition, and the result is not only a greener footprint, but richer and more distinctive products that embody their unique places of origin. Indeed, Benziger Family Winery and Imagery Estate Winery have earned reputations as producers of exceptional quality not only in California, but worldwide.

The Benziger Family has brought the same care and commitment to its active role in Sonoma Valley communities, supporting local

charities and volunteerism. It has been particularly instrumental in supporting Becoming Independent, a North Bay nonprofit dedicated to empowering people with developmental disabilities, and its wineries are a regular presence at the Sonoma Valley Harvest Wine Auction. Earlier this year, Benziger Family Winery also joined with the local Red Cross to support earthquake relief efforts in Haiti and in Chile.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join us in thanking the Benziger Family for its contributions to Sonoma Valley, and in congratulating its wineries on their success and well deserved recognition. Benziger Family Winery and Imagery Estate Winery are powerful examples of the value of community-minded business, and Sonoma Valley is stronger because of them.

A TRIBUTE TO DARLENE MEALY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Darlene Mealy for her service to Brooklyn's 41st District.

Darlene Mealy was born in Detroit, Michigan, and raised in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant area, in Brooklyn's 41st District. She attended P.S. 28, J.H.S. 271, and George W. Wingate High School. She later studied at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and Cornell for Labor Women's Studies.

Council Member Mealy is a young grassroots leader committed to bring about a positive change in her community. She serves as an outspoken community leader responding to the needs of the people of her community with honor and integrity. Her perseverance helps her to achieve positive results.

Darlene Mealy has served as the Council Member in Brooklyn's 41st District since January 2006. Prior to her election to the council, she was employed at the New York City Transit Authority for 17 years in the Department of Buses, Technical Services Division. She is the Founder and President of a multiple block association known as the Fulton Street/Atlantic Avenue/Ralph Avenue/Rochester Avenue F.A.R.R. Community Association, Inc. Council Member Mealy has served as a National Delegate for the Reverend Al Sharpton for President and is a Board Member of Neighborhood Housing Services. She was also the former Secretary of both the 81st Precinct Community Council and the Unity Democratic Club.

Currently in her second term, Council Member Mealy was appointed Chair of the Contracts Committee, where she has led the fight for reform in New York City contracts procedure and diversity in the awarding of city contracts. She has committed to the expansion of Minority Women Business Enterprises and diversification in both prime and sub-prime contracts. The awarding of Minority Women Business Enterprises is currently at the highest level ever. Additionally, during her time as Chair, the Small Business Service has partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration in an effort to ensure the increase of city contracts to small businesses. Throughout her time on the Council, Council Member Mealy has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service.

Council Member Mealy is a member of Christ Memorial Church, Pastor Flora L.H. Grant under the Pilgrim Church, Chief Prelate Archbishop Roy E. Brown.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Darlene Mealy.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN DAVID P. CONRAD, 2010 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Captain I David P. Conrad, who has been awarded the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department 2010 Career Firefighter of the Year. This is the department's highest award, established in 1985 to provide special recognition for outstanding service and dedication in keeping with the highest traditions of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Captain Conrad is the 25th recipient of this award.

Capt. Conrad has served the residents of Fairfax County for 28 years. During his exceptional career, he has consistently demonstrated his abilities as a teacher, firefighter, leader and member of the community. As a career firefighter, Capt. Conrad has taken on many roles and positions, serving as a member of the Technical Rescue Operations Team, the Virginia Task Force One Urban Search and Rescue Team, the America's Support Team, United Nations Disaster Support Team, the TROT Trench Committee, the Rescue Squad Committee, the Lieutenant's Test Committee, and the Captain's Test Committee. As a member of the elite VATF-1, Capt. Conrad has participated in multiple search and rescue operations around the world. Most recently, Capt. Conrad served as a team manager during the Haiti Earthquake rescue effort. Through his leadership, his team detected, located and rescued nine people who had been trapped.

Providing the tools for other firefighters to succeed is a passion of Capt. Conrad, especially in the area of education. Capt. Conrad serves or has served as a recruit school adjunct instructor for nine years. He has taught three trench classes, set up and facilitated seven joint training evolutions with the military, taught Rapid Intervention Team operations, assisted with writing swift water rescue protocols, served as an adjunct instructor for several Rescue and Truck company schools, taught two Technical Search classes in Canada and two in the United States, and facilitated several VATF-1 Field Exercises. Currently, Capt. Conrad is an instructor for rope, trench, structural collapse and confined space operations, a lead instructor for FEMA in Technical Search and an adjunct instructor for FEMA in Structural Collapse. Capt. Conrad's level of expertise and willingness to share his knowledge is a key reason that the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is one of the best in the world.

Capt. Conrad has worked tirelessly to improve one of the finest fire departments in the country and help save lives. In just one example, he assisted with the development a new

Rapid Intervention Team, RIT, kit for the department. These kits are essential for saving lives in emergency situations, and any improvement made to them will directly result in the preservation of life. It took more than five years, but when it was done, a new RIT air pack program was implemented. A great deal of credit belongs to Capt. Conrad for his work on this project, which has produced one of the most innovative firefighter survival tools ever used by the department. Capt. Conrad also accepted a multi-year challenge to develop and implement new travel bags and backpacks for the Urban Search and Rescue Team. His design is now being used by many teams across the country.

The saying "Character Matters 24-7" could have been written to describe Capt. Conrad. He exemplifies how a firefighter and officer should live his or her life. In addition to the professional and educational contributions that he has made, Capt. Conrad is a compassionate and tenacious advocate for others in the community. Whether it is helping paint the home of a fellow firefighter who was ill, serving on many Christmas in April and Habitat for Humanity projects, helping a local church with an extreme makeover for a D.C. resident who was in significant need, constructing an orphanage in Nicaragua, or just being available to help no matter what the project or who was in need, Capt. Conrad has always answered the call.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Captain I David P. Conrad for his years of service and in congratulating him on being named the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department 2010 Firefighter of the year. Firefighters and all first responders are true heroes for our country. They risk their lives every day to ensure the well being and safety of our communities. These heroes often go unrecognized for their dedication and sacrifices. On behalf of the residents of Northern Virginia, I am honored to thank these brave men and women for their contributions to our communities, and I say to each of them, Stay Safe.

IN HONOR OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BAY VILLAGE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 200th Anniversary of the City of Bay Village. I join with residents, business owners, city officials and Mayor Deborah Sutherland in celebrating this momentous occasion.

The Joseph Cahoon family, one of the first founding families, arrived on the land that is now Bay Village on October 10, 1810. The Cahoons and other settlers braved extreme weather conditions, illness and wild animals on their journey westward. They opted to settle along the picturesque southern shores of Lake Erie in beautiful northern Ohio.

By 1901, the township of Hamlet of Bay, once part of Dover Township, began to exist under the leadership of trustees who worked to form a new village. Two years later, on March 10th, 1903, the Village of Bay was incorporated by the State of Ohio and elections