

HONORING MS. JENNIFER BLAKE
AS MOORE COUNTY SCHOOLS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jennifer Blake as the Moore County Schools Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Blake is a third-grade teacher at Carthage Elementary School. She credits her own student experience as her inspiration for becoming a teacher. Following the example set by her own educators growing up, Ms. Blake works diligently to provide third-grade students with an excellent academic foundation as well as serve as a trusted mentor for students as they develop important life skills. It is imperative that we acknowledge individuals like her who continue to assume the high calling of serving in North Carolina's public schools. As the son of a retired schoolteacher, I have seen the tireless work that educators put into developing our youth for a successful future. I am extremely grateful for her efforts and encouragement which have touched and benefited the lives of so many.

Ms. Blake has led by example throughout her career and has made impactful contributions to our community. Carthage Elementary School is better today because of her passion and hard work. I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation for her dedicated service to our youth and wish her the best as she continues to educate and inspire those in her classroom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring and congratulating Ms. Jennifer Blake for being named Moore County Schools Teacher of the Year.

HONORING ROSALINDA
TOMIMBANG AS A DISTIN-
GUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN
AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERIT-
AGE MONTH.

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Rosalinda Tomimbang as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Rosalinda Tomimbang is a registered nurse with Orlando Health. Her version of the American Dream is unique.

Born in 1956 in the Philippines to a modest family with seven kids, her parents emphasized the value of education. Rightfully so, five of them became nurses. The other two became a doctor and an accounting professional.

Rosalinda received her B.S. in nursing in Manila in 1978. She got married the same year to her high school classmate, Wendell, an electrical engineer.

She gave birth to twin girls in 1980 and another one in 1987. In 1982, along with her twins, she joined her husband in Iraq while he was working with a Kuwaiti company. Iraq was

then at war with Iran. The young family adapted to the war-torn country, braving frequent missile attacks from Iran. Her twins attended the Baghdad International School.

At the end of June 1990, Rosalinda and her daughters came to the United States for vacation. A month later, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Her husband followed, leaving behind everything they had, including several months of pay with his company.

After months of waiting with no end to the situation in sight, her husband started looking for a job. Shortly after, he was offered employment and partnership in a business.

Rosalinda started working in 1991. The first few years were hard for the young couple and Rosalinda took on two jobs. They stressed the value of education to their kids and all of them became successful in their careers. Christi, the elder of the twins, is a civil engineer and project manager. Faye, the other twin, was an aerospace engineer who after more than 10 years with the Space Shuttle Program pursued a career in medicine. May, the youngest, has a degree in engineering and is now an Army warrant officer training as a helicopter pilot.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR JUDY C.
MINER, ED.D. ON HER RETIRE-
MENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Judy C. Miner, an extraordinary educator and public servant.

Judy Miner was born in San Francisco to immigrant parents. One of five children, she was the first in her family to attend college. She earned a Bachelor's degree in history and French and a Master's degree in history from Lone Mountain College, and a Doctorate in organization and leadership with a concentration in education law from the University of San Francisco.

Dr. Miner has worked in the California Community Colleges for 35 years, and was President of Foothill College for eight years. In 2015 she was named the seventh permanent Chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, a post she held with distinction and honor. She has devoted her life to closing opportunity and achievement gaps and to student equity, and she has taken the District to the highest levels of leadership and accomplishment. Because of her tireless dedication, postsecondary education has become accessible and excellent, and her tenure as Chancellor propelled the District to be one of the best in our nation.

Dr. Miner has always invested in the infrastructure that students need to succeed. She increased faculty pay to attract top talent and developed a partnership with the Krause Center of Innovation to help teachers be more effective with students. She advocated for new degrees and fields of study, such as the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy and the Nanny and Family Studies Program. She made students feel welcome with counseling services, vocational organizations and community building programs.

