

He started playing futbol at the age of 4, coached by his father, making his senior debut at 18 years old. He credits his dedication to soccer to his beloved grandmother, Celia, and continues to honor her at every game he plays.

Some of his many achievements include winning the World Cup and its Player of the Tournament award in 2022, being named best FIFA player three times, and winning the Champions League four times.

He has scored over 800 goals at club level and he scored the most goals of any player in a calendar year with 79 of them.

Personally, Messi is a devout Catholic and lives his faith through charitable works. He established the Leo Messi Foundation in 2007, working to improve children's access to healthcare and education.

Inter Miami is blessed to have this elite player on their team, and the significance of his presence extends beyond the field.

This extraordinary player is going to inspire children in my district to work hard to achieve their dreams. He said, "I start early and I stay late, day after day, year after year. It took me 17 years and 114 days to become an overnight success."

The lesson he is conveying is that you can pray for a house, but sometimes God gives you a hammer, lumber, nails, and talent. Don't be fooled into thinking that he did not answer you, you have to put in the hard work.

Every person has the opportunity to succeed if they are dedicated to accomplishing their goals, especially in this country, the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome Messi to Miami, and may his hard work be an inspiration to everyone who has a dream for their life. God bless him, his wife, and his three sons as they begin a new life in Miami, which is part of the 27th Congressional District, the best district in the United States.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I close by recognizing an individual that I have grown very fond of in my time here at the House of Representatives. I don't do a lot of these Special Orders and come down and talk about individuals, but since I have been in the House, getting to know Joyce Hamlett has been an extraordinary pleasure and honor.

I wish Joyce were on the floor at this moment because she is going to be retiring here shortly, either tomorrow or next week. She has worked here on the Hill for 35 years.

Speaker MCCARTHY already gave a fantastic speech detailing her bio and background. She grew up in North Carolina and she will be returning to North Carolina. She devoted 35 years here, working up from being in the cafeteria with her mom, if I remember correctly from Speaker MCCARTHY's speech, and serving as the elevator operator.

For over a decade, she has faithfully protected the mace. The mace of the

House of Representatives is one of the oldest symbols of the United States Government representing Congress' order and authority. Her duty is to protect the mace that opens the House each day and closes it each night.

Mr. Speaker, I would note she was also responsible for keeping decorum on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I have been the recipient of her admonition on more than one occasion. It has been, frankly, an honor to receive it.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss her and I wish her God speed in her retirement. I thank her and all the staff that serve the House of Representatives. She is one of the best. I have worked with a lot of people over the years, she is an exceptional human being. We are a greater country and a greater body for her service.

Mr. Speaker, God bless Joyce, and I hope to see her today or tomorrow before she goes off to North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING FERNANDO VALENZUELA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fernando Valenzuela, former pitcher and current Spanish-language broadcaster for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He is a husband, father, grandfather, and on top of that he is a cultural icon for Latinos worldwide.

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Coming up on August 11, 2023, the Los Angeles Dodgers will be retiring his number, Number 34.

This honor will cement his legacy with other Dodger greats such as Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, and Sandy Koufax. It is certainly a fitting tribute.

Fernando Valenzuela's name is synonymous with Los Angeles sports culture. His nickname, "El Toro," and his iconic, unorthodox pitching windup, raising his hands above his head and glancing skyward before tossing his deadly screwball, is just as much a staple of Los Angeles sports history as Kobe Bryant's 81-point game or Vin Scully's legendary calls, but his impact extends far beyond Los Angeles.

Fernando's humble origins and charisma made him an inspirational icon for Latinos across not only just Los Angeles, but the entire Nation. He expanded the footprint of Latino players in the sport, building on the legacy of Latino players like Roberto Clemente transforming the demographics of baseball's fan base and player base.

Fernando's inspirational story reflects the awesome potential that all immigrants can achieve their dreams right here in America.

I am honored to stand before you today, Mr. Speaker, to share some of that beautiful and amazing history.

Fernando Valenzuela was the youngest of 12 children born to an impoverished family in the town of Etchohuaquila, Sonora, Mexico, in 1960. His parents, Avelino and Maria, were farm workers of native Mayo descent.

While pitching in the Mexican league for the Mayos de Navjoa in 1979, Valenzuela stunned famous Dodger scout, Mike Brito, with his talent. After falling behind 3-0 in the count, Fernando tossed three perfect strikes to close out the game, prompting Brito and the Dodgers to take a gamble on Fernando. It took just over 1 year for Fernando to ascend to the majors.

After signing Valenzuela in the summer of 1979, the Dodgers assigned him to the Lodi Dodgers of the High-A level California league, then to the San Antonio Dodgers of the Texas league.

