

Native American languages, and to encourage State and territorial governments to make similar exceptions;

“(3) encourage and support the use of Native American languages as a medium of instruction in order to encourage and support—

“(A) Native American language survival,

“(B) educational opportunity,

“(C) increased student success and performance,

“(D) increased student awareness and knowledge of their culture and history, and

“(E) increased student and community pride;

“(4) encourage State and local education programs to work with Native American parents, educators, Indian tribes, and other Native American governing bodies in the implementation of programs to put this policy into effect;

“(5) recognize the right of Indian tribes and other Native American governing bodies to use the Native American languages as a medium of instruction in all schools funded by the Secretary of the Interior;

“(6) fully recognize the inherent right of Indian tribes and other Native American governing bodies, States, territories, and possessions of the United States to take action on, and give official status to, their Native American languages for the purpose of conducting their own business;

“(7) support the granting of comparable proficiency achieved through course work in a Native American language the same academic credit as comparable proficiency achieved through course work in a foreign language, with recognition of such Native American language proficiency by institutions of higher education as fulfilling foreign language entrance or degree requirements;

“(8) encourage all institutions of elementary, secondary and higher education, where appropriate, to include Native American languages in the curriculum in the same manner as foreign languages and to grant proficiency in Native American languages the same full academic credit as proficiency in foreign languages.”

Over the last 30 years, catalyzed by the Native American Languages Act, Congress has promoted the maintenance and revitalization of Native languages. In 1992, Congress amended the act to establish a grant program at the Administration for Native Americans, ANA, to support Native language projects.

During my time in Congress, I have worked to support Native American languages revitalization efforts. In 2006, as a U.S. Congressman for New Mexico, I helped lead a bipartisan bill to expand the ANA’s grant program to bolster Native language immersion education programs. I also participated in an Education and Workforce Committee field hearing in my home State to hear from Native language advocates, which solidified support for the bill’s passage in the House. Enacted as the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act, this legislation was named after an Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo traditional storyteller and Tewa language advocate who tragically passed away in 2006.

As the current vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I had the honor of leading the most recent Esther Martinez Native American

Languages Programs Reauthorization Act, which was signed into law this past December, to further enhance ANA’s Native languages grant programs.

I also convened a Native American Languages Listening Session last year and worked with Committee Chairman JOHN HOEVEN to hold an oversight hearing in 2018 to hear directly from Native language revitalization stakeholders across the country. At those events, we learned that, over the last three decades, great strides have been made to rectify past injustices and move toward support of Native languages. Sadly, despite our efforts, a number of Native languages are still endangered today. The loss of even one Native language would deal a significant blow to our shared American and global heritage. There is still more work to do.

This anniversary is an important opportunity for Congress to reflect. I hope my colleagues will join me and recommit to fully upholding the policies set out in the Native American Languages Act.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SUSANNA POST

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Arkansas educator, Susanna Post, who was named the 2021 Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

Susanna has demonstrated her excellence in educating during her tenure as a math and business technology teacher at Belle Point Alternative Center in Fort Smith, AR.

Susanna launched her teaching career in North Carolina after graduating from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 2002, where she earned a degree in mathematics and computer science. She left the classroom temporarily after a family relocation when she entered the business world and worked as petroleum analyst and senior engineering technician at multiple oil and gas companies.

We are fortunate that she wanted to return to teaching as she has been a trailblazer during her time at Belle Point, quickly accruing a long list of achievements. Susanna developed the school’s first coding club and also facilitated a Lindamood-Bell literary intervention group. She is also the primary leader for the school’s Culture Project Week, a program that uses project-based activities to strengthen relationships among students, faculty, and community. Her devotion to educating future generations has benefitted not only Belle Point, but the entire school district. In addition to serving on the district’s secondary math curriculum development team, she also created an ACT prep program in collaboration with other district leaders. Susanna’s leadership is equally evident in the classroom, where she imple-

mented a unique project-based learning approach using her experience from the business world.

Her passion for and commitment to education is demonstrated by her own education. She completed two master’s programs while teaching at Belle Point. In 2017, she earned a master’s degree in secondary education and teaching from the University of Central Arkansas. In 2020, she received a master’s in rural and urban school leadership from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

I would like to offer my congratulations to Susanna Post for her determination, devotion, and commitment to her students and to education. I am encouraged by her efforts to inspire our next generation of leaders and her drive to help them succeed. •

REMEMBERING SEAN HIGGINS

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I rise to recognize a lifelong Nevadan and a friend to all he knew, Sean Higgins.

