

to represent this installation, service-members, and community.

HONORING ROCKPORT MAYOR PATRICK "PAT" RIOS

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a pillar of our community, Mayor Patrick "Pat" Rios of Rockport, Texas. Pat has led the city of Rockport as the mayor for the past 4 years and his term ends this month.

This position was the culmination of his decade-long elected public service, where he previously served as Ward 3 council member and mayor pro tem from 2012 to 2018. Before public service, Pat was an entrepreneur and small business owner. He eventually entered the healthcare industry and rose to senior levels before his retirement in 2010.

Anyone who has met him knows Pat is a fierce advocate for the city of Rockport. This was evident from the moment he took the helm in his role as mayor; a moment that was characterized by Hurricane Harvey's havoc and devastation in 2017.

The hurricane made landfall along the Charm of the Texas Coast. Under Pat's leadership, the city that was first hit aggressively moved forward with the "first to recover" mantra that speaks to the heart of the resolute Texas spirit.

Due to Pat, the city has made remarkable progress in rebuilding and is poised to be stronger than ever. Pat is a shining example of community leadership and stewardship. I have greatly enjoyed working with him, especially in this recovery effort during his tenure as mayor, and I wish him and his wife, Patricia Ann, and his entire family the best during his well-deserved retirement from public service.

HONORING WORLD WAR II AND KOREAN WAR VETERAN LUIS A. VALLS

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Luis Angel Valls of Corpus Christi, Texas. Born in 1928 in Sinton, Texas, and raised in Alice, Luis answered the Nation's call by enlisting in the United States Navy during World War II.

At the age of 17, he was sent to service in the Pacific Theater. With the onset of the Korean war, Luis' overwhelming sense of duty and selfless service saw him answering the Nation's call once more. He served in the Navy until he was honorably discharged in 1954.

After his Navy service, Luis relocated to Corpus Christi, Texas, and joined the Corpus Christi Fire Department where he served for 29 years, being one of the first Mexican Americans to join CCFD.

During his time with the fire department, he was recognized twice for valor and has the distinction of making the first ambulance call for the CCFD's newly formed EMT ambulance program.

Luis married the love of his life, Olga Pena, in 1958 in Alice. Together they had four sons and were happily married for 64 years.

Luis was a proud member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Pan-American Golf Association. He was a loyal parishioner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Corpus Christi for over 60 years.

Luis was an avid golfer, deer hunter, and voracious reader of history, including military, Western and Texas history.

As a proud father and grandfather, his greatest joy during retirement was spending time with his family. Our Nation is indebted to Mr. Valls. I ask that you please join me in honoring and remembering his magnificent life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MIGUEL GONZALEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Miguel Gonzalez, a charismatic and innovative entrepreneur from the San Fernando Valley who was recently taken from us in a fatal car accident.

Miguel was one of the founders and owners of Vallarta Supermarkets, a chain of family-owned grocery stores committed to offering the best-quality products from Mexico and Latin America.

Originally from Jalostotitlan, Jalisco, Mexico, he immigrated to the San Fernando Valley with his family and graduated from Van Nuys High School.

As a young man, Miguel had an eye for buildings and design. He pursued his passion in architecture after receiving an associate's degree in arts. This led him to begin a career at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, as a quality assurance technician who worked on parts for the Space Shuttle program.

In 1985, his brother, Enrique, Sr., started the family business when he opened Carniceria Vallarta in a 1,000-square-foot market in Van Nuys, California. Enrique, Sr. soon expanded the business to a second location and got his four brothers to join, including Miguel. They focused on selling traditional cuts of popular Mexican meats. The brothers would put in 18-hour days, 7 days a week to make sure the business succeeded.

Miguel brought his passion for design and helped develop the significant architecture and interior design of the Vallarta stores. He created the trademark Vallarta aesthetic with the focus of modern and nostalgic references to his hometown in Jalisco.

Anyone in our community can recognize the iconic design when they are driving around the neighborhood. When they go in they forget they are in California, and they are taken directly back to Mexico. That is what Miguel did, he made a simple shopping experience feel like home.

