

learners. She believes that the best way for our children to have empathy and to be people of good character is by walking in other people's shoes and by exploring the world beyond their backyards.

Harini also was instrumental in organizing the now annual trips for Crocker's 8th graders to Washington, D.C. It's a great opportunity for the students to learn about congressional history and to see democracy in action.

Additionally, Harini applies her love for the arts to her work as vice chair of the San Mateo County Arts Commission and on the 2020 California Arts Council State Local Partners Grant Panel. She is a champion for social justice and gender equality and serves on the boards of Equal Access International and FUND HER. In her never-ending pursuit of growing and learning, she is currently enrolled in a program in public leadership at Harvard Kennedy School. As you can surmise from this long list of public service and engagement, Harini is an exemplary community leader.

She is also a devoted wife and mother. She and her husband, Vika Jha, a startup entrepreneur, have raised two remarkable children, Janani and Abhaya, who are college students pursuing their own dreams. They are talented and extraordinarily gifted. I have been in awe of their accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Harini Krishnan for her countless contributions to our community and for her determination to recruit more global citizens to make the world a better place.

HONORING 150 YEARS OF THE VALLEY VIEW, TEXAS POST OFFICE

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the City of Valley View, Texas, as residents come together to celebrate the Valley View Post Office's 150th birthday on Saturday, March 26, 2022.

Located in Cooke County, the town was first settled by the Lee family in 1870. By 1872, L.W. Lee had plotted a beautiful new town on his land and named it Valley View, presumably for the view offered at the site of Spring Valley. With the grand opening of the Valley View Post Office that same year, the community would start with 18 families and prosper tremendously over the next 150 years.

The community's first school, hotel, steam gristmills, cotton gins, churches, and general stores tell an important part of Valley View's history, but I believe it is the fine people of Valley View who represent the best aspects of the town. This community has reached its 150th birthday through the generations of hard work and love for their community. Today, the United States Congress honors them.

I am honored to represent the residents of Valley View here in Congress. This community is rich in history and its people are rooted in our shared Texas values. I wish them a joyous celebration of the past 150 years. Here's to 150 more.

IN HONOR OF JACOB (JACK) BLANTON

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a patriotic American, Jacob (Jack) Blanton, on the occasion of his 102nd birthday. His life story exemplifies true American spirit, determination, and love for our country.

Mr. Blanton was born on March 25, 1920, in Brooklyn, New York. His father, Silas Blanton, a native Kentuckian, had been serving in the US coastal defense in New York before WWI where he met a young German immigrant working as a nanny. They married and eventually moved their family to Kentucky when the burgeoning coal mines in Eastern Kentucky began aggressively recruiting miners. Jack grew up during the depression and the tumultuous years of union conflict in Harlan County.

Mr. Blanton was in high school when WWII broke out. He volunteered for the Army Air Corp to become an airplane mechanic. He went to school at Long Beach, CA, for Douglas Aircraft A-20 planes. After his training he was sent to Asia, where he served in the 348th Night Fighters and also worked on Cargo Transport planes C54 and C47 that flew personnel and supplies over the Hump, the Himalayan Mountains. He was promoted to Tech Sergeant and became Crew Chief for the Douglas A-20.

Following the war, Mr. Blanton married his high school sweetheart, who had gone to Washington, D.C., after high school where she worked for the FBI. They went on to raise four children in Lynch, KY where Jack was a Boy Scout master, Sunday School teacher at the Lynch Methodist Church, little league baseball coach, and a member of the Masonic Lodge. He retired from United States Steel as a mine foreman in 1980. He and his wife then moved to London, KY, to be with his elderly mother. He lost the love of his life to a heart attack three days before 9/11.

Mr. Blanton continues to live independently in London where he still raises a garden and takes care of his home and property, even at 102 years old. He takes tremendous pride in having all four of his children pursue college, with two earning advanced degrees. He is a Christian and attended Liberty Baptist Church in London. He is also an unabashed patriot with an undeterred determination to vote in the next Presidential election.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Blanton, celebrate his 102nd birthday and thank him for his service and sacrifice to our nation during World War II. As a part of The Greatest Generation, Mr. Blanton and his fellow soldiers fought to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today, and we can never thank them enough. I am forever grateful for Americans like Jack Blanton.

TRIBUTE TO ELIAS PARONG SABLAN (1899-1968)

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, Elias Jacobo Parong Sablan was a visionary, linguist, and pioneering leader of the people of Saipan, guiding them out from under the 400-year rule of foreign powers to the beginnings of our self-government under the trusteeship of the United States after World War II.