Sean was a dedicated member of our community, an unmistakable presence, and a tireless champion and advocate for our gaming industry and small businesses in Nevada. He was born in Chicago in 1964, but raised in Las Vegas, 1 of 10 siblings—5 brothers and 5 sisters. His father, Dr. Gerald Higgins, was an orthopedic surgeon and doctor for the Rebels, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas football team. Sean graduated from Bishop Gorman High School. He left Nevada only briefly for his education, obtaining a degree in business administration from Southern Methodist University and a law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Sean and I grew up in Las Vegas when it was a much smaller town of 330,000 people, so perhaps our paths were always destined to cross. We met in the 6th grade when we attended Matt Kelly Elementary School together. Even then, Sean had a presence, with his distinctive voice and outgoing personality. He was friendly, charming—yes, even at 11 years old—and made you want to hang out with him. And so we did, spending time at pool parties and dancing to the band “Hot Chocolate.” Over the years our paths diverged, but his focus, like mine, was on returning to Las Vegas and the State we loved to practice law.

Sean represented clients both large and small to State gaming regulators and government bodies across the Silver State. Everyone knew Sean for his gregarious nature and his booming voice, which made him a fierce advocate for championing the causes of his clients. He spent 17 years as general counsel of Herbst Gaming, a multi-jurisdictional casino operator in Nevada that became Affinity Gaming in 2011, and where his sister, Mary Beth Higgins, now serves as CEO. He served as executive-vice president of government affairs for Golden Entertainment,

a casino company and slot machine route operator, and became a partner at the Gordon Silver Law firm. He became a small business owner himself, operating a popular gaming pub with two of his brothers and founding his own law firm, STH Strategies, in 2015.

We reunited in our professional careers in Carson City when I was working for Governor Miller and he was advocating for taverns and gaming. The best part, he was still the same Sean Higgins I met in the 6th grade—friendly, charming, and yes, he made you want to hang out with him. So I did. For the last 20 years as our professional careers converged, I had the opportunity to watch Sean as he advocated for the town he loved and the businesses that made us a success, all the while smoking cigars and enjoying a good meal with the friends he cultivated along the way.

I will miss my friend, and I am grateful I got to talk with him to say goodbye, to tell him that I loved him. During our conversation, his main concern was for his family. Sean loved Lynn and cherished his children Samantha and Connor. He was so proud of them. I experienced this firsthand when he came to Washington to visit Connor, who was working as an intern on the Senate Committee for Environment and Public Works. In every conversation, Sean would talk about his amazing children.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering my friend and fellow Nevadan, Sean Higgins, for his advocacy and legal acumen. Sean will not soon be replaced in the Las Vegas community or in the gaming industry in Nevada. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife Lynn, his children Connor and Samantha, and the many friends who knew him well.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL DUANE A. KUHLMANN

• Mr. JONES. Madam President, I rise today to remember Col. Duane A. Kuhlmann, a longtime resident of Spanish Fort, AL, who died on September 23, 2020. It is with humility and sadness that we pause to mark the passing of yet another member of the “greatest generation,” a brave and dedicated patriot, a leader, and a beloved husband and father.

Born to first-generation Americans in Iowa and raised in Byron, MN, Duane volunteered for the Army Air Corps at age 19, soon after the Pearl Harbor bombing. After a medical issue delayed his training, Duane joined the fight in the Pacific in 1944 flying the P-40, before closing out the war in the P-51. After the Japanese surrender, he spent the next year as part of the U.S. occupation of Japan. Soon after returning stateside, Duane married Dorothy Guenther, and together they had seven children, two of whom served their country as officers in the U.S. Navy. After the war, Duane continued to fly the P-51 and was a demonstration pilot

for his squadron. Later he and his squadron transitioned to jets, flying the F-84. His squadron was ordered to join the Korean conflict, but after prepositioning in Japan they were ordered back to Turner Air Force Base in Georgia. Duane’s Air Force career took the family to Albany, GA; Ephrata, WA; Wiesbaden, Germany; Montgomery, AL; Sumter, SC; San Antonio, TX; and finally Dayton, OH.

During the Vietnam conflict, Duane led his squadron of RB-66 aircraft across the Pacific to provide electronic and reconnaissance support for our troops. Two years later, he led the same squadron to Vietnam for a second tour of duty, this time providing ‘recce’ support flying the RF-4 phantom over Hanoi and Haiphong harbor.

