

Tommy was an inspiration to me and to so many other people. He was daring, fearless and bold, helping us to gain the courage to openly discuss and deal with race, discrimination and inequality in a way that few had been able to before.

I will truly miss his presence and the long conversations we would often have, which would usually start when he'd say "Hey Mac, what do you think about that?" He was an incredibly deep thinker. He was especially an inspiration to young people in the community, often speaking at high schools, colleges and universities to encourage them to succeed, to give back, and to hold their heads up high.

There will never be another Tommy Jacquette, and I know that the legacy he has left behind is enshrined not only in the Watts Summer Festival, but in the larger community. I look forward to working with his family and the Board of Directors to make sure that the Festival continues, though there will be a big hole that can never be filled.

I thank him for all that he was and all that he was not, for all the lives he reached, and for his friendship. I will miss him dearly, but am comforted because I know Tommy Jacquette's life was one of impact, purpose, and fulfillment.

RECOGNIZING JAY HARRINGTON
FOR HIS 700TH CAREER VICTORY
AS A MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL COACH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jay Harrington, coach of the Southwestern Illinois College Blue Storm, who posted his 700th victory as a college men's basketball coach on November 13, 2009.

Jay Harrington began his coaching career as an assistant at Western Kentucky University for one year followed by a year as an assistant coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Jay's first position as head coach was at Wabash Valley College where he coached for three years. He next took over as head coach at Southwestern Illinois College, then Belleville Area College, where he has been for the past 30 years. Last season, Coach Harrington posted his 600th victory as the coach of Southwestern Illinois College.

Coach Harrington entered the 2009–2010 season with a career total of 696 wins. He posted his 700th victory with a 64–49 win over Highland College before the home crowd at the Blue Storm Basketball Classic at Southwestern Illinois College. With typical modesty, Jay deflected accolades over this milestone, preferring instead to discuss the good performance of his players.

Jay Harrington is enshrined in both the Illinois Coaches Hall of Fame and the National Junior College Athletic Association, NJCAA, Basketball Coach's Hall of Fame. He has been named the Junior College Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and Co-Coach of the Year for Junior Colleges by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jay Harrington on his

milestone 700th victory as a men's college basketball coach.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK HALL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, Norco, California has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. I rise today to recognize and honor one of those individuals: outgoing Norco City Council Member, and former Mayor, Frank Hall.

Frank started his public service career in 1993 as a member of the Streets and Trails Commission in Norco, California. With that experience he was elected as a Norco City Councilmember in 1997. As member of the Norco City Council, Frank also served as Mayor in 2008, 2004 and 2000. In 2000, Frank received the Norco Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year Award.

Over his accomplished career, Frank served on a number of special committees which addressed a wide range of issues. He worked on transportation issues as a member of the Riverside County Transportation Commission, Riverside Transit Authority Board of Directors and the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee Northwest Zone Committee. He promoted education and learning in the community as a member of the Riverside Community College, Norco Friends of the Library, Norco Historical Society and the Corona/Norco Family YMCA. He also was successful in rallying support for NSWC, Corona and joined a regional effort to keep the base from being realigned to Port Hueneme during the last round of Base Realignment and Closure.

Frank Hall will leave the Norco City Council with many accomplishments; his legacy will serve as a shining example and constant reminder of what it means to be a public servant. I am proud to call Frank a fellow community member, American and friend. It has been an honor to work with him for the betterment of our community and I salute his service to the City of Norco.

GIUSEPPE TAORMINA

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Giuseppe Taormina. His powerful voice, passion and talent make him the true "King of High C."

Mr. Taormina was born in Palermo, Sicily, Italy. He started voice training at a very young age and began performing in Sicily. When he arrived in the United States, he immediately auditioned for the Metropolitan Opera Company, where he was accepted into the Young Artist Program. Because of his beautiful voice, he received two scholarships as primo tenore while at Hunter College.

Most notably, Mr. Taormina is the only person in the United States who has received the

prestigious honor of Necklace Knight, "Cavaliere di Collona" and the noble title of Saint George in Carinzia Supreme Military Order.

