

CONGRATULATING KOBY BRACK-
ENMEYER FOR HIS WIN AT THE
STATE FINALS BOYS' TRACK
AND FIELD TOURNAMENT IN
THE 4X800 METER RELAY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Koby Brackemeyer, a junior from Morrison High School, for winning the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A State Finals Boys Track and Field Tournament in the 4X800 Meter Relay. Koby and his team finished first with a time of 7:57.85.

Koby ran the opening leg and turned in a 1:57.8 to put Morrison ahead instantly. By giving his teammates such an advantage, the team was in an incredible position to finish first. As a former athlete, I appreciate the fortitude Koby displayed to achieve his dream of being a state champion and commend him for his athleticism and leadership. Koby is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am elated with the presence of such young talent in our community and to see him represent Morrison so well throughout the state.

It is because of student leaders such as Koby that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Koby Brackemeyer on his Class 1A State Finals title in Boys Track and Field.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ROSE MARY HANSHAW

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rose Mary Cicero Hanshaw, who passed away surrounded by her loving family on August 11, 2019, at the age of 81.

Born Aug. 12, 1937, in Warren, Rose was the daughter of Nicholas and Carmella Nardo Cicero. As a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Rose's family meant everything to her.

She was a licensed beautician for many years, working for Helen Accordini's Beauty Salon. She later worked as a cook at her cousin's and godfather's grocery store: Cicero's Market in Niles. During those years, she built lifelong friendships with many of her co-workers and customers.

Engaging her Italian heritage, Rose enjoyed baking, cooking and Sunday macaroni dinners with her entire family. She always looked forward to family celebrations for birthdays and holidays. She loved yardwork as well as working in her flower beds.

She was a graduate of Niles McKinley High School, Class of 1956, and was a lifelong member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Niles. In her younger years, she was active at working the parish festival in the sausage booth as well as being a part of the ladies auxiliary group who cleaned the Church before the celebrations of Christmas and Easter and special events.

On June 13, 1959, Rose married the love of her life, Marvin Hanshaw, who died June 4, 2018, and during their 58 years together, they enjoyed the love and joy that family brought to them.

She will be deeply missed by three sons, Deacon Michael Hanshaw and his wife, Stacey, of Liberty, David Hanshaw of Lordstown and Frank Hanshaw and his wife, Jessica, of Howland.

Her grandchildren brought much joy and pride into Nana's life, as she was affectionately known as, and she delighted in sharing in all of the significant moments of their lives from school sporting events to high school graduations. They include Nick Hanshaw, Kyle Hanshaw, Chance (Jaclyn) Hanshaw, Melissa Hanshaw, Arianna Hanshaw and Nathaniel Hanshaw. Great-grandchildren include Bentley Edward Lane, Madalynne Rose Hanshaw and Braelynn Rae Meely.

Rose is also survived by one brother, Carmen Cicero of Garden Grove, California.

My wife Andrea and I are blessed to be long-time friends of her son, Mike, who is the deacon at my childhood church. I give my deepest condolences to Rose's family. She will certainly be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF CONNIE JONES

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Connie Jones, who is retiring after 35 years of serving her community as Executive Director of the Southwest Minority Economic Development Association, which operates Santa Ana's Southwest Community Center.

Each day, Ms. Jones and the Southwest Community Center carry out their mission of "helping people help themselves." The Southwest Community Center serves as a vital life line to single mothers, seniors, veterans, recovering addicts, the disabled, the homeless, those who suffer from mental illness, as well as neighborhood families and children.

Under Ms. Jones' direction, her dedicated staff and volunteers serve 10,000 meals a month, distribute food baskets, clothing, provide health screenings, rental and utility assistance, transportation vouchers, job referrals, and much more. The Center has also created an environment that fosters friendship and a sense of belonging.

Ms. Jones, a Santa Ana native, has worked tirelessly to continue the vision started by her grandmother, the late Annie Mae Tripp, who began serving meals in her garage to homeless men, while struggling to make ends meet as a domestic worker with seven children.

From that starting point in 1970, her ministry for the poor and homeless expanded to a rented building that—with the help of other dedicated neighborhood women, area churches, community and business sponsors, and hundreds of volunteers—went from serving soup and bread to 12 homeless men to providing a life-saving services for thousands in need.

