

President of the Parent Teacher Community Organization and represented the school on the Parents Council. Janice also served on the School Accountability Committee and started several multi-cultural programs at Prairie Middle School. Each month, she would offer a presentation to students about diverse cultures, countries, and industries. She also developed a student-adult mentoring program specifically geared toward young African American students.

In November 2015, Janice was elected to the Cherry Creek School Board of Education as the first African-American woman to serve in that role. As the representative for District B, she prioritized strengthening community involvement and focused on closing the achievement gap for all students. With her vast personal and professional experience in the district, she wanted to give back to a community that she believed had served her children and family well.

On October 9, 2023, Janice delivered final remarks during her final board meeting as a Cherry Creek School District Board Member. In part they read:

"In retrospect, I have been afforded the opportunity to serve eight years. An opportunity that I haven't taken for granted. I truly believe to whom much has been given, much is required. I have been committed. When my five children came through the district I wanted the best for them, now my grandchildren. I want the best for them as well, but beyond my personal desires, I have truly wanted the best for all students." Her parting advice was to "Let the agenda always support what's best for the children in every deliberation."

Janice's colleagues also offered remarks in honor of her service and to pay tribute to her unwavering focus on the children and her well-known and often-asked line, "How are the children?"

I commend and thank Janice for her decades of service to the community, including eight years of service to the Cherry Creek School District. As she begins her retirement, may Janice's experience and commitment to service leave a lasting legacy on the students, faculty, and the Board in the years ahead.

HONORING THE LONGEST SERVING MAYOR OF LAS CRUCES MAYOR KEN MIYAGISHIMA

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Ken Miyagishima on the occasion of his retirement and to recognize his work as a public servant who has tirelessly represented Las Cruces as Mayor for 16 years. The longest serving mayor in the city's history.

Mayor Miyagishima moved from Mississippi to Las Cruces at the age of eight. He attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces and graduated in 1985. In 1992, at 28, he became the first American of Japanese-Mexican descent to be elected to public office in New Mexico when he became Commissioner for Doña Ana County.

In 2001, he was elected to the Las Cruces City Council, serving until 2007. Mr.

Miyagishima was later elected mayor of Las Cruces, becoming the first person of Japanese and Mexican descent to be elected mayor. Following this election, he became only the second person in Doña Ana County's history to have been elected both as Chairman of the Doña Ana County Commission and the Mayor of Las Cruces. As Mayor, Ken was an advocate for our youth, spearheaded the growth of our city, and brought forth generational change to our city.

Throughout Mayor Miyagishima's more than 30 years of public service, he has served with integrity and courage, fought to improve the lives of Las Cruces, and elevated our city at the national level. Mayor Miyagishima received the 2002 Commander's Award for Public Service from the Department of the Army and the 2016 Antonio Villaraigosa Award.

On behalf of the great people of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, I thank Mayor Ken Miyagishima for his life of service to Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. His work has made his community and New Mexico a stronger and more equitable community. We wish him well in his next chapter.

HONORING MANNY FLORES AS 2023 VALLEY LUCHADOR FOR HIS- PANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Manny Flores as a Valley Luchador. Manny Flores is the Executive Director for North Valley Caring Services.

Throughout the last decade, he has played a key role at North Valley Caring Services.

Manny was impacted by the criminal justice system where he found a new path and began his commitment to help others find theirs.

Through his hard work and dedication to his community and his faith in God, he transformed a small non-profit organization into a powerhouse that helps many Valley families.

Their programs include a food pantry, hot meals for families living in motels, a Safe Parking program for the unhoused, and homeless outreach.

During the pandemic, demand for NVCS services exploded as more people found themselves housing insecure, food insecure, and job insecure. Manny led the NVCS team as they rose to meet the challenge, expanding services like their food bank to help 4,000 families, ten times the number of families they fed pre-pandemic. He and his team worked tirelessly to ensure that families in need got the food and essential goods they needed during the public health emergency.

They organized drive-thru food banks at their headquarters at the North Hills United Methodist Church, and lines would wrap around Sepulveda Boulevard and Nordhoff Street.

They even took the drive-thru food bank to other locations such as Sun Valley and Van Nuys.

They mastered the logistical skill of organizing drive-thru food pantries with volunteer power.

Manny, the NVCS team, and the volunteers under his leadership have changed countless lives in our community.

Manny is a shining example of a Luchador who helped his community in the most difficult circumstances.

