

Fatally struck by a stray bullet on January 19, 2022, I stand before you to say goodbye to Robert and wish him well in the next life.

Robert was a kind, respectful and polite young man. He loved his family and cared deeply about his future. His life was not easy, but a rough start would not define him. He would work hard and chase after his dreams. Robert understood clearly that he would have to fight for every inch of progress.

A senior at HARP Academy and a participant in the Upward Bound Program at Montclair University, Robert challenged himself academically. Often so engrossed in his studies, Robert chose to forgo time with his friends to prepare for college. He was a self-described homebody and favored time alone with his immediate family.

While enrolled at Upward Bound, a program for disadvantaged high school students, Robert blossomed. Montclair University was a place he felt comfortable and accepted. Taking classes in subjects that inspired him and interacting with people who shared his interests motivated him. Robert was on track, there was light at the end of the tunnel. He could find himself and engage in the many wonderful experiences that make our youth a memorable time.

As a father and grandfather, I can only imagine the hurt. I ask the Cuadra family to continue to tell stories about Robert and breathe life into his memory for his siblings and extended family. Robert's passing is especially difficult and its tragic to have lost a young man with so much potential. Our community was enriched by people like him, and his actions set an example for all to follow.

My heart breaks for Robert and I know he will be missed by many people. It is my hope that the love and support of friends and all those whose lives he touched will help the Cuadra family manage the loss of Robert. My thoughts and prayers are with all of them during this time of mourning. Robert brought happiness into our lives and everyone around him.

As we honor him today, I know there are still many young men and women in similar situations. While this moment in time is undeniably sad, we should draw inspiration from his story. Robert struggled and fought to get ahead in life. We honor him because he reminds us that life can be difficult, but we should never give up in the face of adversity.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing the memory of Robert Daniel Cuadra. We keep him in prayer, and we commit to watch over his family. Robert, may he rest in peace.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR. BENJAMIN "BENJIE" SANTIAGO ON BEING SELECTED AS THE 2021 GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Benjamin "Benjie" Santiago on being selected as

the 2021 Guam Department of Education (GDOE) Teacher of the Year. Dr. Santiago is an exemplary teacher whose commitment to service and devotion to community have and continue to inspire our youth, foster great leadership, and expand opportunities for our island students to lead successful lives.

The Teacher of the Year Program is the oldest and most prestigious national honors program focused on recognizing excellence in teaching. Providing a platform for highlighting both the extraordinary work and dedication of educators across the country and the importance of quality education in the futures of our youth, island, and nation, this program has uniquely directed community accolades to outstanding teachers in Guam since 1969. Following a rigorous nomination, evaluation, and observation process, Dr. Santiago was awarded the honor from among six finalists.

Dr. Santiago first discovered his passion for teaching when he took on roles as an instructor at cultural dance academies and a local fitness organization. Embracing his calling to help others on their personal paths of achievement, he navigated an extensive teaching career that has resulted in what is now 25 years with GDOE. In 1993, Dr. Santiago earned his Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education from the University of Guam. He then went on to earn his master's and doctoral degrees in education and educational leadership from the University of Portland and Argosy University respectively. Today, Dr. Santiago celebrates over 15 years of service to students and colleagues as a cultural dance and journalism teacher at Agueda I. Johnston Middle School.

As demonstrated by his countless achievements, Dr. Santiago has consistently gone above and beyond his duties within the school system. In addition to collaborative curriculum and intervention development for holistic student success, Dr. Santiago has served as an in-house mentor for new teachers, coordinated cultural events for his school community, and successfully trained a school choir to earn 3 gold medals in a CHamoru language competition. Further, he is a trailblazing force that has created curricula for Cultural Arts and Dance for all secondary grade levels, introduced a new method to simultaneously teach cultural dance to both face-to-face and online learners amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and developed a new CHamoru language program with support from local government agencies. Most impressive, however, is his personal undertaking to establish deeper understanding and awareness of cultural concepts as an inherent part of Guam's public education.

On behalf of the People of Guam, I would like to extend a sincere congratulations to Dr. Benjamin Santiago. His combined approach to advocate for both students and culture both challenges the traditional definitions of learning and success within the four walls of a classroom and better equips our youth to pursue any endeavor they dare to dream. Dr. Santiago's perseverance, ingenuity, and zeal to secure the best for our students encapsulates the limitless potential available to communities that work together in service of each other, and I wish him the best on the rest of his professional journey.

VICTORIA BEAGLE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Victoria Beagle for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Victoria Beagle is a student at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Victoria Beagle is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Victoria Beagle for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING DEVIN WILCOX AND HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Devin Wilcox, my outstanding legislative assistant who's transitioning from my office to pursue a new opportunity. Devin joined my staff in 2019, after working in the private sector as a policy analyst. Since then, Devin has blossomed into an extraordinary policy wonk and leader.

Devin has been instrumental in my work to demonstrably change the lives of Black men and boys and improve our nation's infrastructure. Devin's legislative and political acumen were instrumental in building support for my recently enacted Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act. Devin also worked closely with transportation stakeholders on my priorities that were included in the Infrastructure Jobs and Investment Act.

Additionally, Devin has created pipelines for diverse students to access coveted internship, fellowship, and employment opportunities on Capitol Hill. Understandably, he has earned the respect of his colleagues and stakeholders alike.

Devin was born and raised in Florida City, Florida. He's a product of the Miami-Dade County Public School system and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Florida International University in 2014.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Devin Wilcox for his extraordinary accomplishments, commitment to public service, and for being a trailblazer.