His stay in the minor leagues was short-lived, and in September of 1980, Valenzuela was called up to the Los Angeles Dodgers. In the last month of the season, Valenzuela helped the Dodgers by pitching 17 scoreless relief innings.

One year later, Fernando would experience a season that can only be characterized as a spectacular dream come true. 1981 for the city of Los Angeles was our bicentennial, but really, only one word can describe 1981 in L.A.: Fernandomania.

After a teammate suffered a last-minute injury, manager Tommy Lasorda named Fernando to be the Dodgers' opening day starter.

Fernando won his first eight starts, including five shutouts. After returning from a midseason strike, Fernando won the Cy Young Award, Rookie of the Year, Silver Slugger, and a World Series.

Fernando kept his streak alive off the field. He married the love of his life, Linda. The ceremony was attended by 4,000 people and drew congratulations from then-President Ronald Reagan. Fernando and his wife, Linda, have four children. The couple celebrated their 41st anniversary last year.

Fernando would continue to pitch for 15 years with five additional teams, adding to his resume a no-hitter and six consecutive All-Star selections.

Fernando's impact on the field was phenomenal, and his greatest impact was actually off the field.

Before Fernando, baseball largely ignored Mexico as a scouting destination. Since Mel Almada, the first Mexico-born Major League Baseball player, debuted in 1933, Mexican players accumulated little name recognition and few accolades beyond Bobby Avila and his batting title in 1954.

While Fernando was not the first Mexican-born player on the Dodgers, he reached a new stratosphere of skill and popularity. His talent helped catapult Mexico into a coveted destination for Major League scouting and funding. Fernando blazed a trail for future Mexican greats like pitchers Yovani Gallardo and Teddy Higuera.

He helped build that infrastructure that cultivated the careers of fellow

Mexican Dodgers like Ismael Valdez, Esteban Loaiza, Adrian Gonzalez, and World Series champion, Julio Urias.

Fernandomania transformed Los Angeles baseball from a sport for the White upper-class people into a cultural staple cherished by people of all colors, creeds, and backgrounds. He truly transformed not only the Dodgers but Los Angeles history.

We must not forget the ugly history between the Dodgers and the families of Chavez Ravine. We must not forget the dark horrible events in history where hundreds of Latino families and other poor families of color were pushed out of their homes by the city of Los Angeles to build Dodgers Stadium. This bitterness from the Latino community has lasted for decades, and some of it still lingers in the hearts and the minds of many.

Fernando was able to be that bridge to unite everybody in Los Angeles under that shade of Dodger blue. Fueled by an outpouring of Latino fans, Fernando sold out 11 of his first 12 home starts and pushed the Dodgers home attendance to a Major League Baseball record of 3.6 million fans in 1982.

Just like many Latinos, Fernando donned the modest demeanor of a man of humble origins. Fernando's improbable journey from a Mexican pueblo to the center of the baseball universe instilled a sense of optimism for all Latinos, many of whom had recently immigrated or were struggling with meager salaries and very, very difficult jobs and conditions.

To the Latino community, Fernando was a peer and an inspiration and the embodiment of the dreams that do come true.

Fernando's impact on Latino communities extends far beyond my home city of Los Angeles. Latinos from coast to coast saw a reflection of themselves in Fernando.

When the Dodgers packed their bags for a road trip, opposing teams would sell 13,000 more tickets per game when Fernando took the mound compared to other Dodger starters.

Fernando was aware of his impact. During the height of his career, Fernando said: "I knew I was representing Mexico to many people. I was aware of that."

Yet this titanic burden of embodying the face of a nation may still have been an underestimation.

Throughout the Americas, from the United States, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America to South America, people turned out in droves to catch a glimpse of Fernando. He didn't merely represent Mexico. He represented all of us.

Perhaps one of the most qualified persons to speak on the impact of Fernandomania is Jaime Jarrin, the Dodger's Spanish-language broadcaster. He broadcasted for 64 years. Jaime began announcing games for the Dodgers in the 1950s as part of Major League Baseball's first-ever, full-time Spanish-language broadcast.

Jaime concluded his groundbreaking 64-year career when he retired last year. He called games during Valenzuela's entire Dodgers tenure and shared the broadcast booth with Valenzuela for over a decade and a half.

Jaime has made no secret of the respect and admiration he holds for his colleague, Fernando Valenzuela. Jaime has said that Valenzuela drew more fans than any other player in baseball history because he tapped into an entirely new demographic. According to Jaime, before Valenzuela, the percentage of Latinos at Dodger games sat in the single digits. After a few years, that number ballooned to 30 percent, and today it has grown to almost 50 percent, including my family members, my children, and my grandchildren.

