

Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where her parents still reside, Major Vincent was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer after her graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Comparative Politics. She also holds a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

Major Vincent has served in a broad range of assignments during her thirteen years as an Army officer. Her assignments include: platoon leader and company executive officer at Fort Lewis, WA; Medical Operations Officer in Seagoville, TX; and Legislative Liaison in the National Capital Region. She also has a combat deployment encompassing 17 months in theater where she served in the Commander's Initiatives Group and as aide-de-camp for the Multi-National Force—Iraq Commander, General Ray Odierno.

In 2014, I had the privilege of having Major Vincent as an Army Congressional Fellow in my office and continued to work with her during her subsequent assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army. Major Vincent's professionalism, diligence, and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and her work both as a fellow and as a liaison very effectively represented the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense to the United States Congress.

Throughout her career, Major Vincent has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited from her extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion for the Army profession. I join my colleagues today in honoring her dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to work with Major Vincent. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend Abigail for her service to our country and wish her all the best as she continues her service in the United States Army.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2018

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2018, I was absent for recorded votes No. 261 through No. 264. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on Roll Call No. 261 I would have voted no; on Roll Call No. 262 I would have voted no; on Roll Call No. 263 I would have voted yes; and on Roll Call No. 264 I would have voted yes.

RECOGNIZING JERRY ANDERSON FOR A STORIED CAREER SERVING NORTHWEST OHIO

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2018

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize WTOL's Jerry Anderson for his years of service to Northwest Ohio as today will be his

last day before retiring. Jerry has served Northwest Ohio as a valued and trustworthy face on the local news for more than 40 years.

Jerry Anderson started his career in Bowling Green on the radio airwaves for WFOB in 1974 before beginning his TV news career in 1980. Jerry covered four national political conventions, the inaugurations of three presidents, and Pope John Paul II's visit to Detroit into the living room of families in Northwest Ohio, and he was someone that Ohioans knew they could count on.

Jerry is beloved and respected because he truly cares about Northwest Ohio and the people that live there. He's been active in local charitable efforts, including earning his certification as an auctioneer so he could volunteer for more than 20 charity auctions annually. He also can often be seen as an emcee at community events to help raise funding for local schools, disadvantaged families, and individuals with disabilities.

I know his dedication to our region, as I've spent many years next to him at the Applebutter Fest in Grand Rapids, Ohio. Jerry always made time to talk.

Mr. Speaker, Jerry Anderson is an institution in Toledo and Northwest Ohio, and while he'll be sorely missed, I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

BILL MITSCH

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bill Mitsch for having received the first Odum Award for Ecological Engineering Excellence from the American Ecological Engineering Society in Houston, Texas.

As Director of the Everglades Wetland Research Park at Florida Gulf Coast University, he has become a highly respected scientist in the fields of wetland ecology, biogeochemistry, ecological engineering, and ecosystem restoration and modelling.

He has taught and inspired generations of scientists to pursue wetlands research through his extensive research on the subject, including writing five editions of a preeminent standard textbook about wetland ecology. Further, he founded the Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, a major research wetlands laboratory at Ohio State University, and has served on the Science Advisory Board of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide his valuable input on wetland restoration.

I personally would like to thank Bill for his dedicated efforts and research on the Everglades.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF BERTHA ALICIA PEÑA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2018

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Bertha Alicia Peña of Brownsville, TX for her outstanding contributions as a teacher and administrator for the past 32 years.

In May 1974, Ms. Peña received her Associate of Arts from Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, TX. She graduated from Pan American University at Brownsville, Texas in May 1980 and received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Her passion for teaching drove her to pursue additional educational opportunities. She earned a Bilingual Certification in 1982 and a Master of Arts in Education Administration in 1990 from Pan American University.

Ms. Peña's teaching career began in 1986 with the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) as a Kindergarten teacher at Villa Nueva Elementary School. She also taught Gifted and Talented Second Grade, Fourth Grade, and Sixth Grade. Ms. Peña became the Assistant Principal at Faulk Intermediate School in 1990 and the Principal at Lopez High School in 1993. She served in that position until 1999, when she was appointed Area Assistant Superintendent for BISD.

Her commitment to the educational success of underserved communities continued as she became Executive Director for Project Grad Brownsville from 2003 to 2005. The program, which was first implemented in the summer of 2003, includes the four-week Summer Bridge Program for incoming ninth graders. Most recently, she served as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at BISD.

I thank Ms. Peña for her unending dedication to shaping the lives of countless young people. While many pursue careers in teaching, Ms. Peña viewed education not as a job, but a calling. She used her classroom experience to improve quality of education and expand opportunities for all students, and South Texas owes her a great debt of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Bertha Alicia Peña for her lifetime of public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her a happy retirement as we celebrate her great legacy of teaching and giving to our children and community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAVIER ARMANDO MARTINEZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Javier Armando Martinez, who passed away Saturday, November 11, 2017.

Born to Joey Martinez and Yoli Garza, Javier had four siblings, Vanessa, Veronica, Victoria, and Gustavo. He attended South Middle School in Edinburg, Texas, where he excelled academically. Javier also loved being outside. On any given day, one could find him climbing trees, swimming, or riding his bike with his older brother.

On May 19, 2015, Javier, at the age of 11, was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. Javier bravely fought against the disease, drawing strength and comforts from his parents and siblings who provided him with love and support every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, a brilliant young man was taken away from us before his time. Javier touched the hearts of those around him and

displayed inspirational courage in the face of adversity. The memories he leaves behind will forever be treasured by all who knew Javier.

UPON THE OCCASION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2018

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague, ANNA ESHOO, to recognize the City of East Palo Alto upon the occasion of its 35th anniversary as an incorporated city in San Mateo County. East Palo Alto is a beautiful community of approximately 30,000 persons nestled between San Francisco Bay and communities to the west.

