

HONORING DR. ALEXANDER
STEMER

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Dr. Alexander Stemer. For his extraordinary work and dedication to the study of cardiac care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Stemer will be presented with the American Heart Association's "Heart of Life" award at the Heart of Gold Gala on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana.

Dr. Alexander Stemer has been an outstanding physician and a true asset to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond. His remarkable career includes numerous accomplishments, making him especially worthy of this prestigious honor being bestowed upon him. Dr. Stemer founded Medical Specialists Center of Indiana, which is currently Franciscan Medical Specialists. In addition, he is the founder of Advanced Care Medical Specialists, a practice focused on medical care for the advanced elderly, and he is the Medical Director for three extended care facilities. Dr. Stemer has also served as Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine. A truly dedicated and innovative member of the medical community, Dr. Stemer has been a pioneer in the area of home intravenous therapy and ambulatory infusion therapy.

Throughout the pandemic, Dr. Stemer has been instrumental in the study of COVID-19 and the effect it has on the cardiovascular system. During this unprecedented time, he spearheaded infection control programs, developed protocols for skilled nursing facilities and hospitals, and currently serves as co-chair for the Symphony Health Network COVID task force. Dr. Stemer also assisted the National Institutes of Health and Eli Lilly to develop study protocols for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 in skilled nursing facilities with the use of monoclonal antibodies. This study was approved by the Federal Drug Administration and published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. In addition, Dr. Stemer helped raise over \$118,000 for COVID relief.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Alexander Stemer. For his noteworthy medical career and his unwavering commitment to the study of COVID-19 and cardiac care, Dr. Stemer is to be highly commended, and he serves as an inspiration to us all.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH
BIRTHDAY OF PRESIDENT GRANT

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Birthday of the 18th President of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant. President Grant was born in Point

Pleasant, located in Clermont County in Ohio's 2nd Congressional District.

When he was a child, his family moved to Brown County, also in Ohio's 2nd District, and there he was educated before accepting a nomination to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Following his commissioning, Grant served in the Mexican-American War and most notably, the Civil War, where he became Commanding General of the United States Army in 1864.

General Grant oversaw the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox Court House and served as Commanding General of the Army until he was elected President in 1868. He served two terms as President from 1869 to 1877 and oversaw the beginning of the Reconstruction Era in the United States.

President Grant was widely considered the General who "saved the Union." He was a great leader who left his mark on American history, and we can all follow his example of courage. I am honored to have President Grant's home located in Ohio's 2nd Congressional district and a landmark of our nation's history.

HONORING 9-1-1 DISPATCHERS
DURING NATIONAL PUBLIC
SAFETY SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS
WEEK

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor 9-1-1 dispatchers during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, which runs from April 10th until April 16th this year.

Since 1981, the second week in April has been designated as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, so that we can honor and celebrate our public safety dispatchers, and thank them for the critical work that they do on behalf of our communities.

Public safety telecommunicators are the first line of defense in a crisis. Every time a 9-1-1 dispatcher answers the phone, the decisions they make can be the difference between life and death. They are the first, first responders in any crisis.

Without public safety telecommunicators, our police, firefighters, and paramedics can't do their jobs. Our emergency response depends on having an expert on the line who can accurately convey information, coordinate multiple teams of first responders, and help ensure the safety of the person on the other end of the line.

Public safety telecommunicators are trained to handle any situation in a clear and calm manner. They can help someone administer CPR, aid someone who is experiencing a mental health crisis, respond to crimes in progress, and give advice that prevents harm, among many other things.

There should be no doubt that this is a difficult profession. Dispatchers work long hours. They face an extreme emotional and physical toll, something that has been compounded by the pandemic. As others worked in a virtual environment during COVID, dispatchers stayed on the job, at the risk of their own

health and safety, so that they could continue helping our communities. And as technology and demands have increased, the job has gotten more difficult and complicated over time.

Through it all, dispatchers play a key role in public safety, from responding to reports of violent crimes, to helping individuals administer first aid, to addressing reports of missing or abducted children.

When a member of the public calls 9-1-1, they are often in a moment of stress or danger. The person who answers the phone is the first person to hear them ask for help, and to make sure that they get the assistance they need. This job is a critical public service.

Madam Speaker, as a former 9-1-1 dispatcher for more than 17 years, I am proud to honor the work of Public Safety Telecommunicators here in the House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF VIETNAMESE AMERICANS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing a House Resolution recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Vietnamese Americans. The United States is home to the largest number of individuals of Vietnamese descent outside of Vietnam, and I represent the largest Vietnamese communities in the nation in Orange County, California. Vietnamese is also the 5th most spoken language in the United States. I am proud to recognize the valuable contribution of over 2 million Vietnamese Americans living in this nation.