In Jaime's words, Fernando created interest in baseball among people who did not know what baseball was. His monumental impact transformed the Dodgers and all Major League Baseball into a beacon of diversity both on and off the field and in the stands.

Few players could be more deserving of his number being retired than Fernando.

I congratulate Fernando Valenzuela for his number being retired.

I call on the Baseball Writers' Association of America and the Veterans' Affairs Committee to induct Fernando Valenzuela to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

His career and cultural influence, including his ongoing work within the Dodgers on their Spanish-language broadcast is a true inspiration to everyone.

I honor the incredible career of Fernando Valenzuela as he takes his place enshrined forever in Dodger history.

I look forward to seeing Number 34 next to the greats such as Jackie Robinson's Number 42 and Sandy Koufax's Number 32.

As the great Dodger announcer Vin Scully said after Fernando threw his no-hitter on June 29, 1990, against the St. Louis Cardinals: "If you have a sombrero, throw it to the sky."

This is just a glimpse of the impact and the life of the legendary pitcher Fernando Valenzuela.

I think it is important that we all understand that we do live in a great, great country. It is amazing to see when people have an opportunity to come to our great country, they truly are allowed to be the best that they can be.

Fernando and many, many other people who have come to this country have exuded that, and I truly do believe that immigrants who come to our great country are incredibly grateful not only for their opportunities but the love and loyalty that they show and have for the great country of the United States of America.

I also say on behalf of my colleagues, especially my Los Angeles colleagues who couldn't be here today and who would have loved to share some of their stories about what Fernandomania and

what Fernando Valenzuela means to them, how proud we all are that they are retiring his number which is a tremendous, tremendous honor that only comes to very few in any sport.

I also want to share my own family's story and history with Fernando Valenzuela.

My mother and father came from Mexico. My father never participated in sports. He only went to school to the first grade. My mother went to school to the second grade. They were too poor to engage in sports.

At the age of 5 and 6, their job was to work to help the family just get by. My parents came to this country and certainly appreciated every opportunity they were afforded here, especially watching their 11 American-borne citizens in Los Angeles grow to our potential.

I remember my mother would ask me: "Esta jugando Fernando?" "Is Fernando playing today?"

If I said yes, then Jaime Jarrin in Spanish on the radio got turned on, and she listened to the whole game.

To be honest with you, Mr. Speaker, my mother, Maria, really didn't understand baseball, but she was proud of the fact that somebody from her country of Mexico was showing a positive impact and was competing with the best right here in our country of America.

She didn't have to understand baseball, but she understood that this young man, Fernando Valenzuela, was giving it his best, competing with the best, and making her and millions of people proud because he was a positive and shining example of what good people can do when given the opportunity to shine.

It is my honor to say congratulations to Fernando Valenzuela and to tell him in his native tongue: "Te lo mereces," "You deserve this."

I am honored to be a Member of the United States Congress, and this is a great opportunity for me to honor this great person, the wonderful human being, who has exuded everything that every parent, every teacher, and every person wants all of our young people to become: good and responsible adults who take the best opportunities that they have been given and make the best of it.

HONORING DR. FIROUZ MICHAEL NADERI

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who inspired us to reach for the stars, Dr. Firouz Michael Naderi.

Dr. Naderi was born in Shiraz, Iran. He came to the United States and received an electrical engineering degree from the Iowa State University and the University of Southern California.

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He returned to his native Iran, where he worked for the state remote sensing agency, but the turmoil of the Iranian Revolution in 1979 brought Dr. Naderi to the United States, where he served our country as part of NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, otherwise known as JPL, in Pasadena, California.

When Dr. Naderi retired, NASA awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal and named an asteroid after him.

In his post-NASA career, Dr. Naderi was a vocal advocate for human rights and civil rights. He demonstrated the strength, power, and kindness of the Iranian community while speaking truth to power against all injustices.

I stand here to celebrate and honor the incredible life of my friend, Dr. Firouz Naderi, who was lost too soon last month.

Dr. Naderi was someone who saw no borders, no lines, no separating of people on this blue marble spinning around the Sun that we call Earth.

Dr. Firouz Naderi was born on March 15, 1946, and left Iran in 1964. In 1969, he earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State University and, in 1972, a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California; in 1996, a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California.

When he returned to Iran, as I mentioned earlier, he was forced to leave his beloved country and came back to California, to the United States, where he pursued the distinguished career that has made him one of NASA and JPL's most amazing scientists.

He was JPL's associate director for project formulation and strategy and director of solar system exploration. In 2000, he became head of the Mars Exploration Program and, in 2005, received NASA's Distinguished Service Medal.

