

Rico, a man who would go on to win two terms, a hard task in the history of the island.

After serving as Governor Rosello's chief of staff for 3 years, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he focused on building the Democratic Party within the Hispanic community. From 2001 to 2005, he served as the chair of the DNC's Hispanic Caucus, where he increased the party's Hispanic membership by over 30 percent. As chair, Alvaro rebuilt an unprecedented Hispanic campaign network and called for John Kerry to work toward winning Hispanic votes.

In 2004, he earned the honor of being named one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the United States by the Hispanic Business Magazine.

Anyone who crossed paths with Alvaro knew he was a true man of the people and a fearless champion of Puerto Rico statehood. I remember the first time we talked about how important statehood would be for Puerto Rico.

He recalled the story of the mighty pung, a story in Chinese folklore that talked about a huge bird that played with other smaller birds on a tiny island and had a wingspan over 500 meters.

They would laugh at this giant bird, the mighty pung, with his awkwardness. He found out, through the hawk, that through thermal glides, he would be able to potentially fly like the other birds.

He set off, needing a year to reach the height required. When asked about this difficult task and his inability to fly, he said: "It is okay. We have a long way to go."

That is where Alvaro talked about statehood, about how it has been over 120 years, and about how we have an island that is larger in population than 26 States, yet it is taking over a century for us to even get to this point, but it is okay. Alvaro passed before getting to see it happen. We have a long way to go.

He is survived by three children, Alvaro, Carolina, and Natalia Isabel.

Alvaro, you will be dearly missed by myself, by so many in Florida, and on the island of Puerto Rico, but the fight will continue to live on.

RECOGNIZING K-9 VETERANS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March 13 as K-9 Veterans Day, an opportunity to commemorate the working dogs that support our men and women in uniform.

This year marks the 78th anniversary of the establishment of the K-9 Corps.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Army began training for the K-9 Corps in 1942, originally known as the War Dog Program. In the years that passed, the K-9 Corps has become a vital part of our Armed Forces operations.

Though military working dogs initially served as morale boosters for our soldiers, they were eventually trained and incorporated into combat. A dog's sense of smell is 5 to 10 times stronger than a human's, which has made them expert counterparts in detecting explosive devices.

More than 1,500 dogs served in the Korean war, 4,000 in Vietnam, and many more in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Like their human counterparts, our military K-9s eventually retire. Many dogs and their handlers develop a strong bond during their service together.

Sadly, prior to the year 2000, military working dogs were considered "equipment" and were either left behind or euthanized at the end of their service.

Today, retired military working dogs are put up for adoption, and their personal handlers get first priority to give them a home.

To further this effort, the American Humane Society works to unite our four-legged heroes with their handlers by raising funds to ensure their safe transport home.

Oftentimes, these retired dogs will serve as support animals to service-members who may be suffering from PTSD and other disabilities, both mental and physical. Our veterans can greatly benefit from the assistance and the companionship that a dog provides, and our K-9 veterans benefit from their newfound forever homes.

Our K-9 veterans have served our country, and they, too, deserve to be honored for their service.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RED CROSS MONTH

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as National Red Cross Month.

This tradition began in 1943 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the proclamation to designate the month of March to celebrate Red Cross volunteers, donors, and instructors.

The history of the Red Cross, however, goes back even further into American history. In 1881, Clara Barton established the organization right here in Washington, D.C., to better serve people in need. On June 5, 1889, Clara Barton and five volunteers came to Johnstown to respond to the Johnstown Flood.

For more than 100 years, the American Red Cross has worked to support those in need, whether they are men and women in uniform or victims of natural disaster.

Perhaps the organization's best-known program, the American Red Cross established the first nationwide civilian blood donation program in the 1940s.

According to the organization, someone in the United States needs blood every 2 seconds. There are regular blood donation drives right here on Capitol Hill, where we can all volunteer to donate blood that has the potential to save a life.

Less than 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood, and

only 3 percent of those individuals donate annually.

The critical need for blood and the lifesaving potential that comes from a donation cannot be overstated.

The American Red Cross has always been a leader in this effort, and today, they still provide more than 40 percent of the blood products in the United States.

The success of the Red Cross relies on the generosity of the American spirit.

This month and all year long, I am thankful for their service to our Nation.

COMMENDING HEMET AND PALM SPRINGS FIREFIGHTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, this week, members of the Hemet and Palm Springs Fire Departments gathered in Washington, D.C., for the International Association of Firefighters' annual legislative conference.

I met with several of them in my office and want to express my personal appreciation for their unrelenting service that so often goes above and beyond their call of duty.

Last December, tragedy struck in my district when three children and their father died in an apartment complex fire in Hemet, California.

Despite the dangerous and grim circumstances, Hemet first responders worked heroically and helped save lives.

Days later, the Hemet Fire Department, in a demonstration of kindness, joined with community members to give financial support for the victims' family and everyone affected by the fire.

They simply said they were closing the loop. From fire to getting them back on their feet, they saw it as their responsibility to help those who were afflicted.

This act of compassion shown by the first responders is just one example of the selflessness in which they live their lives every day.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the firefighters from Hemet and Palm Springs, and I thank first responders everywhere. Their heroism is as inspiring as it is impactful.

RECOGNIZING CATHERINE LANG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month to recognize a dedicated public servant from Nebraska's Seventh District. Catherine Lang's record of leadership and advocacy for the State's small business community has improved the lives of many Nebraskans.

Catherine earned both her bachelor of fine arts and juris doctor degrees

from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As a leader with a passion for fostering educational and economic opportunities for Nebraskans, she has worked hard to build a more robust environment for businesses and universities. She also plays an active role in several philanthropic and public organizations.