Born on November 8, 1899, to Felix Delos Reyes Sablan and Luisa Malug Parong, Elias was the fourth child in a family of six. He learned our native languages at home: Chamorro from his father Felix and Carolinian from his mother Luisa.

Felix also taught his son to speak, read, and write the English language. In his own youth, Felix served as a cabin boy aboard the *Charles W. Morgan*, an American whaling ship out of New Bedford, Massachusetts. From his crewmates he learned English and about life in the United States of America. He also collected English textbooks on navigation, United States history, and other subjects, books he shared with his son Elias as the boy grew.

The year before Elias' birth, Germany purchased the Northern Mariana Islands from Spain, which had ruled the islands for some 377 years. Elias attended the German school on Saipan, and then was sent to the island of Yap, also under German control, to be educated in communications. By the time he was 15, Elias had learned the international Morse code and added Yapese and German to his linguistic skills.

Japan seized control of the Northern Mariana Islands from Germany at the outset of World War I and after the war was granted a mandate to govern by the League of Nations. This occupation provided Elias the opportunity to learn one more language, Japanese, while working at the Japanese sugar mill. He also married during this Japanese period, wedding Carmen Romolor Mangarero on January 23, 1921. Together they would have 13 children.

Elias' heritage, his upbringing, his education, and experience all prepared him well for the life-threatening events of World War II and what came after. In fact, Elias' knowledge of English would save his life and the lives of his family.

World War II came to the Mariana Islands on June 10, 1944, when the United States attacked the Japanese military forces on Saipan. After a brutal and destructive battle, killing tens of thousands of Japanese and American soldiers, as well as non-combatant civilians, the United States took control of the island on July 9, 1944.

Throughout the battle, Elias and his family hid in a cave in the hills, listening as bombs dropped on the island and watching as Japanese and American airplanes fought in the skies overhead. One day, spotting movement near the cave's entrance, U.S. battleships just outside the island's reef aimed their fire at the family's hiding place.

When the shelling subsided, those sheltered in the cave could hear voices outside speaking a foreign language. It was U.S. Marines talking in English and combing the area for

Japanese. Suddenly, a baby started crying within the cave and the entrance was discovered. The Marines yelled into the cave, and Elias immediately came out with his hands up and said in English, I surrender. If he had not responded as he did, the Marines were ready to toss grenades into the cave rather than risk Japanese soldiers were hiding there.

Because he spoke English, the Marines asked if he was Elias Sablan. They had been on the look-out for him because they were told Elias was one of only two Chamorros who knew English and could help translate for the U.S. military forces. Everyone in the cave was escorted down the hill to the camp where other survivors had been gathered and were being fed, clothed, and treated for injuries.

When the battles in the Marianas had ended, the American Military Government wanted to put the islanders on the road to independence and self-government. In December 1944, they held the first election for a Head Chief, the forerunner of today's Mayor. Barely five months into office, however, that first elected official passed away.

The military then appointed Elias to be interim Head Chief, until a new election could be held. Elias was working as the leader of the police force and continued in that position until being elected in his own right at head chief/mayor on July 4, 1945. Women voted in that July election, although they had not been able to vote the previous December.

Elias was an excellent representative of his constituents. He embodied Saipan's history and culture, because by blood he was both Chamorro and Carolinian, the two local communities of the island. He spoke those two languages, as well as the languages of all the foreign powers that had ruled and were now ruling Saipan: Spanish, German, Japanese, and English. Bringing this background and linguistic ability to his work as Mayor, Elias could understand and be understood by everyone on Saipan.

In coordination with the U.S. military the new Mayor went about the business of bringing life on the island back to normalcy. He appointed a building supervisor, a sanitation commissioner, an Educational Officer, and a replacement Police Chief. The infrastructure for the new island government was now started.

Every person living in the camps set up after the battle of Saipan was identified and accounted for. Repairs were made to the classrooms of the Chalan Kanoa school, so children could have a place to study. And working with the U.S. military, Elias helped interested families return to work farming.

In 1947, the United Nations created the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The United States was charged with governing the TTPI and with helping its people transition from being colonies to being sovereign nations. As Mayor, Elias worked with the TTPI administration. He even traveled to New York City in 1955, along with delegates from the other Micronesian islands in the Trust Territory to report on the status of that transition.

Elias wanted to model self-government in the islands after American democracy, which he had read about in the textbooks his father gave him. There had been no political parties, when he was first elected, and no specific candidates. Each voter simply wrote in the name of his or her choice on a printed ballot. So, to foster competitive elections after the

American practice, Elias, together with other community leaders, started the islands' first political party: the Territorial Party.

