

Ramírez de Ceballos. She attended Colegio América Elementary School in Nuevo Laredo before attending St. Augustine High School in Laredo, TX, where she was class valedictorian. She would soon earn an Associate of Arts Degree from Laredo Junior College and then a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish and History from Texas A&I University-Kingsville. Years later, she would continue her studies at Laredo State University where she earned a Master of Science in Secondary Education and Spanish.

In 1969, Rosa joined the Laredo Independent School District, where she taught for 39 years. Over the course of her time at Laredo ISD, she was known as an outstanding teacher and an inspiring person. She was an individual who dedicated her time to ensuring that her students gained an enriching education while always pushing them to challenge themselves with new experiences. For example, she sponsored study abroad trips to Spain, hosted oral Spanish poetry and prose contests, and created a Mother's Day program of original poetry and prose compositions. She would also have her students present their poetry to dignitaries honored at the annual LULAC Senior Internacional. In addition to her work at Laredo ISD, she also served as an Adjunct Spanish Professor at Texas A&M International University for several years. She was also a Hispanic Studies PhD Candidate at Texas A&M University-College Station, where she passed all oral and written exams.

Rosa is also a renowned artist. Her poetry has given a strong and distinct voice to those in the border community. She understands the unique experience of Laredoans and brings that familiarity to a larger audience. I appreciate her work and the guidance she has given to countless students. Her work in the field of education is both moving and a reminder of how many lives can be touched by just one individual.

For her work, she has received numerous awards, including: Laredo Morning Times Woman of the Month, Cigarroa High School Teacher of the Year and the Raíces Award, Webb County Heritage Foundation Traditions and Folklore Award, El Mañana Literary Award, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, Laredo's Golden Apple Award, Laredo Chamber of Commerce Bell Award, University of Texas Excellence in Teaching Award, and Texas Spanish Teacher of the Year. She was also inducted into the Laredo Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Rosa Maria Ceballos de Llano on this prestigious recognition and I wish her the best moving forward.

HONORING KARRIE PARDIECK

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to a dedicated public servant who has for two decades served the people of eastern Indiana with great care and devotion.

As she now retires with twenty years of service, I want to offer my wholehearted thanks to Karrie Pardieck for all that she has done for me, my predecessors and for Hoosiers across eastern Indiana.

Karrie Pardieck was first hired by my brother, Vice President MIKE PENCE, when he was elected to what was then the Second Congressional District of Indiana. As the Second became the Sixth, Karrie earned a reputation of putting Hoosier constituents first.

My staff knows that we have no higher priority than constituent services, and Karrie has been on the front lines of ensuring that Hoosiers were taken care of and their voices were being heard.

Undoubtedly Karrie has handled many thousands of cases in her area of expertise. In just the last two years alone, Karrie opened federal inquiries on behalf of more than 225 Sixth District Hoosiers. Time and again, I have heard from constituents who needed help with Social Security Retirement, Disability and Medicare. Many have reached out or sent letters saying that Karrie would always lead with a servant's heart, an eye for detail and a can-do attitude.

My immediate predecessor, Congressman Luke Messer, said upon the occasion of his retirement from this body stated that Karrie "made our office a better place to work, and she is a valuable member of our team."

For twenty years Karrie Pardieck has made this office better. For twenty years, she has been a valuable member of the Sixth District team.

As she now closes this chapter and departs from public service, I join my predecessors and the many lives she has touched as a Constituent Services Representative for Indiana's Sixth Congressional District in wishing Karrie Pardieck a joyous retirement.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO MEDIA DIVERSITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to express my support of House Resolution 549, which I introduced along with my colleague, Congresswoman VAL DEMINGS, and is led in the Senate also in a bipartisan way by Senators JACKY ROSEN and MARCO RUBIO.

As the first woman to represent Puerto Rico in Congress, I take great pride in being a part of this initiative that seeks to eliminate barriers that prevent media diversity. I strongly believe that it is our responsibility to pay it forward, and work to ensure that minorities are represented in every sector of society whether it is in elected office, in businesses, in the military or in the media.

This resolution is simple, Mr. Speaker. It sends a strong message that we in Congress are united in this effort to encourage media diversity that will benefit Americans from all backgrounds and walks of life stay informed and civically engaged.