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Not only has she grown as a leader, the responsibilities entrusted to her have grown as well. Catherine has been crucial in guiding State agencies through periods of transition and expansion. Throughout her career, she has served Nebraska as the Department of Revenue's deputy tax administrator, the Nebraska property tax administrator, the commissioner of labor, and as the director of the Department of Economic Development.

Catherine inherited a legacy of service from her parents, Hugh and Lillian Lang. Her father, Commander "Chic" Lang, served as a distinguished Navy pilot during World War II and later as an instructor at the U.S. Navy War College, and her mother enlisted in the U.S. Air Force.

Catherine's parents instilled in her a value she has instilled in her three sons: the importance of a college education as a door to opportunity. Because of this, the Lang family established a scholarship for students at the UNO College of Business for the purpose of cultivating opportunity and character.

Currently, Catherine holds the position of State director of the Nebraska Business Development Center and assistant dean at the UNO College of Business. She leads statewide outreach for NBDC and builds collaborative efforts in the Nebraska University system to support the institution's mission of economic development.

Thank you, Catherine, for dedicating your life to serving and inspiring others, and we thank you for strengthening relationships within our community.

HONORING TIMOTHY KENNY ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Timothy Kenny and his exceptional service as the executive director of the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, or NIFA. Timothy has been serving Nebraskans in this role since 1994. Before he joined NIFA, he served as director of programs for the Utah Housing Finance Agency and as executive director of the Texas Housing Finance Agency.

NIFA administers programs to help Nebraskans finance affordable housing, medical facilities, community infrastructure, and industrial development projects. They also serve first-time farmers and ranchers by providing affordable financing strategies across the Great Plains.

In the 36 years of its existence, NIFA has worked diligently to finance over 91,000 mortgages for affordable single-family homes. Additionally, over 23,600

affordable rental housing units for Nebraskans living on a budget have been created. Under Tim's leadership, NIFA has taken care of our Armed Forces by providing over \$96.1 million in home buyer's assistance.

Previously, Timothy served as a certified public accountant for a private tax and audit practice in Dallas, Texas, and then worked his way up to chief financial officer for homebuilding and real estate firms in Texas and Colorado.

He now resides in Cass County, Nebraska, with his wife, Sara, three children, and numerous grandchildren. On top of his commendable public service, Timothy has supported his children and country through more than 20 deployments in the United States Armed Forces.

Timothy continues to be active in Nebraska by serving on the National Council of State Housing Agencies, the National Association of Home Builders, the Nebraska Subprime Advisory Task Force, and the Governor's Disaster Recovery Task Force. He exemplifies what it means to be a Nebraskan through his hard work, service to others, and compassion for those in need.

I congratulate Timothy on a notable career of public service and a retirement that is well deserved.

SIMLEY WRESTLING TEAM STATE CHAMPIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Simley Spartans wrestling team on their AA State championship.

Simley High School in Inver Grove Heights is surely proud of their accomplishments, as are we all in the Second Congressional District. In fact, their head coach, Will Short, called it a perfect season.

Congratulations to the Spartan wrestlers. They have demonstrated excellence in their sport and a strong commitment to the success of their team. They have delivered outstanding results that they can be proud of in their school and their community.

I thank especially the parents, the coaches, the teachers, and the mentors who have dedicated their time to making their season successful.

Congratulations, Simley.

SENATOR SCHUMER'S UNBECOMING COMMENTS TO SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, last week in the Senate, a resolution was introduced to censure Senate Majority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER for his threatening comments directed at Supreme Court Justices on the steps of the Court during an abortion-related case.

These comments were not only unbecoming of a Senator, but they were simply egregious. They crossed the line.

As representative leaders, we are held to a higher standard of conduct, and Senator SCHUMER failed to meet that standard. I call on my colleagues on the other side of the Capitol to support this censure for the preservation of this institution, for the preservation of the constitutionally separate branches of government, and for the health of our Republic.

FEED YOUR MIND

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week the USDA, EPA, and FDA have partnered to announce a new public education campaign aimed at helping consumers better understand what is in their food.

The Feed Your Mind initiative was developed to answer the most common questions that consumers have about genetically modified foods, commonly referred to as GMOs. This study will include what GMOs are, how and why they are made, how they are regulated, and it will address health and safety questions that consumers may have about these products.

Biotechnology has allowed important advances in crop technologies and improved our farmers' ability to continue to provide safe, nutritious, and affordable food. Unfortunately, some consumers have fallen victim to untrue or totally misleading rumors about what GMOs do for our food, creating confusion and stifling innovation in the agriculture industry.

I want to applaud the Trump administration for taking on the important task of providing factual information and important information about the food we grow right here in Kansas and across the United States. No consumer should have to fear their food or question the technology that goes into making their meals possible.

The United States has the single safest, most reliable, and most affordable food source in the entire world, and our farmers work daily to inform the public about what they do in the field. These resources will be an important supplement to their outreach efforts.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S CORONAVIRUS LEADERSHIP PLAN

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, the Wuhan coronavirus is certainly on the front of Americans' minds these days, but before I speak about the virus, I would like to talk about leadership.

I often tell the kids I work with that leadership is doing the right thing when it is not popular. Here in Washington, I have learned that doing the right thing is when you know over 90 percent of the press and 90 percent of the media is going to disagree with you.

Leadership is when President Trump banned travel from China on February 2. While some people went so low as to call this xenophobic, as a physician, this early decision, I believe, has saved thousands of American lives.