

HOUSTON ASIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Houston Asian Chamber of Commerce.

The Houston Asian Chamber of Commerce has served our community well for 25 successful years. They have been vigilant in their mission to develop future business leaders and to promote the economic development of Houston-area Asian-American communities. The Asian Chamber of Commerce also has a pivotal role in promoting trade for both Houston, Texas and Asia. Chamber Co-chairs Samina Farid, Gordon Quan and Stephen Le, Sr. recently threw an event that truly honored the achievements of the last 25 years.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Houston Asian Chamber of Commerce on a wonderful 25 years. Thank you for all that you have done for our community.

**HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LICKING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 175th anniversary of the Licking United Methodist Church located in Licking, Missouri. The church was organized in 1840 as the first Methodist Society of Licking which met at parishioners' homes and later a schoolhouse.

Since its founding, the church's space and membership have steadily grown. By 1937 the church had built an entire new sanctuary with a seating capacity of roughly 500 people and added a new cobblestone vestibule and bell tower in 1950. In addition to providing a place for communal prayer for a devoted congregation, they also actively serve the local community. The church has regular food drives, hosts free dinners open to all, organizes blood drives, and even supports a community garden. Through its long and rich history, the church's vital congregation has remained an integral part of the city of Licking.

For their ongoing dedication to serving Christ and their community, it is my pleasure to honor the Licking United Methodist Church on their 175th anniversary before the House of Representatives.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, 2015, I missed a Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call #375, on passage of the Protect Medical Innovation Act.

**TRIBUTE TO DR. DAN KINNEY**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dan Kinney, President of Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Dr. Kinney has devoted his career to the community college system. Iowa Western Community College has been a vital part of the development of Southwest Iowa since being founded in 1967, and Dr. Kinney has led the college for the past 21 years. Dr. Kinney has been responsible for the growth and expansion of this outstanding community college. He has helped to build a learning institution that has a reputation for providing a quality education and producing skilled graduates.

Iowa Western currently offers 84 different vocational and technical programs, as well as Arts and Sciences transfer majors. Current enrollment exceeds 5,500 students and there are over 42,795 enrollments in continuing education classes each year. In recognition of Dr. Kinney's successful tenure, the College Board of Trustees recently announced that the new engineering and technology building would be named in his honor. This honor is given to Dr. Kinney for his dedication and determination to move the college forward by meeting the growing demand for students in engineering and technology.

Dr. Kinney's leadership has been critical to the development of this premier, state-of-the-art, and respected learning institution in the state of Iowa. Dr. Kinney is an Iowan who has made a difference in the lives of many and for that we are deeply proud. He has dedicated his life to helping and serving others and so it is with great honor that I recognize him today. I know my colleagues in the House join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE SACRAMENTO JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League's annual high school scholarship recipients. As the members of the Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League and the students gather to celebrate, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing these deserving young women and men.

Each year, the Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League provides scholarships to a select group of high school students who have demonstrated academic excellence, community service and commitment to pursue a higher education. These students will be honored in a public ceremony at the Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League's scholarship dinner this evening. This year the following outstanding students will re-

ceive scholarships: Kevin Abdelnour, John F. Kennedy High School; Kenji Bennett, Mira Loma High School; Quinn S. Fujii, C.K. McClatchy High School; Lindsey Kikumoto, Laguna Creek High School; Benjamin Kopania, Oak Ridge High School; Reid Masaki, West Campus High School; Jasper Miura, Mira Loma High School; and Alex Playdon, C.K. McClatchy High School.

I would also like to recognize last year's scholarship recipients: Sydney Kajioka, Laguna Creek High School; Aaron Matsuda, C.K. McClatchy High School; Kari Nakamura, John F. Kennedy High School; Matthew Nakatomi, John F. Kennedy High School; Rebecca Uda, C.K. McClatchy High School; and Kayla Umemoto, Mira Loma High School.

The Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League is dedicated to advancing the civil rights of all Americans, while also leading the Japanese American community to further social and economic equality. I trust that the students being recognized will carry this tradition forward to protect the civil rights of all of our citizens and stay engaged in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, as these students are being recognized by the Japanese American Citizens League members, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them success in their future endeavors.

**HONORING DR. LUCIANO FRANCISCO RAMON BACA**

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Luciano Francisco Ramon Baca, otherwise known as "Lu" in his beloved community.

Born and raised in Las Vegas, New Mexico, Dr. Lu dedicated his life in the service of others and to his fellow New Mexicans. For more than 10 years, Lu worked as a Social Studies teacher at Leah Harvey Middle School teaching students the heartfelt principles, values, and beliefs that make our country great. Dr. Lu's work transcended the classroom; as Head of the Legislative Educational Committee Lu spearheaded efforts to better finance and improve educational outcomes in New Mexico.

Dr. Lu also had a firm belief that our workforce—the individuals who gave their hard work, persistence and determination to build our country—deserved the support and protections they earned when they retired. After serving in state government, Lu dedicated his life to senior citizens, and carried out every task with the full weight of his energy. He served as the former chief of public school finance for the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, helped create the constitution of the State Board of Education as well as the equalized Public School Funding Formula in 1974, and served on the Board of Directors for La Familia Medical Center and with the AARP for 15 years.

More than anything, Lu loved his family and wife of 55 years, Mindy Esquibel Baca. In fact, it was rare to find a time when they were not sharing an experience together, celebrating a

family event, or helping out in the community. Dr. Lu cherished his time with his family and could be consistently found going above and beyond to help out an individual in need.

While Dr. Lu is no longer with us, his lasting contributions are still a presence in the community to this day. His character is espoused in the individuals he inspired throughout his life, and his enduring principles live on in the hearts and minds of all those he met. May the memory of Dr. Lu continue to live on in all of us.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF DICK ROSSBERG**

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2015*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Dick Rossberg—father, husband, grandfather, and Torrance patriarch—who passed away on June 10, 2015, at the age of 87.

Dick was a passionate and rare human being whose love of Torrance was evident in all he did. He was a resident of Torrance since 1956 and served on the City Council and as president of the chamber of commerce. He was president of the Palos Verdes Rotary, Hollywood Riviera Sportsman's Club, Los Verdes Men's Golf Club and South Bay Cities Association.

Our community owes Dick a debt of gratitude for his many achievements. Dick was an advocate of Old Torrance redevelopment efforts, ensuring that the history of Torrance would be passed on to future generations. He founded Torrance's Community Energy Action Committee, which proved to be important during the 1978 energy crisis. Dick helped build a nationally recognized economic education program in the city's schools, as well.

Dick has left a tremendous and indelible mark on the City of Torrance. He touched countless lives and made each of them better for having known him.

Dick is survived by his wife of 62 years, June, his sons, Kirk and Chris, his daughters, Claudia McClain and Jill Carlton, and his three grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable life of my dear friend, Dick Rossberg.

**RECOGNIZING KEN FARFSING**

**HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2015*

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ken Farfsing, upon his retirement as the City Manager of the City of Signal Hill, California on June 30, 2015.

I've had the pleasure of working with Ken on local and state-wide issues for almost 20 years while serving on the Long Beach City Council, in the California State Legislature, and now in the U.S. Congress, and I consider him to be a dear friend.

Ken has over 33 years of experience in community development, redevelopment, eco-

nomic development and city management in five Southern California communities. Ken has spent the last 19 years serving the City of Signal Hill, and I am honored to recognize his outstanding career.

Ken began his career with the City of Santa Fe Springs, California in 1981 as an intern. In 1985 he was promoted to Community Development Director.

In 1988 he continued his career as the Community Development Director for the City of Downey. He later became Downey's Assistant City Manager and Director of Economic Development. He served as the City Manager of the City of South Pasadena for four years before coming to Signal Hill.