In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, approximately 800,000 Vietnamese refugees fleeing persecution resettled in the United States. Today, Vietnamese Americans contribute to American society through their work in business, education, science and technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and the arts, gastronomy, the armed forces, and public service at every level of government.

Vietnamese Americans add to the rich cultural and religious diversity of our nation. As a member of the Congressional Vietnam Caucus, it is critical that we continue to represent and celebrate our Vietnamese families, friends, and neighbors, and recognize their significant contributions to American society.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR. BENJAMIN "BENJIE" SANTIAGO ON BEING SELECTED AS THE 2021 AND 2022 GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 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, and further recognize him for continuing his reign as the 2022 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 27 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.

MARVIN RANDLE RETIREMENT

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marvin Randle, the former mayor of Irving. Marvin lives every day, from his time as Mayor to serving Oak View Baptist Church for over 65 years, wanting to make this city better. He is always looking for ways to get more involved and lend a hand. Marvin's Irving legacy, beyond dedicated service, is one filled with smiles, kindness, and generosity. He is beloved for his fish fries for Irving Heritage Society and hamburger cook-outs to support Irving Police Department.

As one of Irving's proudest champions, he has spent his life in the city he loves, growing his family business here, and raising his children to live their lives with the same sense of community and dedication to public service.

Under his leadership, the Irving Arts Board was established, giving young artists in our city the support they need. He also saw the beauty in our city and during his tenure started the Tourist and Convention Bureau, making Irving a destination city to millions.

Marvin is a proud small business owner, founding Irving Counter Top in 1962 and creating over 1,200 jobs for North Texans. Irving Counter Top's success has enabled Marvin to support and sponsor numerous sports teams and charity organizations. While serving as President of Irving Homebuilders Association, Chairman of Irving Centennial Committee, President of Dallas Area Homebuilders, and a Member of the Texas Municipal League, many groups benefit from Marvin's leadership across our community.

Marvin and his wife, Bobbie are longtime friends and mentors. It is an honor to help celebrate such a full and impactful career and legacy, as Marvin retires this month. I thank Marvin for his great contributions to our local government and the impact he has made, as he helps shape our community.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR KAREN ALEXANDER

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Karen Alexander of Salisbury, North Carolina, for her leadership to both the City of Salisbury and the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

For over a century, the North Carolina League of Municipalities has worked tirelessly to advance the interests of member cities and towns across the state. This past year, the League tasked Mayor Alexander with leading its 35-member Board of Directors as their President.

Public service and leadership are nothing new to Mayor Alexander. Ever since she was elected a Salisbury City Councilwoman in 2013, she has been a pervasive force in her hometown's municipal government. In her roles on the city council, Mayor Alexander has responsibly pursued revitalization efforts to

prepare the historic town for future challenges while simultaneously leaning into its rich heritage. Her efforts to attract new businesses, restore downtown building facades, and incentivize urban revitalization have fostered a renaissance of local pride and community cohesion throughout the city. I personally have had the immense pleasure of working alongside Mayor Alexander. In witnessing her work, I have been impressed by her sharp mind, perceptive instincts, and enormous heart.

During her tenure as League President, Mayor Alexander has been instrumental in developing new and creative ways for the League to advocate for North Carolina's cities and towns. Under her direction during the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the League has witnessed record-high event attendance thanks to Mayor Alexander's leadership in rolling out expanded online tools and webinars. Other contributions Mayor Alexander has made to the League are more tangible. As an architect by trade, Mayor Alexander was uniquely positioned to play a pivotal role in rebuilding the League's office space. Following a devastating fire in 2017 that consumed their longtime office buildings in Raleigh, the League tapped Mayor Alexander to serve on their building committee. Under her guidance as President, plans are being set in motion to develop a new facility to ensure North Carolina's cities and towns have a permanent home for extraordinary advocacy.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Mayor Karen Alexander for her generous spirit and invaluable management. Both the City of Salisbury and the North Carolina League of Municipalities have benefited immensely from her years of impactful service. I am sure they both will be blessed by the fruits of her leadership for years to come.

HONORING MIKE MURASE

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mike Murase for his outstanding service on behalf of people of color, women, young people, seniors, and other disadvantaged members of society. Later today, the Little Tokyo Service Center in downtown Los Angeles will honor Mike Murase upon his retirement.

Mike Murase has been an activist leader in the Japanese American national civil rights movement for more than 50 years.

Mr. Murase moved from Japan to Los Angeles when he was just 9 years old after multiple visits to Hiroshima with his parents to witness the destruction of the world's first atomic bomb; visits which had a profound effect upon his social activism for the rest of his life. Mr. Murase was an early opponent of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam conflict and was a leader in Asian American opposition to the war.

He co-founded *Gidra*, a landmark Japanese American Movement publication, when he was an undergraduate at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), where he also helped create the Asian American Studies Center.