

IN HONOR OF ROD HSIAO

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rod Hsiao as he leaves the San Mateo County Board of Education after 14 years of service to the public. Rod is an outstanding public servant and he will be missed by those who follow his work on the board.

Rod Hsiao strongly supports inclusivity. While working in Washington, D.C., he co-founded CAPAL, a 31-year-old nonprofit for students interested in public policy. He is the founder of nonprofit InPlay which combats the loss of educational progress that occurs amongst children during the summer break. InPlay provides a single point where parents can go to sign up children for free or low-cost summer education and recreational activities. He worked with the U.S. Small Business Administration's Council on Underserved Communities and has served on the boards of various nonprofits. He was the co-founder of a local group encouraging Asian and Pacific Islanders to participate in elective office.

The county board of education hears appeals from parents denied inter-district transfers by their district of residence. These are emotional moments when parents are hoping to have their children attend a different school. Rod asks probing questions to determine if there is any legal rational for the transfer to be granted. He looks to the best interests of students and works hard to balance the interests of the home district with the student's needs.

Granting a charter to a proposed charter school is one of the more fraught activities of the county board of education. The issue only arises when the district in which the school is proposed to be established has denied the application. Again, Rod seeks to improve public education through many avenues, including charter schools. These choices sometimes generate friction with one or more vocal groups, but he tries to ensure that the underserved communities of San Mateo County have access to the best possible education.

One example of ensuring access to high quality education is the countywide program known as The Big Lift. It is an initiative that grew out of a group in which Rod participated. The goal is to ensure that San Mateo County students are proficient in reading by the third grade. Rod served on the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council and worked with its successor agency as part of a team to design and launch The Big Lift. Although the pandemic has created obstacles, the program remains strong.

Jones Gulch is the beloved outdoor education program offered by the San Mateo County Office of Education, operating for generations. It's been said that, in some instances, students arrive with their grandmothers who once went to Jones Gulch back when the grandmother was a middle school student. The camp is owned by the YMCA and operated in cooperation with the County Office of Education. In recent years, Rod is credited with maintaining the relationship and with strengthening the program by finding ways to do camp upgrades after decades of use. He has pushed hard to build housing at the site so that staff can fulfill their duties with-

out having to sometimes sleep on the floor of the camp office.

Rod is a graduate of Oberlin College with a BA in Economics, and holds a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard. Aside from his achievements in education, he has also consulted to global companies and founded or worked for nonprofits that promote entrepreneurship and inclusivity.

After nearly a decade and a half in a position of educational leadership, Rod will now be able to spend more time with his wife, Linda, and sons Anthony and Timothy. He has burned the midnight oil on many occasions, and they will likely welcome him home on a more regular schedule. However, I know that Rod Hsiao will also remain active in public affairs in San Mateo County. An advocate is relentless by nature whether or not in elective office. I expect that Rod will remain engaged in creating educational opportunity and in encouraging participation by all segments of San Mateo County. We thank him for years of effort dedicated to building an America of which we may all be proud.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF MATTHEW J. BUNKER**HON. BRYAN STEIL**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and service of Matthew J. Bunker. Matthew grew up in Delavan, Wisconsin and attended Delavan Christian School and Faith Christian School before receiving an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

From an early age, Matthew knew that he wanted to serve America by joining the military. Matthew's dedication and talents were recognized when my predecessor, Congressman Paul Ryan, awarded Matthew an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy. After graduating from West Point, Matthew served with the Army's 1st Cavalry as a Recon Scout at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Washington.

After his honorable service in the Army, Matthew pursued his lifelong dream of becoming an explorer. Matthew loved the outdoors and adventure. He scaled mountains in the Pacific Northwest, hiked, mountain biked, and photographed those moments along the way.

In addition to being an avid outdoorsman, Matthew was a man of strong faith and moral conviction. Wherever his adventures took him, he kept his family and God in mind. His father said that Matthew only loved two things above the outdoors: his family and God.