He was always pushing the envelope to make sure every store completed its mission to serve our community with respect and pride, while providing authentic, traditional, fresh products that bring families together over a meal.

One of his last projects was Sayulita Tap Room established in October of 2020 in Indio, California. This project epitomized his vision of spending quality time with loved ones, excellent food and drinks, and live music.

When he pitched this idea to his family, they all had doubts and concerns. They asked, "A bar at a grocery store?" Miguel said, "If Whole Foods can do it, so can I." This project represented Miguel's vision and entrepreneurial spirit to make his dreams a reality.

Miguel wasn't just a shining example of the American Dream, he inspired countless others to "work hard and play harder," which was his motto. He left a legacy of 52 stores throughout southern and central California, all which provide jobs to more than 8,000 hardworking people.

Miguel had a deep passion and love for the employees and families of Vallarta Supermarkets. He was heavily involved in the Gonzalez Family Foundation, which offers scholarships to its employees and their children.

The foundation has given thousands of dollars to help their families pursue higher education.

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On top of that, he was a supporter and donor to the St. Jude Children's Center. For this and so much more, I know that his legacy will continue to inspire Latinos and countless others in our community and across the country. I know that his designs will be seen and appreciated by more and more people every day.

Miguel leaves behind his high school sweetheart and wife, Maria Teresa; his two sons, Christian and Luis Angel; his granddaughter, Aria Soleil; his mother, Eva; his father, Felix; his brothers; sisters; cousins; aunts; uncles; and many of us who are his dear friends.

Many of Miguel's family made the trip to Washington, D.C., to watch him be honored in this body.

I have had the honor of knowing Miguel and his family, admiring his wonderful work and his work ethic.

Miguel came to the United States not speaking English. Miguel's first language was Spanish. So with that, I honor him and all those who come to this country and give so much to the United States of America.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

To Miguel's family, thank you very much for giving so much of Miguel to the community.

I would also like to thank Miguel for being such a good man, husband, father, son, friend.

It is very important for everyone to know that, in the United States of America, we are all equal.

Miguel achieved many of his dreams and the dreams of thousands and thousands of families, not only those who work at Vallarta but also the people and community they serve.

A la familia de Miguel, muchísimas gracias por dar tanto de el a la comunidad. También quiero agradecer a Miguel por ser tan buen hombre, esposo, padre, hijo, amigo. Es muy importante que todos sepan que, en los Estados Unidos todo somos iguales. Miguel en el creo muchos sueños, y vivió eso sueños y también miles y miles de sueños a familias no de más los que trabajaban en Vallarta pero también las personas que ellos sirven.

So today I honor the life of my dear friend Miguel Gonzalez.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will provide a translation of his remarks.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK: DARKNESS WILL NEVER WIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, last year there were over 60,000 police officers who were assaulted in the line of duty. Over 60,000 were assaulted, and 295 of those officers died. This year already we have had over 123 police officers who have been shot.

This is National Police Week. This is the time when we need to reflect upon the difference between total chaos in our community and civilized order, holding people accountable for the crimes that they commit, ensuring that we are not defunding the police but we are lifting up the police, and that we are holding these peacekeepers and their families in our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, on July 17 of 2016, we had five police officers in my hometown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, shot. Brad Garafola, Matthew Gerald, and Montrell Jackson died that day. They died. Bruce Simmons and Brad Montgomery were both injured.

Nick Tullier was an East Baton Rouge Parish sheriff's deputy. Nick took three bullets—one to the head, one to the chest, and one to the abdomen. Every single medical professional—doctors, nurses, and hospital officials—everyone said that he wasn't going to make it through the rest of that day, July 17. Nearly 6 years later, Nick Tullier was still fighting for his life. He sat there for 2,119 days—2,119 days—with his father, James, and his mother, Mary, by his side fighting. Nick was unbelievable.

This shooting was designed to rip our community apart. It was designed to attack law enforcement, to attack peacekeepers, and, I think, to offend the police and to intimidate the police. It did completely the opposite. Rather than ripping our community apart, it brought all of us together—all of us—together. No matter political party, race, socioeconomic situation, or

neighborhood, everyone came together in support of these officers, their families, their departments, and what they did, their sacrifice.

