

Affairs Committee, said “I’m gonna miss you, amigo!” as Faleomavaega introduced her to all the famous Samoans pictured in photos around his office. When they came to a picture of Faleomavaega with Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, she asked, “Do you really know Dwayne Johnson?” Without skipping a beat, the Congressman replied, “Of course I do. His mom is my cousin!” Ms. ROSE LEHTINEN, who represents Florida’s 27th District including Miami, where Dwayne Johnson lives, said, “Everyone is your cousin, Eni. And he’s my constituent!” When they came across Faleomavaega’s centerpiece photo from the 1960s featuring him with Elvis in Hawai‘i, the Congresswoman laughed, “Elvis is Samoan too? You do know everybody Eni, even Elvis! I already like you. But now I like you even more.”

Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO of Guam brought her entire staff to bid farewell to Faleomavaega. “Hafa Adai! To our friend Eni from the Guam office! I will always remember our many years together in Congress. You were a dear friend and you helped me along with advice during my early years! One memory I will take with me is our CODEL to American Samoa. What a fiesta that was!!! Love, MADELEINE and from all your friends on Guam!”

Other Members, including Congressman STEVE CHABOT (R-OH), Congressman DAVID CICILLINE (D-RI), Congressman JOHN CONYERS (D-MI), Congressman ELIOT ENGEL (D-NY), Congresswoman TULSI GABARD (D-HI), Congressman MIKE HONDA (D-CA), Congressman GREGORY MEeks (D-NY), Congresswoman GRACE MENG (D-NY), Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV), Congressman GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN (D-MP), Congressman BRAD SHERMAN (D-CA), and former Congressman Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) also attended Faleomavaega’s farewell reception.

Several who attended wrote the following in Faleomavaega’s guestbook.

“You are my buddy and you always will be!”—Congressman DANA ROHRABACHER (R-CA).

“To a dear dear friend. You have made a giant difference in the lives of so many! Thank you, thank you so much, SHEILA!”—Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE (D-TX).

“I’ve really enjoyed serving with you. You’ve done a great job!”—Congressman BUCK McKEON (R-CA).

“The mark of success is not measured in what you’ve accomplished but rather in the lives that you have touched. Eni you’ve touched so many lives in your years of service, you’re the definition of success. Be well my friend.”—Congressman AMI BERA (D-CA).

“Hermano, you are the best. We will see you soon!”—Congressman HENRY CUELLAR (D-TX).

Ambassadors and delegations from the Asia-Pacific region, including Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Kazakhstan, Taiwan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, also expressed their gratitude to Faleomavaega.

From Myanmar: “On behalf of the Myanmar Government, I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to you for your kind contribution toward promoting Myanmar-U.S. relations as well as for your country.”

From Pakistan: “The Embassy of Pakistan deeply appreciates gracious support received by your office. Thank you.”

From Vietnam: “Brother Eni, we love you so much. Thank God for helping us meet each other on the earth!”

Also from Vietnam: “We’ll keep you forever in our heart, millions of Vietnamese will do.”

Faleomavaega expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all who attended. “I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to have worked with such distinguished leaders during my time in Washington, DC. The memories we built are priceless and I wish my friends and colleagues and the people of American Samoa continued success and happiness,” Faleomavaega concluded.

As you can see his years of service have had a tremendous impact on U.S. policy in American Samoa and on U.S. foreign policy across the globe. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE KIWANIS CLUB 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club, as well as the outstanding work of the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe.

While the Kiwanis Club originated as a business fellowship, it has evolved into an important worldwide service organization. Over the years the Kiwanis Club has devoted itself to making a positive impact on the lives of underprivileged children and communities, contributing nearly 150,000 service projects, 6 million hours of service, and \$100 million per year to communities around the world. Some of their notable projects include a partnership with UNICEF to eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus, a worldwide service project to end Iodine Deficiency Disorder, and the Young Children Priority One program to address the needs of children age 0–5. The Kiwanis Club has truly set an example for selfless and enduring community service.

The Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe is an important part of the international Kiwanis Club organization. Originally formed on April 25, 1921, the Club has had a significant impact on the children and community of Santa Fe. In addition to helping over 155 students with more than \$450,000 for college scholarships, the Club has also had an important hand in many community service projects, such as the organization of the annual Pinewood Derby, building a computer lab for St. Catherine’s Indian school, and the Kamp Kiwanis camping facility and program for handicapped children.

Moreover, the Club has helped organize and produce the annual Zozobra event, one of the oldest celebrations in North America and a tradition that is dear to all New Mexicans. The Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe has had a tremendous effect on the city of Santa Fe and has truly helped make a difference in its community. I applaud the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe for setting an example of dedicated community service for the people of New Mexico.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARMENIAN SISTERS’ ACADEMY OF LOS ANGELES

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Armenian Sisters’ Academy of Los Angeles upon its thirtieth anniversary.

The Armenian Sisters’ Academy of Los Angeles (ASA), nestled in the foothills of the Verdugo Mountains in Montrose, offers a Day Care Program, Preschool, Kindergarten and grades 1st through 8th. Established in 1985, the ASA is one of three schools in the United States operated and governed by the only existing Catholic Order of the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, which was founded in 1847. The other two schools are located in Radnor, Pennsylvania and Lexington, Massachusetts, established in 1967 and 1979, respectively.

Since its inception, the ASA has been committed to providing an exemplary and well-rounded education to its students. The ASA offers a bilingual curriculum, art, music and computer instruction to all students, and has been successful in preserving the identity and culture of the Armenian people by teaching the Armenian language, Armenian cultural courses and religion. The ASA also offers after school extracurricular activities such as Armenian dance classes, basketball and volleyball.

The Armenian Sisters’ Academy of Los Angeles is dedicated to the development of the child spiritually, personally, emotionally, intellectually and socially. Among the many goals and objectives the ASA strives to achieve include providing each student with a respectful and optimistic environment in which each student feels encouraged, creating an atmosphere where the Armenian language, heritage and culture may be taught and experienced, emphasizing the heritage, privileges and responsibilities of American citizenship, and encouraging small group work and the increased use of independent study. I commend the ASA for being an integral part of the community, and applaud the school’s unwavering commitment to our youth. The ASA plays a central role in shaping our children into responsible citizens and thriving members of society.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Armenian Sisters’ Academy of Los Angeles for thirty years of dedicated service to the community.

HONORING LARRY BLAKENEY FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO ALABAMA ATHLETICS

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Larry Blakeney, an exceptional Alabamian who has made an enormous contribution to athletics and the development of young people in my state.

Coach Blakeney is best known as the head coach of the Troy University Trojan football

team, a position he held for 24 years, retiring this past December. During that time, Coach Blakeney built a little-known Southeast Alabama team into a conference powerhouse and a nationally-competitive program. His remarkable career at Troy has included six 10-win seasons, five Sunbelt Conference championships, and 178 wins—a total that places him among the top three Alabama college coaches, behind the legendary Paul “Bear” Bryant and just ahead of his mentor and winningest Auburn coach Ralph “Shug” Jordan.

Among the defining characteristics of Larry Blakeney-coached teams was the fearless attitude they took into competition. “Any team, anytime, anywhere” was Troy’s motto, never phased or intimidated by traditional college football powers. And the Trojans would not just compete against the best, they would win. Simply put, Larry Blakeney has personified Troy Football, so much so that the field on which the Trojans play bears his name.

Larry Blakeney’s impact on the game of football in Alabama started as a player in high school, when he led the Gordo Green Wave to a record of 24–2–2 and three-straight Warrior Conference championships. He enrolled at Auburn University, where he became the first sophomore to start at quarterback under Coach Ralph “Shug” Jordan, a distinction that even Auburn Heisman winner Pat Sullivan does not share.

Blakeney began his coaching career in the high school ranks, first at Southern Academy, then Walker High School and Vestavia Hills High School. He was then hired at his beloved alma mater, Auburn, where he served as an assistant coach for 14 seasons. Auburn would experience one of its most successful runs ever with Coach Blakeney calling plays, including three-straight SEC championships in 1987, 1988 and 1989. Coach Blakeney’s success and championship drive made him the perfect choice to lead Troy’s burgeoning football program beginning in 1991.