Matthew Bunker passed away Friday, June 26, 2020 while descending Mount Rainier on a backcountry hike and ski descent. He was 28 years old. He was known for being smart, caring, having a great sense of humor, and for being a talented photographer, painter, and writer.

My prayers are with his family, especially his mother Carolyn and his father Joe, who is a member of the First Congressional District's Service Academy Nomination Board. May we remember Matthew and his service to our country and to others. May his adventurous spirit, strong faith, and moral conviction be an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from traveling and unable to make votes on December 8, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 6395 and H.R. 8354.

RECOGNIZING WARREN G.  
GRAMMER OF POMONA, ILLINOIS**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Warren G. Grammer of Pomona, Illinois, in celebration of his upcoming 100th birthday. A World War II veteran and longtime public servant, Warren is a true American patriot and a role model to many Illinoisans.

Warren was born on December 22, 1920. In 1943, Warren was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the 45th Infantry as a rifle combat infantryman and later as a military policeman. During his service, he took part in eight different battles and was awarded the Silver Battle Star and the Bronze Battle Star. His proudest accomplishment, however, was participating in his division's liberation of the concentration camp in Dachau, Germany. When he was honorably discharged in September 1945, Warren returned home to work for the Illinois State Police as a trooper before working as an officer in a juvenile detention center. Retiring as a Jackson County deputy, Warren left a legacy of public service and public safety.

With a dedication to community and country, Warren is a truly part of America's Greatest Generation. His longevity is worthy of recognition, but the work he accomplished in those years is even more important.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Warren Grammer for his incredible milestone. On behalf of Southern Illinois, happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ROBERTO J. SANTOS

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of United Independent School District Superintendent Roberto J. Santos. Mr. Santos will retire after more than 38 years serving the United Independent School District.

Mr. Santos is an individual who committed his life and career to the betterment of his community. Throughout his career in the field of education, he showed a steadfast dedication to every student he served. He also showed strong leadership in how he managed

one of the largest school districts in the State of Texas. During his tenure as Superintendent, United ISD earned an "A" rating by the Texas Education Agency two years in a row. In addition, and more importantly, Mr. Santos earned the respect and trust of his colleagues and the many people he helped during his tenure.

Mr. Santos's success as superintendent undoubtedly comes from the experience he gained serving in various roles for United ISD, including: Associate Superintendent for Student Support Services, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, Director for Human Resources, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. The skills he acquired through these different positions enabled him to have the tools he needed for when he eventually became superintendent in 2005.

Over the course of his many years in public education, Mr. Santos attained numerous awards and recognitions. He is the recipient of the "Unsung Heroes Award" by the Laredo Next Generation Rotary Club; Future of Texas Award; Laredo Diploma Plus Foundation Leadership Award; Imaginarium "Image Award"; Latin American International Hall of Fame; Border Olympics Honorary Director; Martin High School Tiger Legend; LULAC Council No. 12 Tejano Achiever; Gateway to Mexico All-Sports Clinic Hall of Honor; American Cancer Society Relay for Life Honorary Chairman and March of Dimes Honorary Chairman.

I want to congratulate Mr. Santos on his service to the United Independent School District. His compassion, hard work, and leadership has molded an essential institution for the community, driving local economic and academic prosperity in Laredo. As we move forward, let us take the time to appreciate Mr. Santos and all the educators who dedicate their lives to preparing the next generation for becoming valuable members of society. However, in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the career and service of Superintendent Roberto J. Santos.

ROSCOE D. CUNNINGHAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to remember Roscoe D. Cunningham—a remarkably accomplished man who made an unforgettable impact in Lawrence County, Illinois in his 97 years.