Unfortunately, he lost his son Joseph Flores this year. Joseph was one of Manny's most dedicated volunteers.

Even with this loss, Manny honors his son every day by supporting the families in his community that need support.

I thank Manny for his countless years of public service. It is my honor to recognize him as a distinguished community leader and luchador during Hispanic Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING TURKEY'S 100TH AN- NIVERSARY AND JAZZ DIPLO- MACY

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize a historic milestone, the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey.

One remarkable aspect of Turkey's presence in the United States is the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C. Over the years, the Embassy has played a vital role in enhancing cultural diplomacy and fostering friendships between our nations. Notably, the Turkish Embassy's dedication to hosting jazz events has left an indelible mark on our cultural landscape. Jazz, a truly American art form, has found a welcoming home within the walls of the Turkish Embassy. These events have transcended mere musical performances; they have served as bridges connecting hearts and minds across cultures, and continue to prove the non-negligible, connecting nature of music.

At the height of Jim Crow segregation in the U.S., the Turkish Embassy's jazz concerts in the 1930's and 1940's were significant during the anti-racism struggle. At this time, Black Americans were not allowed to sit next to whites in many places like restaurants and concert halls. Yet, the Turkish Embassy in Washington broke down prejudice and barriers by opening their doors to Black jazz musicians. Münir Ertegün, Turkey's second ambassador to the U.S. who served between 1934 and 1944, and his two sons, Ahmet and Nesuhi—also the founders of the top recording company Atlantic Records—challenged racism in the U.S. by inviting African American jazz performers to the Turkish Embassy for concerts and jam sessions in Washington, D.C. during these years. These Embassy concerts featured iconic performers like Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Teddy Wilson, and Lester Young. These groundbreaking gatherings showed the potential of jazz diplomacy. The Ertegün brothers went further by organizing Washington's first integrated concert in 1942 at the Jewish Community Center on 16th Street. Some described the powerful imagery of two Muslim men bringing Black music to a Jewish-owned institution. This desegregation through music and culture launched a legacy worth recognizing.

Turkey's efforts extend far beyond its musical contributions to the global community and the United States. It has been a source of inspiration for countless individuals, including African American writers like James Baldwin. Baldwin, whose literary brilliance continues to

resonate, routinely found solace and creativity in Turkey.

Baldwin, who famously stated: “Turkey saved my life!” lived off and on in Istanbul for nearly ten years beginning in 1961. The nation’s rich history, vibrant culture, and diverse society provided Baldwin with the backdrop and inspiration for some of his most profound works. This connection between Turkey and a literary giant like James Baldwin demonstrates the transformative power of cultural exchange and the enduring bonds that can be forged between nations.

As we recognize Turkey’s 100th anniversary, let us not only honor its remarkable journey but also reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the bonds of friendship and cultural understanding between Turkey and the United States. May the jazz that has filled the halls of the Turkish Embassy continue to serve as a powerful reminder of our shared values and aspirations. Especially in these turbulent times, working together for our shared goals of peace, fairness, and justice is more important than ever. May the spirit of democracy, liberty, and cultural exchange continue to flourish between our two great nations in the years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PROFESSOR AN YIN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Professor An Yin, who passed away on July 12, 2023. Mr. Yin was a distinguished Professor of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles located in my congressional district.

Professor Yin was born on June 24, 1959, in Harbin, China. He was a part of an intellectual family with both of his parents being medical professors. Mr. Yin was inspired by his family to pursue a career in science. He began his academic career at Beijing University where he studied Geomechanics before transferring to the University of Southern California (USC) in 1982 to join their master’s and doctoral degree programs in structural geology.

Professor Yin officially received his doctoral degree from USC in 1988 and was offered a tenure tracked professorship at the University of California, Los Angeles. By 1996, he ascended to full Professor status at UCLA, even earning a title of Distinguished Professor for the year of 1995. During this time, Mr. Yin was sharing a joint appointment with the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics from 1995 to 2011. He made important contributions to the field of geophysics by integrating a range of geological observations into unexplored fields in Earth and planetary science.

Professor Yin was recognized widely for his innovative efforts to help understand how the planetary lithosphere forms and deforms. He was awarded the Young Scientist award and became a fellow of the Geological Society of America in 1994. He was then elected as a fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 2013. Another significant recognition he received was the prestigious Penrose Medal in

2022, which is the highest medal granted at the Geological Society of America.

