



**Remarks by Mayor Miguel Pulido  
Tribute To Mayors Reception  
Antonio Villaraigosa Leadership Award**

**June 28, 2019  
Hilton Hawaiian Village  
Honolulu, H.I.**

Mayor Miguel Pulido: I was talking to Mickey [Ibarra] earlier today and he said, Mayor, do you realize you're the last standing mayor that worked with Mickey when he was with President Clinton in the first administration? You were there, Mickey, and you would welcome everybody with such a warm heart and open arms. People from across the country would walk into the White House and he would understand what you are trying to get done, what you are working on, what are your issues. And you'd help us solve them, Mickey. You've never lost that passion. You've never lost that desire. You've never lost that ability to execute.

When I think about ability to execute, I need to thank all my fellow mayors but in particular in this case Mayor Villaraigosa because being mayor of L.A. is a different animal. You've got all sorts of crazy things going on all the time. But he always remained a human being. That is important for all of us - not to forget to be kind to others, forget to have our proper values, forget to do things for the right reasons. And you've always done that, Antonio, and I thank you very much.

As I see Steve and Benjamin, and Bryan Barnett and of course Greg Fischer, I'll tell you this institution - the U.S. Conference of Mayors - is in good hands. I even see my fellow honoree. He's already got it I believe figured out as to what the next steps are going to be to become the second vice president. We hope. He's working very hard. By doing all these things, you can make a difference.

I remember when Antonio asked me to show up and be on the Nominating Committee. For those of you that don't know, the Nominating Committee nominates different folks. There is a lot of power for about a few days on that committee because everybody comes at you. They all want to be the next president and there is a certain succession.

Well, I remember flying in on a red-eye because they had to make a vote the next morning. We made it happen, Antonio. And we got a fellow Californian, Kevin Johnson, from Sacramento in.

As I see fellow Californians, whether it's Mayor Albert Robles from Carson or Mayor Harry Sidhu from Anaheim or my fellow Hispanic Mayor Robert Garcia from Long Beach - and I know there are many others but in particular the California mayors - we've got to stick together and we do. I'll tell you when I see mayors from Florida or from other parts of the country, I see that they work together very, very effectively. At the end of the day I think that's what being a mayor is all about. Being a mayor is about making a difference - a difference for strangers, a difference for people you'll never meet but a difference that is very, very significant in their lives.

I remember when I first came to the United States. I was five years old. I had two notes in my pocket that my mother sent me off when I went to school. One note said here's my address, 801 South Placentia Avenue in Placentia, just so I could give it to the bus driver. Because when you don't speak English, not a word of English, you're not sure you're going to get on the right bus. In those days Orange County was farmland and you had to get on the right bus. So you got to school, you had to come home.

But the other note, maybe the most important, was that I had to go to the bathroom. So I would present that to my teacher and they'd let me go to the bathroom. When you have to go, it becomes a real serious issue. If you don't know how to

say it, you don't know what to do. Being armed with things of that nature, necessity teaches us to do a whole lot.

Right now part of what we have to do I think as a conference and as a network is continue to love each other, continue to reach out, continue to try to find the higher value and the higher ground to live with our traditions and all the great values that make up the United States of America. This is such an amazing country. It has changed the world for the better. When we struggle, we have to remain true to our values. As we do that, I think we have to just be thankful to everybody and to all the opportunity that is being given to us.

I finally just want to say a couple of words about Amy - Amy Hill. Because you are up there today, Amy. She was doing a speech. I don't know how many were there but her speech was great. But look, whenever you're doing great things, somebody doesn't like something. We had a couple of hecklers in the room and flat out I just felt embarrassed because we were at the conference. We debate things. If you don't like something, you put a resolution on and go fight for it. And believe me, we've had some real battles on the floor of the Conference of Mayors fighting for resolutions. But we have to have a certain amount of respect and civility. That matters. And today she was not afforded that the way she should have been. But look, Amy Hill is Amy Hill. Walmart is doing a lot of great work. I'm very

proud that you're sponsoring this event here today and that you like others, Javier and others, you continue to make a difference because you are.

Let me at this point I think turn it back to Mickey. By the way, Mickey just had a knee replacement and here he is. And Antonio was in Spain on business until a few hours ago. He took the red-eye back from Spain, got into LAX, flew to Honolulu and here he is. Unless you knew that he hadn't slept in 48 hours, he is pulling it off fairly well. Look at the guy. He's smiling. He looks calm and collected. That's Antonio. And that's what mayors do. They push the envelope. They get it done. They figure out how. They make a difference. They make the world better for all of us.

Finally, to my wife Laura - she said don't recognize me, but it's better when I do - my son David, my daughter Isabel, and our adopted daughter Emma. She's not really adopted but I call her that because she hangs out with us a lot. And some people thinks she looks more like me than my real daughter and son. So you be the judge of that. But with that, thank you for this opportunity, Antonio and Mickey and to the network of mayors. To all my fellow mayors, the best thing you can do is get an award from mayors because a mayor knows what mayors have to do. They know it well. I thank you very, very much.