Roscoe was born on September 15, 1923 to Roscoe and Bessie Cooper Cunningham. He graduated from Sumner High School in 1941, a place which instilled his love of learning and ability to quote poetry. He, then, attended the University of Illinois, but put a halt on his degree to serve in World War II European Operations. He proudly served in the United States Army, Rainbow Division 4th Operations as a forward Observer with the artillery division where he was involved with the aeronautical observation of the dropping of bombs on enemy locations. In 1946, Roscoe was honor-

ably discharged from active duty with the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

Returning to U of I, Roscoe earned a JD from the School of Law and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1948. He practiced law in Lawrence County for over 72 years. Roscoe proved to be a strong community leader, dedicating his life to bettering his community in Lawrence County. He was considered one of the county's most vocal advocates and, in 2018, was awarded the Key to the City by Lawrenceville. He also participated extensively in state and national politics, serving as the States Attorney for four terms, the Illinois State Legislature for four terms, and Delegate to the Republican National Convention for three sessions. As an Illinois State Representative for the 54th District, Roscoe also proved to be a vocal advocate for his district. It is noted that he spoke eloquently from the House Floor and he could capture a room's attention. Roscoe was also involved in more than 20 election campaigns throughout the years and he enjoyed meeting with and helping constituents.

Roscoe married Kathryn Suzanne Cunningham on May 1, 1954. They shared 64 years of marriage and raised five children. Roscoe was frequently seen riding bikes with his children and/or grandchildren. At 87, he continued to bike from Sumner to Olney in support of the Special Olympics.

Striving to better his community, Roscoe prioritized community service. He was especially proud of establishing and advancing the Cunningham's Golden Age Club No. 1. His favorite Bible verse was Luke 9:62 which reads, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." These words inspired Roscoe to re-establish the hometown newspaper in his later years. The sections he created have led to The Sumner Press's legacy as the longest running, locally owned newspaper in Southern Illinois. Roscoe was an active member at First Christian Church for 66 years. He recognized the importance of Sunday School and spent many years teaching Sunday School to participate in the education of young students in their faith. He was a member of many community organizations, including the Lawrence County Shrine Club, Lawrence County Republicans, and a lifetime member of the V.F.W. Post 2244, to name but a few among his expansive list of which he was a member.

Madam Speaker, I take this time to recognize a true agent of change in Lawrence County. Lawrence County will surely miss him, but they are left with his incomparable legacy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OUR HOMES OUR VOTES ACT

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Our Homes Our Votes Act along with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mary Gay Scanlon. This bill will help close the voter turnout gap between rich and poor by making it easier for eligible tenants in federally subsidized housing to register to vote.

People have fought and died for the right to vote in this country, but many still face barriers

to voting. Tenants in federally subsidized housing already have their residence and identity verified by public agencies, and this bill will allow them to register to vote as they sign their lease without duplicating information or finding additional paperwork to fill out.

The best way to confront this country's history of voter suppression is to remove barriers to voting that exist today. Eligible voters in working class districts like mine vote at lower rates than wealthier voters, and that discrepancy undermines our democracy. This bill is a step toward fixing that, and I urge this body to advance it.

ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE ACCESS ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 578, the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act. I'm proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation that enjoys overwhelming bipartisan support in the Congress.

This bill ends the five-month waiting period for people with ALS to access Social Security Disability. For some in the country, a five-month wait would not be a great burden, but for those with ALS, which is fatal, many die waiting, never receiving the benefits they earned by paying into Social Security.

ALS is an aggressive neurodegenerative disease that robs people of their muscle movement, their employment, and their lives in a brief time following diagnosis. By ending the harmful waiting period, this bill will allow Americans who face an ALS diagnosis to immediately receive the Social Security benefits they've earned and deserve.

I salute my friend and colleague, Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE for authoring this important legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill and for the President to immediately sign it into law.

TRIBUTE TO UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CHARLES HALL AND STEVE STOLTE

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to Union County Commissioners Charles Hall and Steve Stolte, who will retire at the end of 2020 after many years of outstanding service to the people of Union County.

A lifelong resident of Leesburg Township, Charles Hall has been a county commissioner since 2005 and currently serves as Vice President of the Board. He studied business at Northern Illinois University and Butler University, later joining his brother in machinery sales in Marysville. Charles and his wife of more than fifty years, Peggy, are the parents of three, the grandparents of nine, and the great-grandparents of two. They are members of Richwood United Methodist Church.