

to the American working poor, lower-middle-class and middle-class families, most of whom have been left out of this essential education for their children.

We cannot afford to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass unenriched. My bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as to today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

My bill reflects what jurisdictions throughout the nation increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve D.C. public schools. A recent report highlighted the economic benefits of early childhood education, emphasizing its role in expanding job opportunities and decreasing the amount of money spent on programs to address teen pregnancy and crime.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Virginia. The arts are very important to the Eighth District of Virginia, and play a crucial role in our economic growth, community development, and educational opportunities.

The U.S. Naval Torpedo Station in Alexandria opened a century ago and has served many unique roles in its lifetime. During World War II it was used as a munitions plant before being turned into a storage facility. In 1969, the City of Alexandria bought the building for use by its residents.

The President of The Art League of Alexandria, Marian Van Landingham, proposed converting the space into art studios in 1974. Today, 45 years later, the Torpedo Factory Art Center continues to be a thriving creative community in the City of Alexandria. The center hosts over 500,000 visitors every year and is the nation's largest collection of working-artists' open studios under one roof. It is a significant part of the City of Alexandria's history and, I hope, its future.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Torpedo Factory Art Center on reaching this milestone anniversary, and in thanking all those who have contributed their time and talent to the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY LEE OF LOS ANGELES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Beverly Lee in 40 years of service to the Los Angeles Communications Center, or LACC.

A Public Safety Operator at LACC is responsible for answering any and all 911, public information, and allied agency calls in the 88 cities within Los Angeles County. LACC is the largest dispatch center in the state and Los Angeles County and answers an average of 7,000 calls a day, and over 10,000 calls a day during holidays, special events, or catastrophes.

Beverly Lee's journey at LACC began on July 23, 1979. Her younger brother was a dispatcher at LACC, and he encouraged Beverly to apply and test for a position. Beverly worked hard during her training and passed probation; the rest is history.

Beverly's career is historic in many ways. She was part of the last training class to document critical information on cards and the first to learn the computer-aided dispatch system. Throughout her 40-year career, she has handled innumerable high-priority emergency calls proficiently and calmly, being the voice of help in many hopeless moments. She was an integral part of rendering safety, service, and security to the public during the 1984 Olympics, 1991 LA Riots, 1994 Northridge Earthquake, 2000 Democratic National Convention, Y2K computer changeover, numerous LA Lakers Championships, the LA Kings 1st Championship, and many other notable emergencies. She has spent an untold number of holidays away from family and friends to assist others that need her help.

Beverly has an excellent work ethic and displays it daily. She physically, mentally, and emotionally exceeds her job expectations and does it with a smile. She is a strong and dedicated supporter of LACC's training program, and her guidance has led to many supervisorial and managerial promotions. She has donated food, clothing, and monetary gifts to the homeless and to Hurricane Katrina Victims, and is an active member of "Team CHP", supporting the Revlon Breast Cancer Walks and CHIPS for Kids. Her infectious laugh contributes to the morale of LACC, and her willingness to go above and beyond is truly an inspiration.

Beverly never imagined having a 40-year career at LACC, but has maintained her goal of having an excellent work ethic and a grateful attitude. She says the most rewarding gift of working at LACC has been the friendship, loyalty and support she has experienced here. Beverly's health and attitude are an example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO AGUSTIN SILVAS
"GUS" CHAVEZ

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Agustin Silvas "Gus"

Chavez, who passed away surrounded by friends and family on August 18th. He was 76 years old.

Agustin, affectionately known as Gus, was an exemplary community leader and activist who worked tirelessly for the Latino community in San Diego, California. He advocated for the importance of education as the most effective way to achieve economic success and self-sustainability.

Born in Texas, Gus arrived in San Diego in 1963 after joining the United States Navy, where he served as a Hospital Corpsman at Balboa Naval Hospital. It was during Gus's time in the Navy that he first began to work within the San Diego community and found his passion for activism through education and social justice work.

