

For Immediate Release: *March 10, 2010*

Washington DC – H. Res. 1115, a resolution introduced by Congressman Duncan Hunter (CA-52) honoring Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena passed the House of Representatives today. The resolution, which passed by voice vote, expresses appreciation for the profound dedication and public service of agent Camarena on the 25th anniversary of his death.

Congressman Hunter made the following statement on the House floor:

“Mr. Speaker, we are all familiar with the dangerous duties undertaken by the men and women of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Oftentimes, their accomplishments go unnoticed but these agents continue making significant contributions to the seemingly unending effort to protect our communities from drug crime and addiction.

“This is a responsibility that DEA agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena took seriously over the course of his career in law enforcement.

“It was 25 years ago this March that agent Camarena’s body was discovered after he was kidnapped by armed men in front of the U.S. Consulate in Guadalajara, Mexico. He had been severely tortured by his captors.

“More than two dozen people, including Mexican government officials, cartel leaders and associates, were convicted for agent Camarena’s murder. Still, his memory has not been forgotten.

“The circumstances surrounding his death are a vivid reminder of the violence and danger attributable to illegal drugs, whether it’s directly along our borders, in our neighborhoods or within the homes of families facing the struggles of addiction.

“Today, agent Camarena is perhaps the best-know hero of the war on drugs and his story continues to inspire millions of Americans to lead drug-free lives.

“In fact, shortly after his death, “Camarena Clubs” were launched throughout Southern California. Hundreds of club members wore red ribbons and pledged to lead drug-free lives in honor of agent Camarena and others who gave their lives for the same purpose.

“In 1985, club members presented a proclamation to First Lady Nancy Reagan, which brought the club national recognition and ultimately prompted thousands of schools, communities and states to recognize Red Ribbon Week, now celebrated during the last week of every October.

“On this anniversary of agent Camarena’s death, let us take time to honor the contribution of this national hero -- something we can all do by encouraging communities and organizations nationwide to promote healthy, productive and drug-free lifestyles.”