Colonel Kuhlmann retired from the Air Force in 1974 in Dayton, OH, as vice commander of Defense Electronics Systems Command. He was awarded the Legion of Merit in 1974 and accumulated numerous air medals throughout his distinguished career.

My wife Louise and I extend our gratitude for Colonel Kuhlmann’s service, as well as our condolences for his loss to his children John Kuhlmann and his wife Rosie, Jenny Kuhlmann Zinn and her husband Bob, Tom Kuhlmann, Karen Sher and her husband Andy, Fritzie Kuhlmann Bassel and her husband Steve, Greg Kuhlmann and his wife Stephanie, Chris Kuhlmann and his wife Dani, and to his 19 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren.

Though not a native son, Duane chose to spend the last years of his life in Alabama, joining the roughly 400,000 other veterans living there whose service and sacrifices have brought honor to our great State.

Colonel Kuhlmann, after a life well-lived, may you rest in peace.●

REMEMBERING SID HARTMAN

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to Sid Hartman, a sports journalist and a Minnesota legend who passed away on October 18, 2020, at age 100.

Born in 1920 on the north side of Minneapolis, Sid Hartman was born to be a newspaperman. He began selling newspapers when he was 9 years old and even pioneered the use of newspaper boxes where customers would pay by leaving coins in a change box. Sid would ride his bicycle to Newspaper Alley, where he would buy 100 copies of the Minneapolis Star, the Journal, and the Morning Tribune for \$1.10 and then sell them for two cents apiece.

That is how Sid got his start in business, but his big break came when Dick Cullum, the sports editor at the Minneapolis Times, hired him to work on the sports desk in 1944. And during his tenure, Sid’s columns were a big reason why people bought the newspaper. Sid went on to become the unofficial general manager for the Minneapolis Lakers and helped secure a Major League Baseball team for Minneapolis.

Since 2010, a statue of Sid holding a newspaper and microphone has stood near the corner of Sixth Street and First Avenue North in Minneapolis, a fitting tribute to his legacy outside of the Target Center and the Minnesota Twins’ Target Field.

Sid was also a popular radio personality on WCCO Radio. I know I will never forget the day at the Minnesota State Fair WCCO Radio booth when we both appeared on the Dave Lee show for the annual “Minnesota Hospital” soap opera spoof skit, where I was given the role of Nurse Helen and Sid played the infamous “Dr. Kidney Hartman.”

Sid knew everyone. His 1996 autobiography, titled: “Sid! The Sports Legends, the Inside Scoops and the Close Personal Friends,” was endorsed by some of the biggest names in sports, from legendary Vikings coach Bud Grant to Arnold Palmer, Wayne Gretzky, Ted Williams, Bob Costas, and George Steinbrenner. Nobody had better relationships in the sports world than Sid.

Ten years after the book’s release, the Star Tribune published “Sid Hartman’s Great Minnesota Sports Moments” featuring this quote from Tom Brokaw: “I grew up on Sid Hartman columns about my Midwestern sports heroes and I still think of him as a Hall of Fame newspaperman.”

My dad, a future newspaperman himself, first met Sid in 1945 while Sid was covering the Minnesota high school basketball championship game. My dad was playing for his hometown high school team Ely, a small town on Minnesota’s Iron Range, and they were up against Patrick Henry High School, a powerhouse that had only lost one game that season. As soon as my dad got off the bus, Sid stuck a microphone in his face and said, “You don’t have a chance. How are you going to win?” Sid was right, and Ely lost 66-35.

Years later, my dad started writing for the Associated Press and then for the Star Tribune. He and Sid got to know each other well. They were fierce competitors, but had respect for each other’s drive and work.

Throughout Sid’s career, he never had any plans to quit. He was always driven to get the scoop. He was relentless. At the time of his death, he was still writing three or four columns a week. In fact, Sid produced 21,235 bylined stories from 1944 to 2020. In his final column, he wrote: “Writing a column as I turn 100 years old is hard to believe.” But for all who knew Sid, it wasn’t hard for any of us to believe.

My prayers and condolences go out to Sid’s son Chad, his daughter Chris, and his entire family. It is hard to be surprised when someone dies at age 100, but Sid was someone who just never stopped loving his work and our State.

We miss you, Sid.

Thank you.●