From 2000 to 2012, he led six consecutive, successful American missions to Mars—four landers and two orbiters—on January 4, 2004, landing the Spirit rover and on January 25, 2004, landing the Opportunity rover.

He was a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He was a board member of various organizations, the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans, Arasteh-Amin Foundation, Keep Children in School Foundation, and Iranica Encyclopedia.

In February 2016, the International Astronomical Union named an asteroid after Dr. Naderi. In 2017, he accepted the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, which was by Asghar Farhadi and called "The Salesman," with Anousheh Ansari.

I am honored to be a United States Congressman, and it gives me great pleasure and honor to take the opportunity and privilege of honoring people like Dr. Naderi.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNIZING JAKE'S JOURNEY HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake's Journey Home, a local nonprofit in my district.

In September 2019, Jake Shuman, a Seabee veteran and small business owner, passed away unexpectedly. He left behind not just his loving friends and family but also a legacy of empathy, generosity, and humility.

In an effort to continue Jake's powerful legacy, his mother, Jean Shuman, founded Jake's Journey Home. This nonprofit has taken up the mission of assisting unhoused veterans and community members experiencing a life path change.

Jake's Journey Home provides the necessary wraparound support services and resources to those in need to fight against the growing problem of poverty and to help someone's tomorrow be better than today.

With the strong support of the community, the organization obtained a mobile day center last year to help connect people with VA benefits, mental health aid, drug and alcohol abuse support, job skills, medical assistance, and life coaching. Their mission is ongoing, with goals to expand their services into a permanent building.

Jake's Journey Home is a pillar in our community, and it is a true honor to represent in Congress exceptional organizations such as this one.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize Jake's Journey Home for outstanding service and contributions to the Folsom community and greater Sacramento region.

RECOGNIZING JUDD SYMONS

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2023 EMS Provider of the Year for Inyo County, Judd Symons, for his remarkable accomplishments and contributions in the southern portions of the Third Congressional District.

Mr. Symons' career in the Bishop area began when he was only in high school, during which he became certified as an emergency medical technician. For 3 years of his high school career, and a few summers following, he also served on the local search and rescue team.

He went on to earn his certification as a paramedic from the Stanford-Foothill Paramedic Program. Shortly thereafter, in 1989, at just 21 years old, he and his father began their local family business, an ambulance service named Symons Emergency Services.

With over three decades of offering superior emergency medical services, this establishment has become a leading provider in our region. Relied upon by many, his ambulance service provides care to those across many different types of geographic landscapes, from urban cities to the rural High Sierras to the remote wilderness.

Even in the face of obstacles, Mr. Symons' continued dedication to his community and commitment to the well-being of Inyo County residents and the surrounding area is inspiring.

As a longtime owner and operator of this service, Mr. Symons is regarded by others as an individual with professionalism, care, hands-on involvement, and a unique ability to remain calm under pressure.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to join the Inyo County community in thanking Judd Symons for his many years of distinguished service and leadership in both emergency medical services and search and rescue operations.

RECOGNIZING HELEN CHU

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of National Zookeeper Appreciation Week, I wish to take a moment to recognize an outstanding zookeeper in my district, Helen Chu.

Ms. Chu serves locally at the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary. The zoo is home to many rescued wild and domestic animals, including bears, wolf hybrids, monkeys, birds, cougars, insects, and more.

Ms. Chu has worked for the Folsom Zoo since 2019, but her service to wildlife has been lifelong. She graduated from the University of California Davis with a degree in wildlife, fish, and conservation biology and also earned a degree in exotic animal training and management from Moorpark College.

Prior to bringing this knowledge to the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary, Ms. Chu worked with animals as a zookeeper for the Fresno Chaffee Zoo and the Sacramento Zoo.

In Folsom, Ms. Chu has contributed significantly to the zoo's positive reinforcement animal training and behavioral enrichment programs, improving the quality of life of the animals.

Her diligent efforts and unique ability to problem solve have helped animals with health challenges participate in veterinary care without undue stress or danger to the animals and staff.

Throughout her tenure, she has exhibited the core values of a zookeeper through teamwork, excellence, and patience.

Her leadership and dedication to the care and well-being of the animals and the experience of Folsom residents is truly admirable.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize Helen Chu and thank her for her service to the Folsom community.

RECOGNIZING CALIFORNIA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT INTERNS

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment in the spirit of National Intern Day to recognize several truly exemplary individuals currently interning in my Washington, D.C., and district offices.

Over the course of their internships, these students and recent graduates have embodied the essence of public service.

They have made the government accessible to their neighbors by leading guided tours of the Capitol, ensured that people's voices are heard by taking down their concerns and sharing