

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULAR AREA MID-DECADE CENSUS ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that would require the United States Census Bureau to conduct a census every five years in the U.S. insular areas of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This legislation is necessary because the priority, availability, timeliness, and types of data collected by federal agencies in the insular areas remains deficient compared to data collection in the states. Without accurate and timely information on changes in the economy, employment, income levels, and other key indicators, insular governments are hindered in the establishment of appropriate policy. And without these data, governments and the public are less able to assess the effectiveness of policies that have been established.

Every decade, the Census Bureau conducts a census throughout the country to determine the number of people living in the country. In the insular areas, detailed demographic, housing, and socioeconomic data is also collected in the decennial census using a "long-form" questionnaire consisting of about 75 questions. The decennial census conducted in the states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico only asks 10 questions because the vital information gathered in the decennial census is now acquired annually in the American Community Survey. Unfortunately, the American Community Survey does not collect critical data from the insular areas.

As an alternative to annual surveys, my bill would require the Census Bureau to conduct a mid-decade census in the insular areas. The bill starts the first mid-decade census in 2035 and in addition to the decennial census, a census will be conducted every five years. This will provide more current data in the insular areas, like that provided by five-year estimates produced by the American Community Survey. Having a mid-decade census will also enable insular governments and the Census Bureau to plan and conduct data collection efforts that are often logistically challenging in these diverse, remote regions.

I ask my colleagues for their support in achieving equitable statistical data collection for the territories.

HONORING THE FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose, for 160 years of service, fellowship, and stewardship to the community of San Jose, California.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Mother Church, was founded in October of 1796 in New York City, New York.

Aptly named the Freedom Church, it fought for the emancipation of Africans in the United States during the institution of slavery, striving towards the dignification of enslaved persons.

The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose was founded in San Jose, California, in 1864, establishing itself as the first Black church in the area. Following in the tradition of the Mother Church, it represents the dignity, emancipation, and civil rights of all people regardless of ethnic background in the City of San Jose.

Arguably its most impressive effort, The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose emphasizes social justice advocacy. Throughout its extensive legacy, the Church has actively participated in social justice movements, addressing issues such as racial equality and community empowerment.

In addition to advocacy and spiritual development, The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose has accomplished various initiatives. The Church proudly hosts numerous community outreach programs, including health fairs, food drives, educational support for local youth, among other support services for those in need.

On November 10, 2024, The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose celebrates 160 years of accomplishments within the community of San Jose, California, and will continue to admirably exceed the needs brought forth by the community.

In closing, the 160th anniversary of The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose reflects the perseverance, dedication, and contributions of its members, leaders, and the surrounding community. It continues to make an indelible impact in the City of San Jose, leaving a legacy that will benefit future generations. I am proud and honored to celebrate The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose on the occasion of this impressive milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE 2024 CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM'S ANNUAL CELEBRATE DIVERSITY BANQUET

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centreville Immigration Forum on its 7th Annual Celebrate Diversity Dinner. The theme of this year's gala is "Celebrating a Community United for Justice" and will recognize the rich diversity of cultures in Northern Virginia. The Centreville Immigration Forum has done tremendous work in Northern Virginia to support our immigrant community by implementing sustainable programs that provide immigrants in need with the means to improve their lives and become more integrated into the community.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity. In Fairfax County, nearly one in four residents are foreign born. More than 200 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the nation. Our variety of cultures and heritages do not divide us, they make us stronger.

Three exceptional individuals will be honored during this gala who have gone above and beyond in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their country of origin, has full access to the benefits and opportunities this community and our Nation provide. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the following 2024 Annual Dinner honorees:

ELENA DE LEÓN

Elena De León is a Mayan Ixil woman from Nebaj, Guatemala. She is an entrepreneur, creator, and designer who makes clothing using traditional weaving. Elena combines her traditions with modern trends to design unique looks. Her clothing celebrates her culture, history, and preserves traditional loom weaving techniques. She brings life to her designs and her work brings visibility to her culture and traditions. She has traveled around the country to show her fashion, and she even had an opportunity to show in Dubai. She lives in Centreville, VA, and has been a member of Centreville Immigration Forum since 2018.

JUAN ANDRES MASCUÑANA

Juan Andres, a citizen of Spain and a Pharmacist from the University of Alcalá de Henares, worked as a Pharmaceutical Executive for over 35 years in several countries such as Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States (three time periods), Puerto Rico, and Switzerland.

His career in developing and manufacturing medicine included work with Eli Lilly (18 years), Novartis (12 years) and Moderna (6 years). After leading the global Novartis Manufacturing unit in Switzerland, Juan and his family moved to the Boston area to work for Moderna where he led the technical development and the manufacturing of the Covid vaccine for the world. As Moderna's VP and then President for Strategic Partnerships and Enterprise Expansion, Juan led his team in establishing the highest-quality production of more than 800 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine in one year, 2021.

Juan continues to be passionate about medicine, vaccines, and treatments for cancer since his retirement in 2023.

KAROL ESCALANTE HERRERA

Karol is the Fairfax County Director of Immigrant Community Affairs. She is part of the One Fairfax team and has more than 15 years of experience working with key topics related to immigration, community engagement, public policy, diversity, inclusion, and strategic planning.

Karol is currently developing and implementing a comprehensive countywide plan for ensuring that Fairfax County is a welcoming community for immigrants with opportunities for integration, community well-being and economic success.