Under his guidance, the city established three commercial centers, Town Center North, Town Center West and the Signal Hill Gateway Center. He facilitated the relocation of a Mercedes Benz dealership to Signal Hill and the expansion of Glenn E. Thomas Dodge Auto Dealership, growing sales tax revenues from 6 million dollars to more than 12 million dollars. Additionally, he completed the development of six community parks and a new police station.

Ken has been active in regional issues and a leader with expertise on water issues, working with the 27 area Gateway Cities Council of Government on water, storm water and urban runoff regulation and practices. He served as chair of the City Manager's Steering Committee for the Gateway Cities Manager's Group and was a member of the "Water Quality Task Force" of the League of California.

Ken Farfsing's leadership and service to the community of Signal Hill will be greatly missed. I want to wish him the very best as he retires. His impact on the city will always be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Ken Farfsing for his 19 years of public service with the City of Signal Hill.

**VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION TURNS 40**

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2015*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Victor Valley College Foundation's establishment. This organization has helped Victor Valley College better serve my constituents of the High Desert by providing students the tools to achieve not only their academic goals, but life goals as well. Students have received more than \$6 million in scholarships, allowing them to focus on their studies rather than how to pay for college.

Through donations, grants, and partnerships, the Victor Valley College Foundation has expanded the budget of the Victor Valley College by nearly \$50 million. In doing so, higher education has been more accessible than public funding alone would have allowed. Over the past 40 years, almost every department and program at Victor Valley College has been supported by the Foundation, which are the School of Nursing, Southern California Logistics Airport School of Aviation Technology, Solar Photovoltaic Design and In-

stallation, Automotive Technology Hybrid Vehicle Maintenance, Geographic Information Systems, Contract and Community Education, and Paramedic Academy.

The Victor Valley College Foundation has enriched campus life by supporting student experience programs that include the Associated Student Body, Athletics, Model United Nations, Performing Arts, and Tropical Research Institute. Among its major accomplishments, the Foundation helped open and outfit influential campus facilities like the Performing Arts Center, Student Activities Center, Regional Public Safety Training Center, and the new Dr. Prem Reddy Health and Science Building.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Board Officers, Directors, Emeritus Council, and the Staff members on the Victor Valley College Foundation's 40th Anniversary.

**TRIBUTE TO GLORIA WHETSTONE**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gloria Whetstone for 50 years of service with the CHI Health Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Gloria was hired on March 6, 1965, and she is the first employee to be honored for this milestone anniversary. She has worked on every floor of the old and new hospital facilities, including the cardiac care unit, psychiatry unit, and in the Intensive Care Unit. Gloria is always willing to lend a helping hand to her co-workers and has been an educator for many years, teaching Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support classes.

Throughout her career, Gloria has volunteered in her community as an agent of change. She makes and donates crib sheets for Birthright, helps with funerals at St. Patrick's Church, makes cookies to send to our U.S. troops overseas, is involved in community events through her local sorority, is an active member of the Pioneer Garden Club, and helps out with the upkeep and maintenance of the neighborhood pool. Gloria and her husband, James, have four children, 13 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Gloria has been a mentor to many young nurses and monitor techs throughout her career. She is a shining example of compassion and excellence in the work she does. Gloria received the Spirit of Mission Award given by CHI Health Mercy Hospital system, which is the highest honor given to employees and physicians. Gloria contributes daily to the organizational success by regularly demonstrating excellence in all four core areas: reverence, integrity, compassion and excellence. Gloria has touched many lives during her 50 years of service, she takes pride in her work, and is a testament to hard work and caring for others.

Gloria Whetstone is an Iowan who has made our community and state proud. She has dedicated her life to helping and serving others, and it is with great honor that I recognize her today. I know that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring her accomplishments. I thank her for her service and wish her and her family all the best moving forward.