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House of Representatives

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

A TRIBUTE HONORING MIDDLEWEIGHT BOXER
SHAWN ESTRADA FROM EAST LOS ANGELES
AS HE COMPETES AT THE SUMMER OLYMPICS IN BEIJING

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an extraordinary athlete from East Los Angeles in the 34th District who is currently in Beijing, China as a member of the United States Olympic Boxing Team competing in the Games of the XXIXth Olympiad.

Weighing in at 165 pounds, Shawn Estrada is a middleweight boxer who became the ninth member of the U.S. Olympic boxing team after winning at the Americas Qualifier in Guatemala City, Guatemala in April.

The 23 year old trains at the Eddie Heredia Boxing Club in East Los Angeles under the skilled direction of three dedicated coaches, his father, Juan, and Rodrigo Mosquera and Hector Aguilar.

Shawn says his fascination with boxing started when he was a young boy. This is not a surprise considering Shawn is carrying on a proud and distinguished family legacy. His father was a member of Mexico's Olympic team and his uncle, Adan Estrada, was a pro boxer. While his father refused to take Shawn to the gym with him when he was young, Shawn said that changed one day when he and his brother snuck into his dad's car one day and rode along with him anyway. He's been boxing ever since.

Shawn says his goal to "bring home the gold" is motivated as much by his daughter, Alyssa, as it is for his country and hometown. He told USA Boxing – the national governing body of amateur, Olympic-style boxing – that in addition to being a boxing "champion," he also strives to "be a good role model" for his daughter. In this regard, Shawn's tremendous drive to achieve and serve as a role model extends well beyond the boxing ring. He is furthering his education at East Los Angeles College and looks forward to one day helping to save lives as a firefighter.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 34th Congressional District and the state of California, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Shawn on his remarkable achievements and extending to him and his teammates our best wishes for a victorious trip to the Beijing Olympics. I can assure you, regardless of how he performs, Shawn will always be a role model and a champion to his many devoted fans in East Los Angeles. He is among our hometown heroes, and we are very proud of him – in and out of the boxing ring.