

Stu is survived by his beloved wife of 32 years, Barbara Spencer; two children from a previous marriage, Karen Spencer of Palm Desert and Steven Spencer of Dana Point; a stepdaughter, Debbie DeSilva of Carlsbad, and six grandchildren. I extend my personal and heartfelt condolences to the Spencer family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Stu. Although he may be gone, Stu's many contributions to our Nation have left an enduring legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently gave birth and am unable to travel to D.C. to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 40 and NAY on Roll Call No. 41.

RECOGNIZING CASCADIA COLLEGE FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cascadia College for 25 years of invaluable service to students, faculty, and staff in Washington's 1st Congressional District and beyond. Since 2000, Cascadia College has strived to create a community that encourages life-long learning and delivers accessible and equitable educational experiences that motivate every person to achieve their academic goals and pursue a meaningful career. Offering 80 different certificates and degree pathways, Cascadia College places emphasis on teaching students how to think critically, learn actively, interact in diverse and complex environments, and communicate with clarity.

Recognized as an award-winning green campus, Cascadia College has made strides in sustainability. The campus is managed 100 percent pesticide free, and Cascadia has ranked number one in the Nation by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for six consecutive years. Given the school's devotion to maintaining the 58-acres of wetlands on campus, pollinator gardens, and their Food Forest, Cascadia students have the opportunity to pursue academic degrees and programs revolving around sustainability and are offered a hands-on learning experience to enhance both their campus and the greater community.

It's an honor to represent Cascadia College in Congress, and I hope to see them operate for many more years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cascadia College and their continued service to inspire students and faculty to achieve their academic and career goals.

RECOGNITION OF CHARLOTTE CREMIN, SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and dedication of Charlotte Cremin. Charlotte served my office for over six years. She was one of the first members of my team when I came to Congress in 2019 and has remained a loyal and trusted advisor throughout her tenure.

As every Member of Congress and staffer knows, taking on a new role in a freshman office is no easy task. Even throughout the challenges we faced as my office was stood up, Charlotte was always ready to take on something new for the team. I tasked Charlotte with managing the health care, veterans, foreign affairs, and defense legislative portfolio. Whether it was late nights reviewing NDAA amendments, or spending time listening to and helping each health care group or veteran who walked through my office door, I could always rely on Charlotte to get the job done well.

Charlotte has treated her colleagues and my constituents with kindness, professionalism, and respect. Everyone in the office could always rely on Charlotte. She has been a trusted advisor and staffer for Wisconsin's First Congressional District and her dedication and service will be greatly missed.

While Charlotte's title in my office has been Senior Policy Advisor, she has recently taken on the new role and title as a mom. Charlotte and her husband David welcomed Isabel Loretta Cremin into the world on November 20, 2024. I thank Charlotte for her steadfast commitment to serving Wisconsin's First Congressional District and wish her and her family the very best.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JUAN FRANCISCO OCHOA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Juan Francisco "Don Pancho" Ochoa of Laredo, Texas. Mr. Ochoa is a longtime Laredo restaurateur and is integral to the culture of South Texas and beyond.

Born in a large family in Sinaloa, Mexico, Mr. Ochoa first operated a small shoe store. After creating a novel way to marinate chicken, Mr. Ochoa knew he had a successful business opportunity.

Soon after, Mr. Ochoa's restaurant success began in 1975 when he opened El Pollo Loco, a legendary restaurant chain across Mexico and into California.

In 1987, Mr. Ochoa founded Taco Palenque, a second successful Mexican fast-casual chain. Today, Taco Palenque features 42 locations in Texas and Mexico.

Finally, in Laredo 2005, Mr. Ochoa started Palenque Grill, a family-style restaurant featuring live music and authentic Mexican recipes, many of which were created by his wife, Florida.

Mr. Ochoa is an exemplar of the American Dream. It is our country's promise that any dedicated, hard-working individual can build a business and thrive.

As someone born and raised in Laredo, Texas, I have always enjoyed spending time with family and friends at Taco Palenque and Palenque Grill. These restaurants are an institution in South Texas and are a cornerstone of our community.

On top of achieving the American Dream, Mr. Ochoa is also one of Laredo's greatest cultural ambassadors. His restaurants and kitchens bring the cuisine of south Texas and northern Mexico to the world.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating "Don Pancho" Ochoa for his incredible success.

Let us all strive to share our passion for our communities and honor those who show what it means to be an American.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on February 12, 2025, I was not recorded on Roll Call Votes No. 40 and No. 41.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call Vote No. 40, and "NAY" on Roll Call Vote No. 41.

On February 13, 2025, I was not recorded on Roll Call Vote No. 42.

Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on Roll Call Vote No. 42.

RECOGNIZING ERIC KIM

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eric Kim, for his distinguished service as the Legislative Director for our Congressional Office. Eric stepped into a high demand environment and helped successfully execute on a series of legislative victories to improve national security, reduce government red tape, and improve America's financial operations.

Together, with a team of four legislative assistants, Eric helped drive our defense sector's innovation in unmanned aerial vehicles, cybersecurity, and joint ventures with key international partners, like Israel, to protect our national interests. These efforts were enshrined in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Moreover, Eric brought his tenacity to developing legislation directly impacting the citizens of Iowa, by traveling and hearing from constituents first-hand. From these efforts, Eric helped deliver as one of the Top 10 most bipartisan members of the 118th Congress, according to the non-partisan Lugar Center and the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

Ultimately, I am proud to recognize Eric's efforts, his thoughtful consideration and his kindness, as a reflection of his service to Iowa, and the American people.