Elias served for three consecutive terms (twelve years) as the Mayor of Saipan, from 1945 through 1956. Even after stepping down as Mayor, though, he continued serving the people in various other government and civic positions until his death on October 29, 1968.

Sadly, his passing came too soon for him to witness the realization of his vision of a happy and prosperous life for his people as members of the American political family. Saipan and the other Northern Mariana Islands became a Commonwealth of the United States in 1978.

HONORING JJ GERTLER FOR HIS PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the achievements of Jeremiah "JJ" Gertler, Specialist in Military Aviation, Congressional Research Service, on the occasion of his retirement from the Service on February 28, 2022.

JJ Gertler served Congress with distinction for more than 22 years at the Library of Congress as a Specialist in Military Aviation for the Congressional Research Service, as a professional staff member of the House Armed Services Committee, and as a Defense Legislative Assistant for then-Senator Chuck Robb of Virginia. He earned a bachelor's degree from Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts, a master's degree in international security policy from the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., as well as graduating with distinction from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

JJ is recognized throughout Congress, the military Services, the defense community, and the military aviation community as an expert in U.S. military aviation programs, capabilities, and strategy. He authored numerous reports and products pertaining to important military aircraft programs across the military services, ranging from the F-35 fighter to the Marine Corps Osprey to privatized adversary air combat training. He also is an expert in the strategic use of military aviation, writing extensively on no-fly zones, possible air strikes in numerous conflicts, and on the strategic implications of the Air Force's long-term budget priorities. He excelled at consultative work for Members of Congress and staffers, developing and maintaining long-term relationships with offices and committees of jurisdiction.

JJ also exercised true leadership at CRS. He was chosen, based on his outstanding skills as an analyst and public speaker, to moderate numerous high-profile panels organized by the Service, most notably the plenary session for the 2019 New Members' Seminar in Williamsburg, Virginia. His skills at presentation are well noted by both members and peers, and a House Armed Services subcommittee chairman once told him, "I have been here 10 years, and I have never heard a better presentation." He created the first podcast for CRS aimed at Congressional clients, served a year in a rotation as a Senior

Advisor to the Director of CRS, and piloted multiple new written CRS products during his tenure.

During his tenure as a professional staff member on the House Armed Services Committee from 2000 through 2004, Mr. Gertler oversaw the defense procurement and missile defense budgets, including all classified programs, during the Fiscal Year 2000 through 2005 budgets. Prior to serving on the committee, he was a defense legislative assistant from 1990 to 1995 for Senator Robb who was simultaneously serving on the Armed Services, Foreign Relations, and Intelligence committees.

JJ Gertler, in addition to his tremendous work and professionalism, is notable for his love of automobiles and his sense of humor. While working on Senator Robb's staff, JJ's sports car team finished third in the country. He plans to retire to the Maryland shore and continue those pursuits. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and all those who JJ has worked with during his 22 years on Capitol Hill, we thank him for his public service and wish him well.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF FRANCIS VINCENT

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD this article in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Francis Vincent.

[From the Delaware Genealogical Society, May 2021]

FRANCIS VINCENT: EDITOR, PUBLIC SERVANT
(By Mary Anne Vincent)

March 17, 2022 will be the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of Delaware's most illustrious citizens, Francis Vincent.

Francis Vincent was only 23 when he co-founded the Blue Hen's Chicken, a newspaper which would greatly influence events in Delaware and Maryland within the next few years. Local papers in his day borrowed heavily from large city paper but they printed little news about either Wilmington or Delaware. Vincent, who knew the state from end to end, devoted most of his paper to state and local news. Within three months his paper had the largest circulation in the state.

Vincent used the Blue Hen's Chicken to advocate for major changes in his home state. He called for proportional representation in the state legislature, ratification of more important laws by popular ballot, and election of state officers instead of their appointment by the governor.

Politicians, especially Whigs who controlled the state government, were sharply opposed to such changes. Vincent persistently called for a state convention to change the state constitution. Other newspapers followed his lead by addressing the same issue. In 1846, the Whigs were turned out of office.

In 1848, Vincent published an article on the "Moral Effects of Hanging". Shortly thereafter, the state legislature abolished public hangings. He also called for abolishing public whipping of women. Known to his contemporaries as a courteous, gentle man, this treatment of women was abhorrent to him.

Vincent showed his concern for other segments of society by calling for a 10-hour