Mr. Taormina has had the honor to perform for the Kings of Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, as well as Imelda Marcos, the former First Lady of the Philippines. He has also traveled to the far corners of the world spreading his passion for music with the "Ambassadors of Opera."

On November 1st, Mr. Taormina performed at the 48th Annual Mario Lanza Ball, where he was the evening's special guest tenor. Mr. Taormina helped celebrate the life and career of Mario Lanza. His one of a kind tenor voice is a great tribute to a star that left us far to soon.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the talent and accomplishments of Giuseppe Taormina.

HONORING NORTON BUFFALO OF
SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Norton Buffalo, a man of enormous musical talent, who passed away October 30, 2009, after a short battle with lung cancer. Although he is no longer with us, his music and his virtuosity as a harmonica player are gifts that will live on for generations to come.

Born 58 years ago in Oakland, California and raised in the blue collar streets of Richmond, California, Norton developed an appreciation for music from his father, a harmonica player in his own right, his mother, a nightclub singer, and his great-uncle, an Academy Award winning composer. He won his first talent contest in 1963 while in the 6th grade and he never looked back.

For decades he called Sonoma County home. His first solo album and tribute to his adopted home, "Lovin' in the Valley of the Moon," was released in 1977. In addition to his own albums, he played on more than 180 albums by other artists and was a member of the Steve Miller Band for 30 years. He was a master of all genres, from jazz to rock to blues to honky tonk. He toured with such notables as the Doobie Brothers, Kenny Loggins, Olivia Newton John, Commander Cody, Mickey Hart, Jerry Garcia and slide guitar player Roy Rogers, as well as his own bands.

I was honored and privileged to know Norton as a friend, long after I was a fan. I grew up on his music and sought out his performances at small clubs and venues throughout Northern California. When we became friends many years later, I was touched by his compassion and his dedication to making the world a better place. He was a man with a heart to match his talent.

Norton was a performer to the end. He was on tour with the Steve Miller Band in August when he received his diagnosis and was writing songs just days before his death.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Flores, his children, Aisah and Elias, his stepchildren, Sierra Ruelas, and Bo Winterburn, his father, Ken Jackson, and five brothers and sisters.

Madam Speaker, Norton Buffalo touched millions of people with his music and his talent. It is therefore appropriate that we remember and honor him today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RUNAWAY REPORTING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce bipartisan legislation, the Runaway Reporting Improvement Act of 2009, along with my friends and colleagues Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CONYERS of Michigan, and Mr. CARDOZA of California.

One of the few things more terrible than learning that a child was missing would be learning that everything possible wasn't being done to find him or her. Shockingly, the New York Times recently reported that many runaway children are missing not only from their homes, but also from the very database meant to help law enforcement officers find them.

If no one knows that a child is missing, that child is unlikely to be found. It is imperative that everyone—parents, communities, and especially law enforcement authorities—combine their resources and work together to find and protect missing children. The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database is designed to help make information sharing easier. Virtually every law enforcement officer in the United States can access the NCIC database, which means that they can more easily cooperate in investigating and resolving multi-jurisdictional cases.

Every child reported to have run away is supposed to be listed in the NCIC database as a missing person. However, according to the New York Times' series "Running in the Shadows," as many as 16 percent of reported runaways are never entered into the NCIC database. Madam Speaker, this is outrageous and unacceptable. Without an NCIC entry, law enforcement officers will not share information or resources, and are much less likely to find or protect a missing child.

The Runaway Reporting Improvement Act of 2009 would help solve this problem and protect missing children by making two small but useful changes to the current law. First, the bill would require law enforcement agencies to certify that they comply with federal law by entering all missing children into the NCIC database. Second, it would require that law enforcement officers provide someone who reports their child missing with information about the services of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Runaway Switchboard, as well as 24-hour, toll-free contact information for those resources. NCMEC and NRS have a long and successful history of helping parents and law enforcement agencies work together to find and protect missing kids.

Madam Speaker, we simply must do better by our children. The necessary resources are already in place. The Runaway Reporting Improvement Act of 2009, will help ensure that those existing resources are used to find and protect the children who need them most.

