

Lujan receives Ohtli Award

Written by Staff Reports

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Recognized for contributions to Mexican community in U. S.

ALBUQUERQUE — Congressman Ben Ray Luján, D-N.M., the U. S. House Assistant Speaker, received the Ohtli Award at the U. S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce National Convention in Albuquerque, Sept. 30.

The award — presented by Consul General of Mexico Norma Ang Sánchez — recognizes leaders who've made significant contributions to the Mexican community in the United States.

"I'm extremely humbled to receive the Ohtli Award — a recognition of my work to uplift Hispanic communities, combat the president's anti-immigrant agenda, and make America a more welcoming and inclusive home for all of our families. I'm grateful for the Hispanic American leaders that have paved the way of progress before me, and I'll continue doing my part to grow opportunities for the next generation of Hispanic and Latinx leaders," Luján said.

In excerpts from his prepared remarks for the ceremony, Lujan said,

„I'm thrilled to be here as we recognize Hispanic entrepreneurs, empower Hispanic-owned businesses, and lift up the voices of Hispanic and Latino communities."

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“That’s what the Ohtli Award is all about – empowering others, lifting each other up, and standing together as one. And now more than ever, it’s critical that we stand together.”

“Just a few days ago, we heard the president question, right here in New Mexico, the loyalty of the proud Hispanic American community in the U. S. We are a community that has great respect for our country. We want to work hard and make our shared home a better place for all.”

“The reality is, this is not just hateful rhetoric from the president. It’s dangerous. It’s inspiring violence.”

“I know that our hearts still break from the shooting in El Paso. Our brothers and sisters were targeted because of the color of their skin. It was a direct attack on Hispanic and immigrant communities.”

“But in the days and weeks that followed, our communities responded. People across the country came together to support and stand in solidarity with our neighbors in El Paso. And right here in New Mexico, communities stepped up to donate blood and raise money for the victims. We proved that we are united against hate.”

“And together, we can uplift our communities by combating gun violence, empowering businesses, growing our economy, standing up against bigoted policies, and addressing the disparities that plague our communities.”