Whether through traditional outlets such as television, radio or newspaper, or through new technologies and digital platforms, media plays a critical role in our daily lives, influencing our perspective on almost every issue. By having access to independent, diverse, and local media contributors, our communities can be

exposed to different viewpoints providing them opportunities to contribute to the crucial debates facing our country.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, our nation is diversifying at a faster ratio than it was ever projected. Over the last decade, nearly 4 of 10 Americans identified with a race or ethnic group other than white. Yet, this is not proportionally reflected in media and communication occupations.

Fifty years ago, the Kerner Commission Report called for increased media diversity, citing that limited participation of diverse populations in media decision-making had negative economic and social cost for our society. And although some progress has been made, we can and we must do better.

Our nation is strengthened by diverse points of view, diverse talents, and a workforce that truly reflects our country's identity. We cannot wait fifty more years, we need to start now and promote an inclusive workforce, welcoming those who aspire to become journalists, correspondents, creators, directors, producers, programmers, distributors, behind the camera and on-air personalities.

This resolution empowers us with the ability to create a strategy, build coalitions, and work to remove the barriers to increase participation in this growing industry. We must also promote diversity so that more members of our communities can relate.

We have an opportunity here in Congress to lead the way, demonstrate our commitment to the American people that diverse representation in all aspects of American life are critical to a healthy, prosperous democracy.

Diversity is what makes this country rich. Our nation is comprised of people who represent a plethora of thoughts, heritage and upbringing that is not always represented in the media, making some of these groups invisible to others.

Media should be a reflection of the society they serve. Learning about other experiences, listening to different opinions, and getting to know other's backgrounds strengthens our nation and leads to inclusion.

REMEMBERING JEREMY DODD

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on Monday, December 7th, I attended the funeral service of a dear friend and mentor. A complex, sensitive, intuitive observer of this human comedy we call life. Jeremy Dodd was a remarkable man. I include in the RECORD this brief introduction is his obituary written by his son, Owen, and a poem entitled, "The Dash."

In 1978, Jeremy and I worked down the hall from one another. I knew of him because his father was a United States Senator from Connecticut, who the Irish and Americans across the country had always taken great pride in his role in the Nuremberg Trials, and also his brother Chris, who at the time was the sitting member of Congress from the 2nd District and would go on to follow his father and become a United States Senator. Jeremy historically and culturally knew politics, he gained that knowledge from growing up in a family immersed in it. Beyond politics, he could conduct

conversations on any subject, from sports, to theater, literature, art, and photography—he had a feel for life and a keen way of listening to others. Moreover, a very likable man able to focus in on the simple aspect of human interaction—the handshake, the greeting, and a smile. Most of all, he was great fun, always able to use self-deprecating humor and weave stories of life, history and literature from his unique perspective. That perspective was usually made clearer or more fuzzy depending on what we ordered from the top shelf. He was above all genuine, not without his faults, but his virtue far surpassed what he would call his inconsistencies. He was great company: engaging, quick-witted, and loved a good laugh.

The funeral was in the ancestral neighborhood of his grandparents and where his father, Tom, and his mother, Grace, are buried in an old Irish cemetery. The center of which was the Church of St. Michael the Archangel built by the Irish who lived in the area. The wooden beams, the stained-glass window, the tiled floor, wooden confessional, all works of art in their own right.

Before the funeral began, I had the opportunity to talk with Owen, Jeremy's son who was my press secretary, and present him with a flag flown over the United States Capitol in his father's honor. I also spoke with his uncle, United States Senator Chris Dodd, whom I had been a district coordinator for in his 1980 run for the Senate and when I came to the Congress in 1998 he took me under his wing and always gave wise counsel and stellar advice. He told me he was going through Jeremy's belongings and came across this poem that Jeremy was very fond of. He then thanked me for being there and gave me this poem called "The Dash."

It is my honor to introduce it and include it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This poem, written by Linda Ellis, aptly describes Jeremy, his family, his father, his brother U.S. Senator Dodd, his son Owen, and the entire Dodd family: a family that was an exemplary example of public service, love of country, ever committed to making a more perfect union and being defined by their accomplishments between "The Dash."