These people are underpaid and overworked, and every single day when they leave the house they kiss loved ones and they kiss dependents because it may be the last time they come home.

Mr. Speaker, Nick Tullier didn't let the evil win. He didn't let the bad guys win. Nick was completely a fighter. He sat there, and against all odds he refused to let death prevail.

Mr. Speaker, Nick inspired our entire community and our State. You saw these bracelets all over the place: "Pray for Nick Tullier" or "Nick Tullier Strong." Even the President signed a note to him a few years ago. It was a rallying cry for our community.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers that we have seen this year alone in not lifting up the police and supporting the police—supporting these peacekeepers—but rather disrespecting them is absolutely inexcusable.

These people—I can't say it enough—put their lives on the line for our communities so we can be safe. Nick Tullier fought, he beat that evil, and he defied all odds. But, sadly, on Tuesday of this week, he was buried after 6 years of fighting death, of saying no, of upholding good, and of bringing our community together.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the amazing work of his parents again, Mary and James Tullier, who every single day were at his side making it clear to Nick that not just they were there for him but the entire community was and that their boundless love for this man would be so clear to him throughout this process. It was so clear.

I thank his sons, Trenton and Gage. I remind them their father was a role model for our community. I say to his brothers, Jamie and Shannon, please don't let the void that Nick's passing to the Father has created. Do not let that become a void here on Earth. Continue his mission, the Nick Tullier Foundation, St. Jude, and others.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to say the difference between chaos and order is what our peacekeepers do. Underpaid, underappreciated, and overworked, these are great people. We cannot allow this trend of seeing an increase in shootings. There were over 60,000 attacks against our law enforcement officers last year alone. We cannot allow this to continue.

PRIVATE JACOB CRUZ POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, Latino servicemembers have been vital to the defense of our country, including the thousands who have made the ultimate sacrifice. It is important that our communities and our government pay trib-

ute to the diverse history of Latinos in the United States military, which is why I am proud that the House passed my bill, H.R. 5900, honoring World War II hero, Private Jacob Cruz, an Angeleno and Boyle Heights resident, and a United States Marine Corps Reserve private.

Private Cruz was 17 years old and a junior at Roosevelt High School when he asked his single immigrant mother, Gracia Cruz, a custodian at White Memorial Medical Center, for permission to enlist. After initial training, Private Cruz shipped off to the Pacific where he gave his life running ammunition boxes to gunners amid enemy fire during the Battle of Tarawa in 1943.

Private Cruz's heroic devotion to duty posthumously earned him the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. Unfortunately, his remains were not recovered after he was killed. During a storm in 2019, Mother Nature brushed away a house where the battle took place, and the remains of Mr. Cruz were found. In 2020 they were identified, and in 2021 they were finally returned to Private Cruz' family for a long-awaited proper burial with full military honors.

In recognition of Private Cruz' service and sacrifice, the House passed H.R. 5900 designating the Boyle Heights Post Office as the Marine Corps Reserve Private Jacob Cruz Post Office.

I take a moment to give thanks to Private Cruz' family, including his brother, Isaac; his sister, Ruth; his nephews, Mike and Isaac; and his niece, Alta, who have kept Private Cruz' legacy alive in Boyle Heights for almost eight decades and never gave up the fight to bring him home.

As we approach Memorial Day, I urge the Senate to pass H.R. 5900 to honor Private Cruz' sacrifice and those of other Latino military heroes, both fallen and alive, in Los Angeles and across the country for decades to come.

Roosevelt High School, where Private Cruz attended, has a long history, as well as Garfield High School, in giving up boys to go to fight the World Wars. There is a football game called the East L.A. Classic between Roosevelt and Garfield. The 4 years during World War II were the only years that they couldn't field a team on either side. This is an honor of Private Cruz, but it is also an honor of all the Latino men who gave their lives during our conflicts, especially during World War II.

TRADE DEFICIT AND MEANS OF PRODUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the recent numbers on our trade deficit in this country tie in strongly with our supply chain issues we have been facing during COVID and during this new administration. We have reached a new record of \$110 billion for 1 month of March of our trade deficits.