HONORING CHIEF BRAD KELLER,
MONTEBELLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Chief Brad Keller, a dedicated public servant for the city of Montebello. Chief Keller is retiring after 31 years of service to his community and the Montebello Police Department.

Chief Keller began his law enforcement career with the Montebello Police Department in 1991, after graduating from Rio Hondo College Police Academy.

Throughout his career, Chief Keller's work in the community was recognized through multiple promotions, until eventually becoming Montebello's 10th Police Chief in 2018. Through his advanced leadership and peace officer training, Chief Keller recognized that protecting a community also requires an increased understanding of the diversity of the community.

While Chief Keller always sought to protect and serve his community, he took care to do so while maintaining a relationship of trust and respect with the citizens of Montebello.

Notably, Chief Keller was awarded the Medal of Courage and the Medal of Merit in 2000 and the Medal of Lifesaving in 2003.

Chief Keller dedicated his life to serving Montebello, and he leaves behind a legacy that will inspire current and future public servants.

CELEBRATING THE IZAAK WALTON
LEAGUE OF AMERICA'S 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with immense pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Izaak Walton League of America on the organization's 100th Anniversary and to congratulate its members on their many accomplishments. In honor of the League's anniversary, I would like to commemorate its legacy of environmental advocacy.

The Izaak Walton League of America was formally incorporated on January 14, 1922, by fifty-four ambitious men with the goal of conserving our nation's natural resources. At the time, after recognizing the deterioration of our wildlife habitats, they took immediate action to ensure their enjoyment, benefit, and use for generations to come. Today, the League consists of 42,000 members and more than 200 community-based chapters, each committed to continuing the legacy and furthering the accomplishments of their predecessors. The League's members have worked hard to protect our nation's soil, air, wood, waters, and wildlife, and not only have they met their goal, they have exceeded it.

The League is responsible for the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, which was signed into law in 1937. This has provided billions of dollars in funding to

wildlife restoration, habitat conservation, and hunter education. The League's proposal and advocacy for a federal agency to combat water pollution across the country led to the landmark Clean Water Act of 1972 which set federal standards for our nation's waters. Furthermore, the League's advocacy on behalf of Indiana Dunes National Park has provided Hoosiers in Northwest Indiana continued enjoyment and enrichment of our lakeshore. We must also commend the Izaak Walton League for its role in the creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Superior National Forest, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and the Everglades and Isle Royale National Parks.

Many positive changes involving policies, legislation, and efforts to protect the environment have resulted because of the League's dedication to its communities. The League's members, known as "Ikes," give their time to help build nature trails, restore stream banks, plant trees and rain gardens, keep family farms in business, and prevent the spread of invasive species. Keeping in mind how important it is to invest in the future, the League created a scholarship fund that awards \$125,000 annually to students who are seeking their degrees in fields related to conservation and natural resources. When it comes to protecting our water sources, defending public lands, establishing farm and energy policy, protecting fish and wildlife, and conservation, the Izaak Walton League's members have proven that with diligence, teamwork, and an appreciation for nature, everyday citizens can have a major impact on the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Izaak Walton League of America on its 100th Anniversary. Through the years, the League's members have dedicated their time and efforts to ensure the conservation of our natural resources, and for this, they are to be recognized and commended.

JACKSON WALLACE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jackson Wallace for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jackson Wallace is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jackson Wallace is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jackson Wallace for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER
AND SERVICE OF RETIRING UNI-
VERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM
PRESIDENT TOMMY THOMPSON

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of the career and service of retiring University of Wisconsin System President, Tommy Thompson.

Throughout Mr. Thompson's long and esteemed career, he has been admired by his peers for his incredible dedication to public service. From being born and raised in Elroy, Wisconsin, to enlisting in the United States Army National Guard, to becoming the longest-serving governor in Wisconsin history, Mr. Thompson's commitment to the State of Wisconsin and our Nation never wavered. I commend Mr. Thompson's service and thank him for the enormous contributions that he has made to the State of Wisconsin and to the United States.

Mr. Thompson's successful tenure as governor was spearheaded by major initiatives like the nation's first school-choice program that Wisconsinites continue to benefit from today. His push for the parental school-choice program created unparalleled educational opportunities for students and witnessed record participation. Governor Thompson led the way on education, healthcare, and welfare reform setting the stage for decades of prosperity in Wisconsin. Given the success of his governorship, Mr. Thompson was appointed by then President George W. Bush to serve as the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary from 2001 to 2005. During his time as HHS Secretary, Mr. Thompson played a key role in projects and initiatives that resulted in greater transparency and efficiency throughout the agency.

During his almost 60-year career, Mr. Thompson has proven himself to be one of the most successful public servants in Wisconsin history. In 2019, Mr. Thompson yet again answered the call to service as he was named President of the University of Wisconsin System. Under his leadership, the UW System prioritized developing, attracting, and retaining students and educators that will benefit from the world-class education that the UW system has to offer. As President, Mr. Thompson also helped the UW System navigate the incredible challenges of a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. The State of Wisconsin is grateful for Mr. Thompson's lifetime of service and dedication to our great state.

As we look back on Mr. Thompson's career, there is no doubt that he has dedicated his life to making the world around him a better place. Mr. Thompson's continued service to both the State of Wisconsin and the United States is worthy of our highest degree of recognition. I urge all of my colleagues in this body to join me in congratulating Mr. Thompson on another successful tenure in public service and on his retirement from the UW System. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.