

Hispanic Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented to Dr. Andrade in San Francisco on August 25, 1998. Presented by Bank One, this award is in recognition of Dr. Andrade's career as a community organizer, national leader, television commentator, motivational speaker, and co-founder of the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI).

Born in Brownwood, Texas, Dr. Andrade began his lifelong quest to empower Hispanic Americans while still a youth. He credits his mother, Julia Andrade, for instilling in him a sense of humor and a strong work ethic. Dr. Andrade utilized both while working through twelve years of public school and five years of college. Since beginning his distinguished career over thirty years ago, Dr. Andrade has made headlines as the first Latino in the nation to be arrested for using his Spanish-language skills to teach high school civics, the first Latino State Director for nonpartisan voter registration in Texas, the youngest Chairperson of a Community Action Agency in Texas, and the only Latino political commentator on an English-language television station (WLS-TV, ABC's Chicago affiliate) in the nation for six years. In addition, Dr. Andrade was an influential organizer of the United States Hispanic Leadership Conference (USHLC), now in its sixteenth year.

Indeed, through his outreach, political expertise, and motivational speaking, Dr. Andrade has influenced a whole generation of young Hispanic American leaders. To further their education and opportunities, the "Juan Andrade Scholarship for Young Hispanic Leaders" was established in recognition of his tireless efforts to motivate and train young Hispanic leaders. Since 1994, this fund has awarded over one hundred thousand dollars in scholarships to young Hispanic leaders. Moreover, Dr. Andrade has not only influenced many of our nation's future leaders, he has influenced and helped mold many of today's business, civic, and national leaders. His exemplary efforts have been acknowledged by many; he has been named the "Chicagoan of the Year" by the Chicago Sun-Times, one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics in America" three times by the Hispanic Business Magazine, and a "Distinguished Alumni" by Howard Payne University. Though Dr. Andrade has been honored for his lifetime achievement, he intends to continue his endeavors. In addition, he plans to spend time with his wife, Maria Elenia, and their four children and two grandchildren.

As President John F. Kennedy said, "It is time for a new generation of leadership, to cope with new problems and new opportunities. For there is a new world to be won." His words are as poignant now as they were on that Fourth of July in 1960. As our country heads into the twenty-first century, we must address many new problems and issues. Dr. Andrade is preparing tomorrow's leaders to deal with these multi-faceted problems and issues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr. for his selection as the 1998 recipient of Hispanic Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Andrade's efforts to train a new generation of leaders to solve our future problems and create new op-

portunities for our nation is the work of a true visionary. His vision and self-sacrificing labors to accomplish his goals have positively changed our country for the better. From Indiana's First Congressional District to Washington, D.C., we have seen the Hispanization of America. I am confident that with dedicated, upstanding citizens like Dr. Andrade helping our young people mature into adult leaders, the future of the United States is safe and in good hands as we enter the twenty-first century.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF "IVORY SOAP"

#### HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize some 5,000 World War II veterans of "Ivory Soap," a most unusual team of Army Air Forces, Navy Armed Guards, and civilian Merchant Marines who have gone unrecognized for 53 years for their contributions in bringing peace to the Pacific war. During 1944 and 1945, they served aboard 24 specially modified Liberty and auxiliary ships that operated as floating aircraft depot repair and maintenance shops. These supported our bomber and fighter forces on the front line of battle during the Pacific island hopping campaigns.

Hundreds of B-29 bombers and P-51 fighters returned to battle to fight again because of these depot and maintenance ships. This is another one of the never-told stories out of the dust vaults of declassified secret records. This story was uncovered by one of the ship's crew seeking his comrades for a reunion. Only in the last few years have these documents been released to the public.

The project's code word was "Ivory Soap," appropriately selected, because "it floats." This effort was so important to our air war in the Pacific that the Joint Chiefs of Staff were directly involved in its development. Because of the secret classification and the dispersal among the islands of these ships, few of the veterans ever knew of the extent and effectiveness of their tasks.

Now that the word is out, a group of veterans from the ships have begun a search to find their shipmates so they may hold combined reunions to share their pride in being part of this special project.

A combined reunion began today in Washington, D.C., and will run until October 11, 1998. The surviving veterans' ages run from their 70s to their 90s. I extend my best wishes and salute our heroes for their contributions and service to this great country. May the reunion brighten their spirits and bring together their comrades to renew old friendships.

A TRIBUTE TO LT. ELPIDIO "PETE" RAMIREZ ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 26 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LOS ANGELES CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Elpidio "Pete" Ramirez on the occasion of his retirement from Los Angeles City Housing Authority Police Department, after 26 years of dedicated service.

In 1957, Pete graduated from Cathedral High School. After graduation, he joined the United States Navy where he served on the USS Fortified, the USS Wabash and the USS Esteem. In the Navy, he reached the rank of Fireman First Class. Pete received an Associate of Arts Degree from Rio Hondo Community College, and in March 1980, he graduated from the Golden West Police Academy.

Pete began his law enforcement career with the Baldwin Park Police Department as a Reserve Police Officer in 1960. In 1964, he transferred to the Montebello Police Department where he served as a Reserve Police Sergeant. After his five years with the Montebello Police Department, in 1969 Pete transferred to the United States Marshals Service.

In 1971, Pete joined the Los Angeles City Housing Authority Police Department. As a police officer with the Housing Authority, he served in several assignments including patrol and footbeat. On one occasion, while Pete was handling a routine call, he was ambushed and sustained severe gun shot wounds which caused life-long injuries to his back. After recovering from his injuries, Pete continued working for the Housing Authority Police Department. In 1983, Pete was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and in March of 1994 he was promoted to Lieutenant.

Pete's career as a public servant is highlighted by over 20 years of service as an elected official. He served on the El Rancho Unified School District Board of Education from 1976 to 1993. In 1997, he was elected to the Pico Rivera City Council. He is also a member of the American Legion and the Optimist Club.

In his retirement, Pete will spend his time with his wife Socorro, his children and grandchildren, including his 2 year old granddaughter, Whisper, who currently lives with him in Pico Rivera, California.

Mr. Speaker, on June 17, 1998, Pete retired from the Los Angeles City Housing Authority Police Department. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Elpidio "Pete" Ramirez for his loyal and dedicated service to the Los Angeles City Housing Authority and the residents of the City of Los Angeles and for his continued commitment to outstanding public service.