The people of East Palo Alto have always been industrious. As the city entered the 1980's, its leadership became convinced that this energy needed a focus: Its own city government so that services could flourish and greater economic opportunity could be created.

We were both members of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors during this time, and we supported the incorporation of East Palo Alto because we know that self-determination was the best way to deliver opportunity. Passions ran high and the 1982 attempt at incorporation was not successful. However, the second attempt, in 1983, delivered a narrow win of 13 votes.

The leadership in this effort was, of course, local and several of those leaders were selected for the first city council. Ms. Barbara Moulton was the first Mayor and today's Mayor, Mr. Ruben Abrica, served on that first city council. Also serving were Mr. James Blakey Jr., Vice-Mayor, Mr. F.J. "Omowale" Satterwhite, and Ms. Gertrude Wilkes. East Palo Alto is a community where the love of its original city mothers and fathers endures to this day amongst those who remain. This love has been passed on to multiple waves of new, energetic, leaders as the community underwent tremendous changes during the intervening decades.

Since 1983, a police force has been created to replace the patrols of the county Sheriff, and today this department has strong ties to the people that it serves. The city has control over planning and zoning, so the tax base has exploded. Recently, the city negotiated water rights from its neighbors and is now poised to take part in the high technology transformation of long-dormant land within its jurisdiction.

At one time in its history, East Palo Alto suffered from major crime problems, but the community came together to dramatically improve safety. Today, East Palo Alto's violent crime rate is comparable to the overall rate of California. Credit goes to city leadership, residents in all neighborhoods, the schools, clergy, and major philanthropies.

A new jobs center recently opened and residents are being placed in positions each month. Infrastructure problems that long bedeviled the community are being tackled on a scale that can only be described as gigantic. Flooding has been dramatically reduced due to a multi-million-dollar creek project nearing

completion, and due to extensive improvements in the city's storm drain system. Plans exist to upgrade major roads such as Bay Road.

A new park at Cooley Landing recently opened, bringing access to the bay closer to the children of East Palo Alto. Coupled with the Bay Trail that runs nearby and along its levees, East Palo Alto is rapidly transforming from a community where the demand for additional police services has receded at the same moment that the demand for a bicycle bridge over Highway 101 succeeded.

East Palo Alto is in many ways like any other city in America because its civic spirit is improving the quality of life with the passage of every day. However, unlike many other communities in America, East Palo Alto consciously seeks to build bridges between its residents. This is reflected in the city's mission statement: The City of East Palo Alto provides responsive, respectful, and efficient public services to enhance the quality of life and safety for its multi-cultural community.

In 1983, skeptics predicted that the residents of East Palo Alto could not financially support a city. They were wrong.

In 1983, some predicted that infighting would kill the civic spirit of East Palo Alto. They were wrong. Civic pride, always strong and present, has flourished.

In 1983, some wondered if the residents of East Palo Alto could deliver on the promises of incorporation. Today, East Palo Alto is a shining example of the story of America herself. It is thriving and self-governing towards an ever-brighter future. We celebrate the 35th anniversary of the incorporation of this special place by the bay. East Palo Alto is an outstanding example of democracy in America.

DWIGHT BROCK

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dwight Brock, a devoted servant of Collier County who passed away on June 12, 2018.

After attending Florida State University and Stetson University, Mr. Brock received a law degree from Nova Law Center. Shortly after obtaining his J.D., he worked in the State Attorney's Office before he was elected Clerk of Courts for Collier County in 1993.

Mr. Brock demonstrated an unmatched dedication to public service, tirelessly fighting for the people he worked to protect. Early in his first term, Brock identified major faults in the business practices of Collier County investment managers. He successfully prosecuted the individuals jeopardizing the financial well-being of the county, ensuring the taxpayers' dollars were well safeguarded. This example of Mr. Brock's dutiful service to the people of Collier County was an early indicator of the courage and devotion with which he would serve for the rest of his career.

Our community mourns the loss of such an honest and faithful public servant. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Cheryl, his son, Bradley, and the rest of his loving family and friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF KXTN 107.5'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2018

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate KXTN 107.5 radio station of San Antonio, Texas.

Tejano music leader, KXTN 107.5, is celebrating a significant milestone this year as 2018 marks its 30th broadcasting anniversary. In an effort to commemorate this achievement, the station has teamed up with over 30 artists and bands for a two-day music festival.

Founded on the principle of giving back, KXTN 107.5 has been a leader in many community service initiatives over the years. This includes raising over \$1.4 million dollars for the San Antonio Children's Miracle Network, over \$1 million dollars for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and blood donation drives for the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center.

KXTN 107.5 has worked to provide listeners with a taste of Hispanic culture and values through its broadcast. The station represents the standard of broadcasting with their unyielding commitment to their listeners.

For these reasons and more, the staff and support team of KXTN 107.5 is recognized for their hard work and leadership over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize KXTN 107.5.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INNOVATION ORGANIZATION (BIO)

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2018

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. Over the past quarter-century, BIO has served as the leading voice of the biotechnology industry and has been instrumental in fostering new discoveries that help patients around the world defeat diseases and conditions that were unbeatable only a generation ago.

Biotechnology has not only helped drive the United States' economy forward through the use of renewable and sustainable fuel sources, but it has also helped the world strive to meet the increasing food demands of an ever-growing planet. For the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as in other places across our nation, the biotechnology industry is an integral pillar of innovation and economic development. As the largest representative body of biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations, BIO has contributed greatly to the scientific breakthroughs in biotechnology that have benefitted our world. I would also like to honor the memory of Henri A. Termeer, an early biotech visionary and pioneering scientist who was a