Dr. Judy Miner's work has gone beyond Foothill-De Anza. She is a global leader for

community colleges, representing our country honorably with the American Council on Education and at the International Conference for Community Colleges. Her legacy will be felt for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in thanking Dr. Judy Miner for her exemplary work in education. She has bettered the lives of hundreds of thousands of students, and her work has made us a stronger community and a greater nation. She is truly a national treasure.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD
GOODMAN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Donald Goodman, who passed away at the age of 83 on April 29, 2023. Don was a pillar of the community who dedicated his life to supporting youth athletics in Cloverdale.

Born in Mendocino County in 1939, Don grew up in Hopland and graduated from Hopland High School. He later attended Napa Valley College where he met his wife of 63 years, Neva Goodman. The couple later moved to Cloverdale, where in 1971, Don began volunteering with the Cloverdale Little League to coach their son's team. He continued to serve the children of the Little League as the administrator for California District 35, a position he held for 40 years. Don also assisted in the Little League World Series every summer. In recognition of his many years of supporting young athletes' success, he earned the W. Howard Hartman Little League Friendship Award in 2018.

Most notably, Don volunteered as the public address announcer for Cloverdale High School for half a century and was considered "the voice of Cloverdale." Don was known to ensure that every student athlete felt special and empowered when announcing for the football, basketball, baseball, and softball teams of Cloverdale High School. Throughout the seasons, hundreds of young athletes have benefited from Don's generosity, work ethic, and dedication to making a positive difference for others.

Beyond student athletics, Don served on the Cloverdale School Board of Trustees where he demonstrated an exemplary commitment to academics and high-quality education. He also served many years on the Board of Directors for Cloverdale's annual Citrus Fair, helping showcase the bounty and talent of the community.

While he will be greatly missed, Don's legacy will live on through the innumerable positive impacts he has had on his community. Don is survived by his wife and children, Doug, Tom, and Nanci, his four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending deep condolences to Don's family and many friends, and in expressing my deep appreciation for his decades of public service in his community.

HONORING KAMALAKAR SHENAI AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Kamalakar "Kam" Shenai as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Kamalakar "Kam" Shenai emigrated to the United States from India in 1976 with \$208 in his pocket, an engineering degree, a determination to work hard, and a heart full of ambition. Along the way, he earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering from UC Berkeley and an MBA in Marketing from RIT.

Mr. Shenai's career started as a salesman in Buffalo, New York, which became a 35-year corporate journey. A span that culminated into being the head of marketing operations for North America at a Fortune 500 company and then chief client officer for a privately held global company.

Mr. Shenai has been a Central Florida resident since 2014 and in his retirement has served on several boards, is on the Kidney Advocacy Committee for the National Kidney Foundation, and is the co-founder of Asian Pacific Islanders Coming Together (ACT).

One of the most notable examples of Mr. Shenai's commitment to making positive change in the AAPI community is his work on ACT, a non-partisan organization. ACT's mission is to engage, educate, and empower the AAPI population to amplify their voice through voter participation.

Mr. Shenai is also involved with the National Kidney Foundation. As a kidney patient himself, he has been an active member of the Kidney Advocacy Committee, where he has worked to meet with federal lawmakers and urge them to support the organization's legislative agenda.

Mr. Shenai lives in Lake Nona, Florida with his wife of 50 years. has two children—a daughter and a son—and is a proud grandfather of four grandchildren.

Mr. Shenai's motto, "Do common things uncommonly well," is a testament to his commitment to excellence and his desire to make a difference in the lives of those around him.

RECOGNIZING NEVILLE RAY, 23 YEARS WITH T-MOBILE USA

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Neville Ray for his thirty years of work in wireless network management, and to congratulate him on his retirement as T-Mobile's President of Technology and Strategic Network Advisor to the CEO.

Throughout his 23 years with T-Mobile, Neville has played a critical role in architecting the carrier's transition from 2G to 5G and leading a best-in-class team. He is responsible for the management and development of the com-

pany's wireless network, technology services, and technology operations.

Neville's colleagues recognize him as a strong, adaptable, and innovative leader. According to T-Mobile CEO Mike Sievert, Neville "takes the crown as the nation's overall network leader" and "has made T-Mobile's network a true competitive weapon." T-Mobile's 5G network was the first to offer coverage in all 50 states, largely thanks to Neville and his team, who anticipated that the 5G era would be won or lost on mid-band spectrum.