She served as a diplomat in the Foreign Service of Honduras for approximately 8 years, and her last post was in Chicago, IL, as Consul General of Honduras. During that time, she worked on daily bases supporting the Honduran community and developed new strategies to be able to create programs that will have a positive impact on Hondurans in areas like immigration, human and labor rights, education, and financial literacy.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these individuals are noteworthy not only because they are rooted in an appreciation for our region's cultural and ethnic diversity, but also because they help to strengthen the bonds of friendship

and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY
JORDAN-CHURCH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, we gather today to honor the illustrious career of Mary Jordan-Church, who will retire after an extraordinary 41 years of unwavering service at the Veterans' Administration.

Mary's remarkable journey began on October 13, 1981, when she stepped into the role of Office Manager and Secretary at the Vet Center. Over the years, her commitment and dedication propelled her through a series of roles that reflected her unyielding dedication to our nation's veterans.

After a decade of efficiently triaging clients at the Office Manager position, Mary was elevated to the position of Counseling Assistant for her dedication and aptitude. In this expanded role, Mary's responsibilities included oversight over the organization's Community Outreach, where she represented the Vet Center at vital mental health meetings and became a steadfast voice for the veteran community.

Driven by a undying commitment to better serve veterans and manage crises effectively, Mary then embarked on a journey of education. Her pursuit for knowledge led her to Fresno City College, where she earned an associate degree in Alcohol Counseling, equipping her with critical skills to support those battling addiction. Inspired to make a lasting impact Mary continued her studies at California State University, Fresno where she earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree of Social Work in 2003.

During these years of academic pursuit, Mary navigated the delicate balance of raising her children with the support of her family. Her determination and dedication were further exemplified through intensive internships at esteemed organizations such as the Salvation Army, Avanti (a group home for boys), and the Mobile Crisis for Fresno County. Notably, her final internship took place at VACCHCS Mental Health, working alongside Drs. Nile and Howsepian.

These profound studies and experiences paved the path to Mary's appointment as a Readjustment Counselor in 2002. Soon after, Mary's continuous pursuit of excellence and knowledge culminated as she achieved the rank of Social Worker, coinciding with the completion of her studies in 2003.

Mary's dedication extended far beyond the confines of her professional responsibilities. She exemplified her commitment by participating in an impressive 35 Veterans' Day parades as a representative of the Vet Center. One such memorable parade took place in Sacramento, where she stood proudly, pushing a stroller carrying her youngest son, while waving the United States flag alongside her mother. Their presence was a testament to their unwavering support for veterans and their resolute belief in the values the flag represents.

As Mary embarks on a well-deserved retirement, her legacy of dedication, compassion, and unwavering support for veterans and their respective stories stands as a beacon of inspiration. Her journey, marked by perseverance and continuous growth, has left an indelible mark on the lives she has touched. As we bid farewell to a remarkable career, let us remember the profound impact that one individual can have on the lives of many, and let us honor Mary Jordan-Church's legacy by continuing to uplift and support our veteran community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in extending our deepest gratitude and best wishes to Mary as she embarks on this new chapter of her life. Her contributions will forever resonate within the halls of the Veterans' Administration and in the hearts of those who have had the privilege of working alongside her.

HONORING LIEUTENANT WESLEY
W. WILLIAMS AND PRIVATE JOSEPH PESIN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to solemnly honor two gallant Veterans, Lieutenant Wesley W. Williams and Private Joseph Pesin. Lt. Williams and Pvt. Pesin are to be recognized for their acts of gallantry during World War II at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Veterans Day ceremony on November 13, 2024.

On the day after the December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor attack, 56 members of the UCLA Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity met and voted unanimously to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Among those 56 men who enlisted, seven men including Lt. Williams, never returned home. Lt. Williams was listed as Missing In Action.

On April 5, 1945, a French Prisoner of War (POW), Pvt. Joseph Pesin wrote to the International Red Cross about a highly decorated, badly wounded American soldier who died in captivity in a German Prison Camp—Stalag IX. Pvt. Pesin described how this American soldier spoke about his college sweetheart, Patricia Lampton, a member of the UCLA Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, and the unborn child the couple were expecting. Pvt. Pesin stated that Lt. Williams' remains were buried in an unmarked grave outside the prison camp.

Before Lt. Williams lost his life, he exhibited bravery and fearless leadership during combat. While his platoon was under attack, Lt. Williams left his covered position to aid in the evacuation of the wounded and directed the withdrawal of his platoon. The soldiers that Lt. Williams saved in his platoon later liberated Dora-Nordhausen Concentration Camp.

At the UCLA Veterans Day ceremony, Lt. Williams' daughter, Diana Joyce (Williams) Klopfenstein, will receive the Flag of our grateful Country and her father's missing declassified Silver Star Commendation for Valor in Combat. Appearing with Diana is the only child of Pvt. Pesin, Madame Thérèse Mauclair. Pvt. Pesin's compassionate act brought comfort to the lives of 21 families of

Allied soldiers buried in unmarked graves outside the prison camp.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in remembering these two brave men, Lt. Wesley W. Williams and French Private Joseph Pesin, for their heroic actions during World War II.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO KATHLEEN TRAPENASSO

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Kathleen Trapenasso, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Kathleen has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In her actions to raise awareness and funds to defeat ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Kathleen has not only served our community, but also transformed the lives of those around her. Kathleen unbelievably lost her husband, son, and two daughters to ALS in the span of just 30 months. Yet despite her heartbreaking personal losses, Kathleen has chosen to use her formidable strength to champion the cause of ALS research. She has worked to spread awareness and raise funds to defeat ALS through her team, Pat's Posse, named in memory of her husband and son who shared the name. It is constituents like Kathleen that strengthen the fabric of our district and prove that when driven by purpose, compassion, and a resolute sense of duty, one individual can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Kathleen that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Kathleen not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Kathleen for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.