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A TRIBUTE HONORING BOXING EXTRAORDINAIRE JAVIER MOLINA FROM THE CITY OF COMMERCE AS HE PREPARES TO COMPETE AT THE SUMMER OLYMPICS IN BEIJING

MS. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an exceptionally gifted boxer from the City of Commerce in the 34th Congressional District as he embarks on his trip to the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing as a member of the U.S. Boxing Olympic Team.

At 5'9" inches tall and 141 pounds, 18-year-old Javier Molina is classified as a light welterweight in the boxing world. In August of last year, Javier qualified to join the U.S. Olympic team.

Javier trains at the Commerce Boxing Club, operated by the City of Commerce, under the experienced guidance of Boxing Coach Roberto Luna. Javier and his twin brother, Oscar, have trained under Mr. Luna since they were nine years old.

Described by his coach as an intellectual and role model, Javier also excels in school. As a student at John Glenn High School in Norwalk, Javier earned a 3.8 grade point average while taking mostly honors courses.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 34th Congressional District and the state of California, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Javier 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, Javier will always be a champion to his many devoted fans in the City of Commerce. He is among our hometown heroes, and we are very proud of him – in and out of the boxing ring.

I would also like to submit for the record excerpts from an article that appeared in a boxing publication about Javier. It provides a more personal glimpse into the mindset of this dynamic young Olympian.

The Sweet Science Olympic Spotlight: Javier Molina

By Ralph Gonzalez of *The Sweet Science*, a publication about boxing, September 6, 2007

Sometimes a song sums it all up for a person. For 17-year-old

Javier Molina, it's Mexico's Frank Sinatra, Vicente Fernandez, who spells it out for him in one of his classic mariachi songs. "No Me Se Rajar!" (I Don't Know How to Back Down) is a tune that reflects the macho culture that prevails in Mexico.

"I like that song. It talks about never quitting, never giving in," said Molina before receiving a special commendation from the city of Commerce, CA. "That's my attitude inside the ring. I have no quit in me."

It's exactly that frame of mind that got the 17 year old where he is. The Commerce kid just earned the privilege of representing the United States in the 2008 Olympics set to take place in Beijing, China in the 141 (light welterweight) class. Molina won the Olympic trials held in Houston, Texas this past August 25th. He sports an impressive amateur record of 111 wins against 12 losses.

"I knew he had that special something when he first walked into the ring. Sometimes you can tell right away," said trainer Roberto Luna. Molina walked into the Commerce Boxing Club at the age of nine with his twin brother, Oscar. "He always had the mentality of a winner. He and his brothers always showed great ability."

It seems that boxing is encrypted into the DNA of the Molina family. The father, Miguel, was a pro in Mexico with two fights in his short career. Javier's older brother, Carlos, is a highly regarded prospect with a 2-0 record. Luna co-manages Carlos along with Israel Vazquez's manager Frank Espinoza. Javier's twin brother, Oscar, is also a highly touted amateur who reached the nationals as a 152 pounder. "We're going to try Oscar out for the Mexican national team," said Luna.

Molina discovered the importance of mental toughness at an early age. "I always trained real hard physically and mentally. I fight with a lot of confidence," said Molina. "When I'm in the ring, I don't think of anybody as better than me. When I get in there, I don't think about getting tired or anything negative. I block everything out. I'm really focused."

Luna believes Molina is destined for success regardless of what field he chooses. "He's very intellectual and humble," said Luna. "He's going to be a great role model. Whatever he decides to do in life, he's going to make it."