Professor Yin also kept a continued focus on the geology of China and East Asia. He and his colleagues worked together to construct views of many critical issues in key places throughout the territory, including fault systems in Central Tibet, possible seismic gaps in northern China, and a metamorphic belt in Qiangtang. He was a founding member of the International Professionals for Advancement of Chinese Earth Sciences in 1999, a non-profit organization established to promote earth science research and education in China and international collaborations. Mr. Yin offered lectures and courses to numerous students in China and inspired many young academic professionals to pursue interests in geophysics, geology, and geochemistry.

Professor Yin is remembered for being an excellent advisor to many graduate and undergraduate students at UCLA. He supervised over 40 graduate theses and was considered the backbone of the UCLA field research curriculum for over 30 years. Many of his students have gone on to accept professorships themselves and one of his doctoral graduates is a NASA astronaut. He set a high bar for the scientific community that remains an inspiration to all who studied under him.

An Yin is survived by his wife Sandy and children, Daniel, and Hanah, along with his numerous mentees and academic colleagues who credit him with inspiring their strong work ethic and creative mindsets. May his memory live on in all those he taught and inspired in life.

HONORING PIERRE IVAN ARREOLA AS 2023 VALLEY LUCHADOR FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pierre Ivan Arreola as a Valley Luchador.

Pierre Ivan Arreola aka Pierre Boogie is a proud son of immigrants that grew up in Pacoima.

As he was growing up, he felt a deep connection to the arts through music and dance from his parents.

In high school, Pierre and his friends created The GR818ERS (pronounced ‘GREAT-ONE-EIGHTERS’), a collective that aims to uplift and empower their community through Hip Hop culture.

Today, with the direction of Pierre, the GR818ERS host community events and youth programs throughout the year that highlight Hip-Hop culture as a platform for self expression and social justice.

The GR818ERS founded AWOKE, a non-profit organization inspired by empowerment and the arts.

After a decade of building the movement, they opened the UNITE Cultural Center in Canoga Park—a San Fernando Valley-based hub for youth and community development through creative transformation, civic engagement, and collective healing.

As the Executive Director of AWOKE, Pierre manages development efforts, administers

funding contracts, and oversees a team of 15 cultural ambassadors. One of the locations I would like to highlight is Sheldon Skate Park where the GR818ERS are bringing vital resources and programming to the youth and skaters.

Pierre was a first-generation college student and received his bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Brown University.

Pierre has always been dedicated to his community and was recognized as the City of Los Angeles Impact Maker to Watch in 2016. Pierre has used his positions to continue to uplift vulnerable communities, spread hope, and advocate for justice.

Currently Pierre serves as a commissioner on the City of Los Angeles’ Human Relations Commission.

He was appointed to the City of Los Angeles’ Executive Task Force on Youth Development to help craft the blueprint for the City of Los Angeles’ inaugural Youth Development Department.

Pierre also serves as a board member of two academic centers at Cal State University, Northridge: The Center for Southern California Studies and the Center for the Interdisciplinary Pursuit of Hip Hop Elevation & Research.

In 2022, Pierre received the Mentorship Award from the San Fernando Valley Young Democrats.

I thank Pierre. It is my honor to recognize him as a distinguished leader and luchador during Hispanic Heritage Month.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF BISHOP MARC ANDRUS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with overwhelming joy that I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Marc Andrus, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California: a spiritual luminary and moral leader whose more than three decades of service has been nothing short of exceptional. Bishop Marc embodies the creed of the City of St. Francis: ‘Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.’ Indeed, as an instrument of peace, he has played a beautiful symphony: honoring our sacred responsibility to care for those in need, to defend the dignity of all God’s children and to preserve our precious planet.

Whether in the pulpit or in our communities, the magnificent ministry of Bishop Marc has made a direct, and extraordinary, impact. He has held the position of Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California since 2006. As such, he leads a flock of 27,000 Episcopalians across 75 congregations in Northern California: walking with them down the path toward salvation and social justice. At the same time, his support for the Episcopal Impact Fund and a capital campaign to support Bay Area congregations has only amplified his impact—empowering more people of faith to perform good works in their communities. And his leadership on the San Francisco Interfaith Council helps bring our City together to work for housing and health care, education and environmental impact, justice and peace.

When St. Luke’s Hospital was on the verge of closure, Bishop Marc stepped forward to