EDUARDO PEÑA

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has dedicated his life to serving others. Mr. Eduardo Peña's lifelong commitment to public service and the Hispanic American community are to be commended.

Peña, a native of Laredo, Texas, is a 1957 graduate of the University of Texas in Austin with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Marketing. He received his law degree in 1967 from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., while working full time for the Department of Labor.

Peña has a long and distinguished career in public service, working for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the U.S. Senate, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He is a two time recipient, 1968 and 1969, of the DOL's award for meritorious achievement.

In 1979, he resigned from government service to enter private law practice. However, this did not prevent him from engaging in a number of community service activities.

In 1978 he was elected president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), where he served for one year and used his expertise to ensure civil rights for Latinos. Today, Peña remains heavily involved in LULAC as a volunteer and his wife, Ada, serves as the State Director for the District of Columbia.

Earlier this year Eduardo Peña stepped down as General Counsel for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), a pro bono post he held since March 1978.

In this role he committed his own time and energy to providing pro bono expert legal counsel and guidance to an organization that has grown dramatically since he began his work.

His efforts have assisted thousands of young Latinos to achieve a college education and take the first steps towards launching a successful career in public service and many other fields.

CHCI's growth and advancement as an organization have taken place thanks to the dedication Eduardo Peña has demonstrated for more than three decades.

Madam Speaker, I extend my sincere gratitude for more than 30 years of service to CHCI and a lifetime of contributions to the Hispanic American community and the nation.

RETIREMENT OF HERMOSA BEACH CITY COUNCILMAN J.R. REVICZKY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man of many abilities and talents, whose contributions to the City of Hermosa Beach enriched his community and contributed to the economic health of the region for the past 16 years.

A South Bay resident since childhood, my good friend and City Councilman J.R. Reviczky enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve

after graduating from Bishop Montgomery High School in Torrance, California, also in my Congressional District. Following an honorable discharge from the Naval Reserve, he embarked on a career as an electrician. During his 37-year career, he worked his way up the ranks from apprentice to his current role as Training Director for one of the largest electrical contractors in the United States.

J.R. was first elected to the Hermosa Beach City Council in 1993, and has served four distinguished terms as Mayor. His lasting mark can be seen throughout the community. As a member of the Open Space People's Action Committee, he was instrumental in the development of Hermosa Beach's many acres of beautiful parks and recreation facilities, including the conversion of railways into a community treasure known as the Greenbelt. He was also one of the co-founders of the Beach Cities Holiday Toy Drive which, for the past 15 years, has collected and distributed thousands of toys to needy children throughout the 36th Congressional District and beyond.

I have personally benefited from J.R.'s counsel and encyclopedic knowledge of local issues and history.

On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Councilman J.R. Reviczky for his dedicated service to the people of Hermosa Beach and wish him continued success as he and his wife, Nancy, begin the next chapter of their life.

AARON THOMAS NEMELKA

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, Utah has lost a venerated hero with the passing of PFC. Aaron Thomas Nemelka of West Jordan, Utah.

Private First Class Nemelka was killed while serving his country at Fort Hood, Texas. On November 5, 2009, a lone gunman opened fire and caused the death of 12 soldiers, 1 civilian, while 30 more Americans were wounded.

Private First Class Nemelka is remembered for his dedication to both his family and his country. As a combat engineer in the 20th Infantry Battalion, 36th Engineering Brigade, he specialized in munitions diffusion.

Aaron was set to deploy on his first tour of the Middle East in January 2010. He will forever be remembered for having sacrificed his life in the defense of our great nation. His selfless devotion to those around him is a great tribute to his spirit.

Aaron grew up in West Jordan, Utah and was the youngest of four children. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout and through his efforts was able to help better his community by always extending a hand of service. Aaron graduated from West Jordan High School in Utah in 2008 and enlisted in the military shortly thereafter.

Private First Class Aaron Nemelka was very young, and he served his country honorably and heroically. Please join me in taking a moment to honor this Utahn for his service to our country. My thoughts are with Aaron's family during this difficult time.