

have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

#### REMEMBERING MARCOS GIL

● Mr. RISC. Madam President, I rise in memory of Marcos Gil of Arimo, ID, who gave his life on April 28, 2018 rescuing a young woman from drowning.

When 17-year-old Marcos Gil saw his girlfriend caught in a circular current downriver from a waterfall, he rushed to her aid. Despite being a poor swimmer, Marcos jumped into the Portneuf River to save the 14-year-old girl as she called for help, submerging himself in the powerful current and pushing her toward the bank of the river. With Marcos' help, the young woman was able to grab hold of a branch at the edge of the riverbank and swim to safety. Tragically, Marcos was unable to extricate himself from that same current, drowning in the process of saving the young woman's life.

Those who knew Marcos described him as friendly, deeply caring and eager to serve, and the story of his courage and sacrifice continues to resonate throughout eastern Idaho and beyond. Members of the community have rallied around the Gil family, including the Bannock County Sheriff's Office, which honored Marcos posthumously with the first ever lifesaving award presented to a civilian, and the Red Cross of Greater Idaho, which recognized Marcos with its East Idaho Real Heroes award. This year, Marcos was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. The award, which is given to recognize those who have risked their lives to save others, will be presented to his parents, Margarito and Silvia Gil.

At just 17 years old, Marcos Gil left the world far too soon. He is deeply missed by his family and all who were fortunate enough to know him, and his bravery and heroism will not be forgotten.●

#### REMEMBERING MARTHA FLORES

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I honor the life and legacy of Cuban-American radio legend and pioneer, Martha Flores from Miami, FL.

As South Floridians grieve the loss of Martha Flores, an exemplary woman and radio trailblazer, let us honor her memory. For more than 60 years, Martha dedicated her life to her beloved audience and to her South Florida community. Martha, more commonly known as Miami radio's own "Queen of the Night," or la "Reina de la Noche" in Spanish, was the voice of Cuban exiles and is remembered as the first Cuban female to conduct her own radio show in Florida.

More than just a radio legend, commentator, philanthropist, actress, and singer, Martha Flores was a Cuban-American patriot who tirelessly spoke

out against the horrors of communism and advocated for liberty and freedom of speech worldwide. Although we are left without the Queen of the Night, her legacy and memory will live in the hearts of many Floridians for generations to come. May she rest in peace.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BRITTANY BROWN

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I honor Brittany Brown, the Holmes County Teacher of the Year at Ponce de Leon High School in Ponce de Leon, FL.

Brittany believes her work as an educator is to help her students grow and succeed not only in her classroom, but also in their lives. She finds the most rewarding part of her work hearing of her students' newfound love of science.

Brittany believes students lose excitement and fascination for science by the time they reach high school, making one of her primary goals to rekindle the subject with them. She incorporates modern scientific equipment and technology in her curriculum to make science fun and interesting for her students.

Brittany teaches biology, agriculture, and aerospace at Ponce de Leon High School and has been a science educator for 8 years. She enjoys teaching and hopes to pass on her passion for the subject to her students.

I congratulate Brittany for receiving this important recognition. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the coming years.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BELINDA FRIES

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today it is my privilege to honor Belinda Fries, the Suwannee County Teacher of the Year from Suwannee High School in Live Oak, FL.

When named the district's Teacher of the Year, Belinda noted she was humbled and proud to be one of Suwannee County's top educators. She is an experienced technology professional and has been teaching computer science and information technology to students at Suwannee High School since 2016.

Belinda said her favorite part of each day is being with her students in the classroom, and she considers teaching to be a gift. She believes that her students have the ability to fulfill their dreams, and she loves encouraging each of them to do and be their best.

I extend my sincere thanks and best wishes to Belinda for her inspiring work to educate her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALAN GATZKE

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I am pleased to recognize Alan Gatzke, the Columbia County Teacher of the Year from Fort White Elementary School in Fort White, FL.

Alan cherishes the opportunities to connect with students and his fellow teachers. For four decades, he has continually brought his passion for teaching and learning to schools and believes that it is the positive teaching relationships with his students and peers that has allowed him to succeed.

Alan teaches mathematics and science to students in fifth grade at Fort White Elementary School. During his more than 40-year teaching career, he has served as an elementary and middle school teacher, a bus driver, a custodian, and a school administrator. His experience in these jobs taught him that every job title at a school plays vital roles in the education of children.

Alan holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a specialist's degree from the University of Florida, and a master's degree from Florida International University.

I offer my sincere gratitude to Alan for his decades of work teaching countless students. I look forward to hearing of his continued good work in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAPHNE HAYES

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Daphne Hayes, the Hardee County Teacher of the Year at Hardee Senior High School in Wauchula, FL.

Daphne believes in her students and teaches them to believe in themselves. She encourages them to apply to multiple colleges and universities to broaden their options after they graduate from high school. She takes pride in knowing one of her students last year received acceptance letters from more than two dozen schools and received several scholarships.

Daphne is a science and Advancement Via Individual Determination—AVID—teacher and has taught in Hardee County for 8 years. She sponsors the AVID program, which helps students identify and focus on their goals, improves their academic performance, and establishes a plan for their future. Daphne also dedicates her spare time to serving youth at the First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

I extend my best wishes and gratitude for Daphne for her dedication to her students and her community. I look forward to learning of her continued success in coming years.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BRITTINIE JOHNSON

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I am pleased to honor Brittinie Johnson, the Baker County Teacher of the Year at Baker County High School in St. Mary, FL.