Even a devastating fire in 2009 did not stop the success of the Southwest Community Center. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes,

the Center continued operations in rented facilities until a beautiful new building opened two years later.

The new Center was built nearly for free by contractors who wanted to give back to their community. One of those contractors grew up in the neighborhood served by the Southwest Community Center. The Center's services and caring atmosphere helped him thrive and succeed, which is also true for hundreds of other men, women, and children from this Santa Ana neighborhood.

Ms. Jones' receipt of the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Community Action Partnership of Orange County is a true testament to her spirit and love for the Santa Ana community. It is my distinct honor to recognize my constituent and friend, Connie Jones, for her humanitarian accomplishments and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her retirement.

HONORING DR. WILLARD LEWALLEN

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the retiring Superintendent-President of Hartnell Community College District, Dr. Willard Lewallen, for his career in higher education and commitment to serving the people of the central coast of California. His leadership has touched the lives of many, and I am honored to acknowledge his legacy today in the House of Representatives.

Throughout his seven years in his role as Superintendent-President, Dr. Lewallen has remained committed to a philosophy of "students first." He has set an inspiring example for Hartnell College employees and its supporters, leading initiatives and partnerships that have yielded tremendous success and strengthened Hartnell and the entire Salinas Valley. The continual growth and development of the college itself is due in large part to Dr. Lewallen's investment of time and expertise into improvement of campus programs and facilities. Dr. Lewallen's record of service to Hartnell and the Salinas Valley has certainly left a lasting impact on the City of Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula.

Student success has been a priority of Dr. Lewallen throughout his time at Hartnell and is reflected by an overwhelming increase in completion of degrees and certificates. The number of students pursuing four-year degrees has also risen during Dr. Lewallen's tenure, preparing these students to transfer to the California State University and University of California systems to complete their degrees.

Dr. Lewallen has left an indelible mark on the central coast with Hartnell's recently developed partnerships with California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System. Dr. Lewallen helped initiate programs like the CSin3 program, which allows students to complete a B.S. in computer science in three years, and the Teacher Transfer Pathway program, which enables students to begin at Hartnell and continue seamlessly at CSUMB and earn a teaching certificate within five years.

Growth and development have been remarkable under the leadership of Dr. Lewallen

and has impacted faculty and staff in constructive ways. The steady increase in the number of employees and full-time faculty and has been paired with substantial investments made in future construction sites within the Hartnell College system. Dr. Lewallen has helped to secure funding for the construction of new Hartnell education outreach centers in Soledad and Castroville, a state-of-the-art nursing and health sciences building on the Main Campus in Salinas. He has also overseen efforts to refurbish classroom buildings on the Main Campus and the transformation of the Central Plaza.

As Dr. Lewallen celebrates his retirement, I am proud to commend him on his invaluable work as a higher education leader. On behalf of residents across the Central Coast, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Willard Lewallen for his service and wishing him a long and healthy retirement.

HONORING FLOYD "SKIP" BRANCH, JR.

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in great sadness to share the passing of Floyd "Skip" Branch, Jr. and honor his life and legacy.

For generations of children, Skip, as he was known to the community, was a fixture of their daily lives.

In 1995, Skip founded the NYC Bombsquad Basketball Classic, where he worked each summer with nearly 300 young boys and girls. But his impact was not merely honing basketball skills, although he certainly did. On the court and off the court, his lessons transcended basketball and made better the lives he touched and the community he loved.

Skip displayed an unyielding love for his community and inimitable belief that basketball was a constructive tool for the development and enrichment of children and adolescents. Responsibility. Teamwork. Academic achievement. Community engagement. Fraternity. Sorority. These are the tenets that Skip inculcated in every one of his students and will remain a part of his indelible legacy.

His program grew and had such an impact on young people's lives that many of them returned to teach and coach new participants. Skip believed that basketball and the fundamental lessons he taught should not only be shared with his students at Rice High School, Cardinal Hayes, or Hostos Community College. He also used the playground at East 100th Street and Third Avenue as a haven for youth in East Harlem where he instilled the fundamentals of teamwork, sportsmanship and respect in his students. Anyone who knew Skip knows he loved every moment spent doing this important work.