In Loving Memory of a Man Who Took the Road Less Traveled:

Old Saybrook—Jeremy (Jerry) Murphy Dodd, 82, died peacefully on November 27, 2020, due to complications from Alzheimer's disease. Jerry leaves his loving and only son, Owen M. Dodd, his former spouse Barbara M. Dodd and his four siblings Thomas J. Dodd his spouse Mary O'Neil Dodd, Mary Carolyn Dodd, Senator Christopher J. Dodd and his spouse Jackie Clegg-Dodd, Nicholas Owen Dodd, and his loving friend, Joanne Hoye. He also leaves behind eleven nieces and nephews and an extensive loving family. In addition, Jerry joins his late sister, Martha Dodd-Buonanno. Jerry is the third child of the six children born of Mary Grace and Senator Thomas J. Dodd. He was born in New Haven, CT, on September 23, 1938, amid the New England Hurricane—one of the most destructive and deadliest hurricanes to make land-fall in Connecticut. Raised in the Nutmeg State, he called home in North Stonington, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and West Hartford. He graduated from the Cheshire Academy and then served in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Coastguard where he was honorably discharged from both services. He then went on to study at Mexico City College, Mexico City, Mexico earning his bachelor's in history. After graduating in 1962, as a fluent

Spanish speaker, he hitchhiked through Central and South America during a time of political upheaval and great transition in the region. This momentous time was influential in shaping Jerry's worldview especially as it pertained to helping those who need it the most. Upon returning to the United States, he found his passion in life, photography. Jerry would study photography under the famous photographer John W. Doscher at the Doscher Country School of Photography in Vermont and would go on to take the portraits of Depression Era photographer Walker Evans and the renowned ornithologist and painter, Roger Tory Peterson. Jerry's innate photographic talent focused on families, portraiture, and legal photography, where he excelled and was in high demand across the state. Later in his life, he devoted his time to social work. He worked with community service programs that were committed to the rehabilitation of formerly incarcerated persons as he believed firmly in providing a second chance for people. He believed deeply in his work and it came from a belief of a higher-good where one should work towards something larger than oneself. Jerry was a lover of life who cherished animals, hiking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and sailing on the Connecticut River in his wooden boat, Mrs. Jones. He was a voracious reader and lover of history who understood that we all have a story to tell, and he was eager to hear the histories of those he met throughout his life. His indelible humor was contagious to others, and his magnetic personality was a complete joy to be around. He has truly left the world and its inhabitants better than where he found them. There will be a private ceremony at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Pawcatuck, Rhode Island on December 7, 2020, where he will be laid to rest next to his mother and father in the Dodd Family plot.

THE DASH

(By Linda Ellis)

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning . . . to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars . . . the house . . . the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile . . . remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

HONORING IOWA'S ELECTION POLL WORKERS AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing each and every one of the volunteer poll workers who helped with this general election as our Iowans of the Week.

Iowans have long prided ourselves on how we engage the democratic process. For us, that means a lot more than simply casting a ballot every so often: it means really getting to know candidates and elected officials, attending town halls to ask questions and voice opinions, keeping up with the news, encouraging our friends and neighbors to get involved, and consistently turning out to vote. To boil it down, Iowans believe participation is key when it comes to government and politics.

As positive cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in Iowa, state and county election officials had to find a way for Americans to cast their ballots safely, reliably, and on time. I'm proud to say they did so successfully, and that feat required more than 10,000 everyday citizens to step up and participate as volunteer poll workers throughout early voting and on Election Day.

These volunteers took time away from work, school, and home during the week and on weekends to give back to their communities. While they came to the table with their own political beliefs and values, they all worked together in a nonpartisan way to make the day run smoothly. As the risks of COVID-19 kept many older volunteers at home this year, Iowa saw more high school students and young adults sign up to fill the gaps. For weeks prior to November 3rd, individual county election offices planned and held dozens of trainings for volunteers to learn the ropes of being a precinct election official. On Election Day these volunteers staffed more than 1,600 precinct voting locations across the state, many working fifteen-hour shifts from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. to make sure every Iowan who wanted to could cast a ballot.

While working early voting sites and election day locations, they wore personal protective equipment like masks, face shields, and gloves and continually wiped down voting machines and frequently touched surfaces to ensure their neighbors could participate with minimal risk. They made sure Iowans visiting the polls had masks and hand sanitizer, knew where to go and what to do once they got there, and made sure the environment was safe and welcoming for all.

Elections that are free, fair, safe, and secure are the foundation of our nation's democracy. Maintaining that standard requires consistency, careful planning, and ongoing collaboration each cycle. I would be remiss if I did not thank election officials at the state and county levels for their tireless work to make the 2020 general election run smoothly across our state. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes by these individuals is staggering. I also want to commend everyone who made their voices heard by casting a ballot this fall; their participation is how we move society forward.