After he was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1966, Gus earned his Associate of Arts degree from San Diego City College and later his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from San Diego State University. Throughout his education, Gus worked with several student associations to fight for equal access to education. His work led to the founding charter of the Latino student group Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA), as well as the Brown Berets and MAPA.

In 1969, Gus co-founded the Chicano Federation of San Diego, a group dedicated to improving the lives of people in the Mexican American community in San Diego. The Chicano Federation started as a way to provide valuable resources and services to the Latino community. Today the organization offers child care programs, nutrition assistance programs, and affordable housing for families and seniors across all underserved communities in San Diego.

Gus served as the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program at San Diego State University for 30 years. Throughout his tenure, Gus took personal interest in students. He constantly motivated them to reach new heights and celebrated their accomplishments. I loved his sense of passion and excitement at the success of his students. I always felt a kindred spirit with Gus and his enthusiasm for lifting every student he worked with to their full potential.

Gus never stopped advocating for educational equity and educational access for all, particularly on behalf of first-generation students from marginalized communities. He firmly believed in the value of service and mentorship, and instilled that same sense of purpose into countless students.

I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends. I take comfort in knowing that Gus leaves behind a legacy of service and empowerment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NANCY PARKER

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Nancy Parker, an author, breast cancer advocate, dedicated community leader, and award-winning journalist at WVUE FOX 8 News. After bringing the news to South Louisiana for nearly 25 years, Mrs. Parker passed away on Friday, August 16, 2019 at the age of 53.

Mrs. Parker was a loving mother of three and wife of longtime newsman, Glynn Boyd. She was a veteran journalist at FOX 8 News where she was both a nominee and awardee of several Emmy Awards. Outside the newsroom, Mrs. Parker wrote two beautifully written children's books tailored in the culture of New Orleans. She was also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Mrs. Parker was a treasure to us all. She lived a fulfilled life doing what she loved to do for so many years. We are forever grateful to Mrs. Parker for her eternal impact and we keep her friends and loved ones near and dear to our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mrs. Nancy Parker.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE GREG HORTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Greg Horton with the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department for being named one of the Top 10 Computer Forensic Examiners in the country by the United States Secret Service.

Detective Horton is one of 3,000 examiners on the United States Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force. Detective Horton has been working with the Electronic Crimes Task Force since 2011 and has performed over 2,200 forensic examinations. Out of all his peers, the United States Secret Service has ranked him number four in the country.

I thank Detective Horton for his dedicated service to our law enforcement community and the nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. GEORGE T. FRENCH, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. George T. French, Jr., the 14th President of Miles College, on his twenty-three years of exemplary service to Miles College and his recent appointment as President of Clark Atlanta University. Under the impressive leadership and oversight of Dr. French as President since 2005, Miles College has met unprecedented fundraising goals, has more than doubled its existing campus size through land acquisition and, most importantly, has continued to fight for and implement the values upon which it was founded—providing its students with quality, first-class higher education. A man of steadfast and unwavering faith, Dr. French's experience as a pastor in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has lent him strength and purpose as he has navigated his impressive career.

Miles College was established over one hundred years ago in 1898 in Fairfield, Alabama. The college is a historically black college, whose mission has always been to pro-

vide top-tier higher education to the African American community and to educate the minds of future local, national and global leaders. Miles College has deep roots in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, whose guiding principles helped to shape the school's mission and curriculum. Miles College also played a major role in Birmingham's struggle for civil rights. When the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was scouting a city in which to test methods of peaceful protest, Birmingham was decided upon in large part because members of Miles College were already engaging in activism.

A native of Louisville, KY, Dr. French joined Miles College with a strong educational background, having earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Louisville. He was then competitively accepted to the University of Richmond Law School before being recruited by Miles Colleges' former President Albert Sloan to join Miles College as the Director of Development. Dr. French completed his final year of law school at Miles Law School where he earned his Juris Doctor. He received his Ph.D. in Higher Education from Jackson State University in 2018.