Each day, Brittinie looks for opportunities to teach her students to be leaders and to grow in character. She believes these skills will serve them not only in school, but also translate to their lives outside of the classroom. Her students are the inspiration for her career as an educator.

Brittinie teaches culinary arts, one of the most requested courses at Baker County High School. She aims to connect her class lessons to real life and the workforce and strives to teach more than just academics. She is known for impacting not only the lives of her students and their families, but also her community.

Brittinie's love for her students is her reason to maintain high expectations for their excellence in school. Over the course of each year, her students learn how to operate a cafe within the high school, provide meals for the faculty and students, and cater for various community events.

I offer my best wishes to Brittinie for her commitment to helping her students succeed in school and look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALLISON JONES

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I honor Allison Jones, the Bradford County Teacher of the Year at Bradford Middle School in Starke, FL.

Allison's work towards improving her students' testing performance has yielded positive results over the years, collaborating with her colleagues to improve math and writing scores for students.

Allison's goal has always been to help students reach their maximum potential, and she takes every opportunity to celebrate each student's success, no matter how large or small. She is motivated by compassion and believes in establishing and maintaining deep relationships with her students and their families.

Allison teaches sixth grade science at Bradford Middle School and has worked as an educator in Florida for 20 years. She also designs various curricula for the State that is driven not just by data, but also assessments of individual student needs.

I express my deepest gratitude to Allison for her commitment to her students, and I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO AMANDA JONES-CARLSON

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Amanda Jones-Carlson, the Gilchrist County Teacher of the Year at Trenton Elementary School in Trenton, FL.

Amanda considers it an absolute honor to be named Teacher of the Year for her school district. She views her students as her inspiration, believing that making a difference in just one of their lives motivates her to be the best teacher she can be.

To her, seeing one of her students grasp a difficult or complex concept is what makes Amanda's job worthwhile. She believes the best part about teaching students is not just the chance to see them learn, but to watch their ex-

citement grow for the entire learning process.

Amanda teaches first grade at Trenton Elementary School and has taught in Gilchrist County for 8 years.

I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to Amanda for her dedication to her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the coming years.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID MARTINEZ-COOLEY

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I am pleased to recognize David Martinez-Cooley, the Pinellas County Teacher of the Year from Leila G. Davis Elementary School in Clearwater, FL.

David is known for finding creative ways of engaging his students to pass on his passion and love for music. He considers himself to be just one of many teachers of the year across Pinellas County who dedicates their time to inspiring their students every day.

David's colleagues are enthralled by his enthusiasm and the drive he brings to his classroom each day. He is viewed as a role model among his peers, and many of his students throughout the years note the positive influence he has implanted in their lives.

David is a music education teacher at Leila G. Davis Elementary School and has taught in Pinellas County for 13 years. He received his master's degrees in music education and mathematics education from the University of Florida. David also serves on the district's textbook adoption committee, helping to select new digital resources for elementary music students. He has also helped in leading other music educators by presenting at district and State training events and assisted in the revision and refinement of the district's grade level key learnings.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to David and extend my best wishes on his continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CHEYENNA NOVOTNY

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I am pleased to honor Cheyenna Novotny, the Escambia County Teacher of the Year at West Florida High School in Pensacola, FL.

Cheyenna teaches chemistry and environmental science at West Florida High School and has been a teacher for 16 years. Outside of the classroom, Cheyenna leads the student environmental club and helped to launch a full-scale recycling program for the entire school last year.

For Cheyenna, it is important to know how her students are learning as they progress throughout the year. Each of her students receives an individual whiteboard to use as they work to solve math or chemistry problems on their own. Having students show their work on the whiteboards helps

them and Cheyenna to see firsthand how well they grasp a concept.

Cheyenna believes in celebrating every learning victory for her students throughout the year, no matter how big or small. Her students view her not only as their teacher, but also as someone who is their friend who works to prepare them for their educational careers. She considers it a privilege to work with her students, to encourage their dreams, and to share their passions.

I express my best wishes and gratitude to Cheyenna, and I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ANGELA ROBERTS

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I am pleased to recognize Angela Roberts, the Martin County Teacher of the Year from Felix A. Williams Elementary School in Stuart, FL.

Angela is a third grade English language arts and social studies teacher at Felix A. Williams Elementary School. She has taught for 28 years, with 21 years in the Martin County School District. She leads workshops during her school's literacy nights, serves as a youth life coach and soloist at her church, moderates as a high school debate team judge, volunteers as a member of the Keep Martin Beautiful beach clean-up crew, and spends her time as an advanced choir parent volunteer for both Jensen Beach and Martin County high schools.

Angela believes that children deserve a champion in their life, and she wholeheartedly embraces this responsibility. Before she works to educate her students' minds, she connects with their hearts, learning who they are individually to design lessons that bring them to the core of her subject matter. She understands that what some students need most is not necessarily what is found in lesson plans, but what is found in a teacher's heart.

Angela knows that educators hold the high honor and responsibility of influencing future generations. Time spent in grade school encompasses a student's most formative years, sometimes spent more with teachers than with parents. In consideration of this, at the beginning of each school year, Angela invites parents to download an app that provides them with access to communicate with the classroom, following the lesson plan alongside students each day.

I thank Angela for all the great work she has done for her students over the years. I extend my best wishes to her and look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the coming years.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CARI RODRIGUEZ

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Cari Rodriguez, the Broward County Teacher of the Year from Harbordale Elementary School in Fort Lauderdale, FL.