Neville has helped T-Mobile achieve numerous company milestones, including the first launch of Wi-Fi calling with a hotspot in 2007, the first launch of video calling using LTE or Wi-Fi in 2015, and the first-ever World Series 5G experiences in 2020.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Neville Ray for his career helping T-Mobile innovate and succeed, and I wish him a happy retirement.

HONORING THE WOODEN FLOOR

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of one of the foremost creative youth development nonprofit organizations in the country, The Wooden Floor.

In 1983, Beth Burns, who at the time was a sister with the order of St. Joseph of Orange, founded the organization under the name Saint Joseph Ballet as a summer dance program for at-risk youth. The program was an immediate success, and by 1989, the organization was receiving national recognition and serving 150 students in a donated 4,000-square-foot space in downtown Santa Ana.

In 1998, college scholarship awards were established for the growing number of graduates enrolling in higher education. The following year, the organization grew to a 21,000-square-foot campus with three dance studios, education, and community centers, which were funded by supporters who raised a total of \$6.8 million for the construction and establishment of their Endowment Fund.

By the early 2000s, they grew to serve 375 students with expanding services, including academic assistance, college preparatory guidance, crisis intervention, and intensive dance immersion with leading dance choreographers from around the country.

After over 20 years, founder Beth Burns retired in 2005, remaining connected to the organization and honored as a Board Emerita.

2005 also marked the first year that 100 percent of their graduates enrolled in college, a feat that has continued to this day. In 2009, the organization changed its name to The Wooden Floor, with the tag line "From here, you can step anywhere," to reflect the comprehensive nature of their supportive model.

Locally, The Wooden Floor expanded in 2018 to serve an additional 100 students and their families at a second location in Santa Ana, totaling nearly 500 students year-round who are served from 3rd through 12th grade. Celebrating 40 Years of Impact in 2023, with national and international grants and awards, an innovative brand refresh and the launch of an Endowment Campaign called Step Forward, The Wooden Floor is positioned to pro-

pel young people forward well into the next 40 years through its new mission statement: "To inspire and transform the lives of young people through the power of dance and access to higher education."

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the exceptional contributions and achievements of The Wooden Floor.

HONORING ASHOK PATEL AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023, I recognized Ashok Patel as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Ashok Patel was born in Nairobi, Kenya. His grandparents had moved to East Africa from India in the early 1900s. When he was just four years old, Ashok moved with his family to London. There, he directly experienced the challenges of being raised in an ethnic minority community and yet learned to integrate positively into the prevailing British lifestyle. He was deeply attracted to the faith of his forefathers, Hinduism, in particular BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha. Thus, though a brilliant student, he followed his heart and dropped out of college to live a life of study and meditation in India.

After several years, he was asked to begin reaching out to Hindus around the world to elaborate and teach the traditions of the world's oldest religious tradition. Ashok did this with a particular focus on the young and vulnerable. He became a highly respected writer, speaker, and life coach, traveling across the world. He actively coordinated acclaimed international events, such as the Cultural Festival of India held in New Jersey and the All-World Religions Conference sponsored by the United Nations in New York. He has received various awards and felicitations.

Although settled in London, Ashok accepted the challenge of immigrating to the United States. He successfully entered the hospitality and tourism industry and later diversified into the retail grocery trade, actively working with other small businesses to help them succeed.

Today, he owns and manages Prayosha Vacation Homes, an innovative property management company specializing in short-term vacation rentals. Ashok is a director of the Osceola Chamber of Commerce, vice chair of the Small Business Council, president of the Downtown Kissimmee Leads Group, and serves as a voluntary director at Osceola Community Health. As a successful Osceola businessman, Ashok continues to help small businesses succeed.

Ashok is a highly respected leader in the Indian community of Central Florida and is involved in inter-community relations. He is an active volunteer leader of BAPS Charities international.