As Director of Institutional Planning and Development at Miles College, Dr. French oversaw the offices of Alumni Affairs, Federal Contracts and Grants, Title III, Institutional Research and Effectiveness, Congressional Relations and Public Relations. He was also primarily responsible for fundraising, a task he met handily. As part of the Capital Campaign Fund Drive, Dr. French raised twelve million dollars, making it the largest drive in the history of Miles College.

During his fourteen-year tenure as President of Miles College, Dr. French has worked to strengthen the college's academic standing and offerings. Under his direction, faculty has secured some of the largest grants in the college's history, and the initiative of "culture, class and civility" has been put into action, in the classroom and throughout all other initiatives. During his presidency, Miles College received a federal grant to become a Center for Academic Excellence in Intelligence. As a senior member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I am especially proud of the work of Miles College within the Intelligence Community. During visits from the Director of the Office of National Intelligence to campus presentations before two Directors of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the students and professors at Miles College brilliantly personified why diversity in the Intelligence Community is so important. In addition, Miles College was rated by HBCU Digest as one of the "Top Three Most Underrated Historically Black Colleges and Universities."

Under his impressive leadership, Dr. French has also increased Miles College's allocation to education and educational support services by 11.03 percent. The school's total operating budget has increased significantly as a result of Dr. French's superior fundraising abilities and has realized a 32.28 percent increase in operating revenue thanks to state and federal grants and contracts aimed at reducing student debt. Dr. French's administration has also worked to progressively increase student access to education funding through a 54.31 percent increase in awarded Pell Grants.

Dr. French has also kept an eye to the future, acquiring the North Campus, a forty-one-acre site whose inclusion doubles the size of

Miles College's existing campus. He has seen the college successfully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, an affirmation that will stand through 2023.

In addition to his exemplary work at Miles College, Dr. French has been a true servant leader within the broader Birmingham community, boasting numerous awards and accomplishments. In 2011, Dr. French was appointed Treasurer of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and in 2013 he was named the Birmingham Spotlight "Man of the Year." He currently serves on the Regions Financial Diversity Advisory Council and as an officer of the Birmingham Business Alliance Executive Committee. Dr. French was invited by former President Barack Obama to a meeting at the White House and, per the recommendation of U.S. Congressional leaders including Reps. NANCY PELOSI, John Boehner and TERRI SEWELL, was appointed to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, an entity which serves to advise the Secretary of Education. Dr. French was also appointed by the U.S. Congress to serve on the U.S. Department of Education Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, which was established ahead of proposed regulations for the Federal Student Aid programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

On a personal note, I have had the great honor of knowing and working with Dr. French for over a decade. He has been an exemplary President of Miles College, an outstanding mentor and a dear friend. I know that Miles College stands tall today as one of the "Crown Jewels of Alabama's 7th Congressional District" because of Dr. French's visionary leadership, fundraising prowess and inspiring and infectious charisma. Thank you for your twenty-three years of supreme service to Miles College and congratulations to you for the outstanding legacy that you will leave here. I am forever grateful for our friendship and for the amazing partnership that my congressional office has enjoyed with Miles College. From growing the college financially and literally to all of the outstanding academic programs and athletic events, you will leave this institution a stronger and better place. For that I say, "Well done," my friend. I know that your brilliance, love of learning, faith and determination has and will continue to serve you well in your new endeavor as the incoming President of Clark Atlanta University.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, the Miles College family, the Birmingham community and the State of Alabama, in paying tribute to the extraordinary life and legacy of Dr. George T. French, Jr., the beloved 14th President of Miles College.

IN HONOR OF FRANCISCO PORTILLO

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Francisco Portillo, the Honduran political activist who fought for immigration reform in the United States. He passed away earlier this month at the age of 64.