

HONORING THE LEGACY OF  
HERSHEL “WOODY” WILLIAMS

**HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 15, 2022*

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Hershel “Woody” Williams. Williams was born the youngest of 11 children on a dairy farm in 1923 in Quiet Dell, West Virginia. In 1943, Williams enlisted in the Marine Corps and was sent to train at Camp Elliott in San Diego, California as a demolition man in the use of flamethrowers.

He served at the Battle of Iwo Jima with the 21st Marines, 3d Marine Division. During the battle, Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret.) Williams displayed a “valiant devotion to duty” and service above self as he “enabled his company to reach its objective” by charging enemy fortifications 5 separate times with his flamethrower.

On October 5, 1945, President Truman awarded Williams with the Medal of Honor for his actions, stating in his citation “Cpl. Williams’ aggressive fighting spirit and valiant devotion to duty throughout this fiercely contested action sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.”

After World War II, he spent the rest of his life giving back to veterans and Gold Star Families, he worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for 33 years as a Veterans Service Representative, allowing him to continue serving veterans and their families.

Williams also established the Woody Williams Foundation to continue to serve Gold Star Families, and to date, the Woody Williams Foundation is responsible for establishing 104 Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments across the United States with more than 69 additional monuments underway in 50 states and 1 U.S. Territory.

Woody Williams’ selfless sacrifice as a World War II veteran, champion of service to Gold Star families, and was the last surviving Marine from World War II to wear the Medal of Honor. The Nation mourns the passing of this proud son of West Virginia.

He is a true embodiment of “The Greatest Generation.”

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS  
CUBAN PEOPLE ON THE FIRST  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE JULY  
11TH PROTESTS ON THE ISLAND

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 15, 2022*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I rise today in praise of the brave Cuban people who, one year ago, risked everything to demand freedom in every city and every province in Cuba. They did this knowing the consequences, and knowing that they were risking their lives, livelihoods, and would likely end up in prison. Much of the world remains in awe of their dedication and courage.

According to human rights groups such as CubaLex and Freedom House, more than 1,400 Cubans were detained, including approximately 45 children, in the wake of these

protests. At least 700 remain in prison since the July 11 protests began. To date, more than 550 protesters have been sentenced to more than 4,000 combined years in prison. Some have been sentenced to forced labor. Many, including children, were handed multi-year prison sentences for 6 to 30 years, and remain in prison to this day. Some of those in prison today include:

Jose Daniel Ferrer of UNPACU; Luis Manuel Otero Alcantara and Maykel “Osorbo” Castillo of the San Isidro Movement; Jose Diaz Silva of the Opposition Movement for a New Republic; Arianna Lopez Roque of the Julio Machado Academy; 17-year-old Emiyosian Roman Rodriguez who shouted “Patria Y Vida,” and was sent to a forced labor camp for five years; Duannis Dabel Leon Taboada, a 22-year-old barber who was sentenced to 14 years; Young women such as Lisandra Gongora Espinosa, and the Garrido sisters; Loreto Hernandez and Donaida Perez; along with hundreds of others.

I have been appalled by the Biden Administration’s lack of response to this historic upswell of support for democratic change inside totalitarian Cuba. Instead of unequivocal solidarity with the protesters, the Biden Administration instead has barreled ahead with failed policies to increase revenue to the regime. It has lifted restrictions on remittances, increased travel, and permitted support for “independent” and “semi-independent” businesses, which do not exist in closed Communist economies. For this reason, we know that weakened sanctions will only increase revenue to the Cuban military, which runs much of the Cuban economy including the tourism industry, and enrich the Cuban people’s oppressors.

Shamefully, the Biden Administration has requested, and is in the process of implementing, draconian cuts to the Office of Cuba Broadcasting at a time when the Cuban people need access to outside, independent information more than ever. And the administration has yet to attempt to provide internet access, and expand democracy programs, to assist the Cuban people achieve freedom.

Nonetheless, the United States will continue to stand with the Cuban people, and find ways to cut off revenue to their oppressors. We must ensure that the broadcasts continue, and that critical support to political prisoners, their families, and the democratic opposition continues. Despite the Biden Administration’s best efforts to appease and embolden the murderous regime in Cuba, the Cuban people will be free.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RODRIGO  
“ROD” GARCIA

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 15, 2022*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, achievements, and legacy of Rodrigo “Rod” Garcia, a respected visionary, leader, and advocate, for his lifelong dedication to empowering the Hispanic community to achieve educational excellence, economic opportunity, and social equity.

Rodrigo “Rod” Garcia was born on March 29, 1943, in Los Angeles, California to Gene-

vieve Hernandez and Rodrigo Garcia. He earned an Associate’s Degree in Engineering from East Los Angeles College, and a Bachelor’s Degree of Science in Engineering from California State University, Los Angeles.

Rod served as a civil engineer for the City of Los Angeles and worked in Public Works, Building and Safety, and at the Port of Los Angeles. Additionally, Rod Chaired the City of Monterey Park Planning Commission, and served on the Advisory Board for the Dean of Engineering at California State University.

Rod was one of the few Hispanic engineers amidst a tech boom in California in the early seventies. Despite being in the minority in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) field, he gathered a cohort of fellow Hispanic engineers determined to contribute and diversify the STEM industry.

In 1974, Rod founded and incorporated the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) with the mission of ensuring networking and education opportunities for Hispanic students and professionals in the Southern California region. Not too long after and with the collaboration of Administrators, professors, and students at California State University, East Los Angeles College, and the University of Southern California, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers established its first collegiate chapters.

The result of five decades of Rod’s high-spirited and fearless leadership propelled the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers to reach 13,000 members and 286 chapters nationwide. His unique ability of uniting community partners and leaders around the country will serve as evidence that closing the STEM education gap and increasing the number of Hispanics in STEM can and will be done.

Rod is remembered by his colleagues and thousands of current and former SHPE students and professionals for his devotion and service to expanding awareness, access, support, and development opportunities to Hispanics in STEM to realize their fullest potential and positively impact society. His legacy of empowering the Hispanic community to achieve educational excellence, economic opportunity, and social equity will guide many generations to come.

Mr. Garcia is survived by his wife, Cynthia Cathy Wong, and his children Marlene Tomasina Zamora, Marianne Pilar Garcia, and Rodrick Fitzgerald Garcia.

Madam Speaker, I extend my deepest sympathies to the family, colleagues, and friends of Rodrigo “Rod” Garcia, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing his incredibly life of service for others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 15, 2022*

Mr. PASCHELL. Madam Speaker, I missed one roll call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 338, Speier of California Part A Amendment No. 395.

I was proud to vote for final passage of H.R. 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 that included Rep. Speier’s Amendment No. 395.