Floyd "Skip" Branch, Jr. was a beloved husband, brother, father, and grandfather. To his wife Carole, son Floyd III, brother Dr. Kent Branch, and all those close to Skip, I share my sincerest condolences in this time of grief and hope they find solace in knowing his legacy lives on in the many young lives he impacted.

HONORING THE MARTINEZ ARTS ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Martinez Arts Association for its dedication to promoting the arts in our community and to celebrate its 50th annual Arts in the Park Festival, an event to support local art teachers and Martinez students who study art in college. The Martinez Arts Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides opportunities to local artists and fosters arts education in Martinez schools.

Founded in 1968, the Martinez Arts Association has a long history of supporting local artists and creativity in our community. The organization is led by a volunteer board of directors who are dedicated to increasing accessibility to the arts. The Martinez Arts Association is backed financially by Association members and generous local sponsors who are invested in cultivating the arts in Martinez.

The Arts in the Park festival draws a larger crowd with each passing year. This year there are over sixty vendors, live music, activities, and a silent auction to spark people's imaginations and enable them to give back to our community. The Martinez Arts Association puts on other incredible events including the SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Day Celebration, participates in local parades, and contributes rotating art exhibits at the library.

Every year, the Martinez Arts Association awards \$3,000 grants to Martinez elementary and high school teachers to help offset budget cuts to arts education. In addition, the organization runs a scholarship program that awards over \$3,000 each year to local high school seniors who intend to study visual arts in college.

Madam Speaker, the Martinez Arts Association has been an ardent advocate of the arts in our community since 1968. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Martinez Arts Association here today.

HONORING SANTA ANA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Santa Ana Valley High School in Santa Ana, California for their 60 years of dedicated service to high school students in our local community.

Founded in 1959, amid Orange County's population boom, Santa Ana Valley High School was the second high school opened in the City of Santa Ana. In its first year of operation, it served only grades 10 and 11. Now, Santa Ana Valley High School prepares students in grades 9–12 with the skills necessary to meet the career and academic challenges of our 21st century global society.

Graduates of Santa Ana Valley High School over the past several decades have gone on to successful careers in a variety of careers,

including professional sports, music, entrepreneurship, medicine, and more.

Today, Santa Ana Valley High School educates over 2,200 students and boasts a 90 percent 4-year graduation rate, which is above the California state average. Students from this year's graduating class will be attending elite institutions such as Stanford University, Georgetown University, UC Berkeley, among many others, which is a testament to Santa Ana Valley High School's growth and advancement over the past 60 years.

Santa Ana Valley High School always seeks to innovate student service and preparation for college and the workforce. One notable example of this is High School Inc., a non-profit organization housed at Santa Ana Valley High School that has helped their students secure hundreds of internships, earn over 400 certifications, and attend dozens of industry relevant competitions. This unique college and career readiness that started at Santa Ana Valley High School has now become an emerging model for schools nationwide.

Santa Ana Valley High School has also developed successful extracurricular programs to support a variety of student interests in becoming more well-rounded individuals. Additionally, Santa Ana Valley High School has numerous incredibly successful athletics programs, winning several CIF championships of various sports over the years.

Santa Ana Valley High School has made countless achievements over the past 60 years, and they are on track for even more success in the future. For this reason, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing the accomplishments and service of Santa Ana Valley High School.

CONGRATULATING KYLE KRUHTOFF ON HIS CLASS 1A WIN AT STATE FINAL FOR BOYS TRACK AND FIELD IN POLE VAULTING

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kyle Kruhtoff, a senior from Erie-Prophetstown High School, who won the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A State Finals Boys Track and Field Tournament in Pole Vaulting. Kyle set the Class 1A record at 16 feet, 8 inches, beating the previous mark of 16 feet 3 inches held by two others.

Kyle is a record-setter with the talent to go even further in the athletic world. He broke records after overcoming a serious injury. As a former athlete, I appreciate the fortitude Kyle displayed to achieve his dream of being a state champion and commend him for his determination and passion. Kyle is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am delighted to see such young talent in our community and to see him represent Erie-Prophetstown so well throughout the state.

It is because of student leaders such as Kyle that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Kyle Kruhtoff on his Class 1A State Finals title in Boys Track and Field.