His success on the gridiron has led to many accolades, including multiple “Coach of the Year” honors and placement in the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. However, Coach Blakeney’s impact goes far beyond the playing field.

From Gordo to Auburn to Troy, he has maintained close, warm relationships with his teammates, fellow coaches, and players. The Auburn Creed, which outlines how Auburn men and women are supposed to live, emphasizes “the human touch,” which cultivates love, understanding and sympathy with your fellow man. Larry Blakeney personifies and embodies that “human touch” to a great and rare degree.

Hundreds and perhaps thousands of once-young men are, today, better husbands, fathers, and citizens because of the positive influence of Coach Blakeney; a good man who used the game of football to teach integrity, character, and perseverance throughout his entire career.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to acknowledge Coach Blakeney’s positive impact on young people in Alabama, to celebrate his remarkable career, and to honor his place among the greatest college football coaches to walk the sidelines in my state.

LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR. OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and honor our brave law enforcement officials who put their lives on the line day in and day out and keep our communities safe. The millions of state, local and federal law enforcement officers nationwide constitute both our first and last line of protection for the American people.

As a former mayor, I know how important having well-staffed and properly equipped public safety departments is to protecting our communities. Our law enforcement officials work tirelessly to protect our families and business, and I am committed to ensuring that they have access to the resources they need to uphold the public’s safety. That is why I have long been a supporter of the federal Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology Grants program as well as for the COPS Hiring program, which provides invaluable resources and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies in an effort to keep our communities safe.

Finally, I want to recognize my friend, colleague and former sheriff Congressman REICHERT for all his work to honor and support law enforcement officers across our country. Protecting the American people must be the number one priority of our government. It is our brave law enforcement officers who protect our streets day and night who are the very essence of our national security and deserve our utmost gratitude and thanks.

EXCELLING IN THE CLASSROOM AND ON THE COURT

HON. PETE OLSON OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate high school student Cassidy Nussman for being named to the 2014 Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) Class 6A all-state and academic all-state volleyball teams. Nussman is a senior at Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. These prestigious awards recognize her hard work and exemplary performance as a scholar-athlete.

Nussman earned a spot on the academic all-state team by maintaining a GPA of 3.9 or higher while competing on the court at an elite level throughout her high school career. She was also named an honorable mention selection on the Under Armour Girls High School All-America Team by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) and competed on the 2014 TGCA Blue All-Star team for Class 5A/6A as one of the division’s top 12 college-bound players. She has committed to play volleyball for Northwestern University next year.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Cassidy Nussman for

being named to the 2014 Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) Class 6A all-state and academic all-state volleyball teams. We look forward to her continued success both on and off the court.

INTRODUCING THE DEFEND ISRAEL BY DEFUNDING PALESTINIAN FOREIGN AID ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Defend Israel by Defunding Palestinian Foreign Aid Act of 2015.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ application to join the International Criminal Court (ICC) is an affront to all of those who have engaged for years in efforts to accomplish a peaceful resolution to the decades long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Palestinian Authority’s anticipated war crimes complaint against Israel will, in no uncertain terms, severely hinder future comprehensive peace talks in a time when the advancement of a two-state solution that ensures enduring peace has never been more important.

For more than half a century, Israel has been America’s most reliable strategic partner in the Middle East. It is essential that we remain supportive of Israel’s absolute right to defend itself and protect its citizens. We cannot stand by while the Palestinian Authority, engaged in a unity government with Hamas, makes frivolous and damaging claims against Israel Defense Forces soldiers and Israeli citizens residing in settlements in the disputed West Bank. Congress must halt the \$400 million American dollars sent annually to the Palestinian Authority until it withdraws its counterproductive request to join the International Criminal Court and returns to the negotiating table with Israel.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in calling for the defunding of Palestinian foreign aid by becoming a co-sponsor of this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on January 9, 2015, I underwent emergency surgery to repair a broken bone and, therefore, was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on the Motion to Recommit to H.R. 3, the Keystone XL Pipeline Act, and no on Final Passage of H.R. 3.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3, the Keystone XL