

Abdur-Rahim was credited with turning KSU's program into a record-breaking success. But it is not his incredible professional accomplishments that made him the great man he was. He was a servant leader with genuine care for those around him. He transformed not only records but also the hearts and minds of entire communities.

Coach Abdur-Rahim was immediately embraced by the USF family. When USF Vice President for Athletics Michael Kelly described Coach's impact on the team and university, Kelly said, "he connected this whole community." Around campus, Coach was known for picking up students' coffee tabs, personally greeting camped-out fans in front of the Yuengling Center, and dancing with the school band after home game wins. His spirit and joy were felt by the entire student body.

To his players, he was so much more. At the press conference following the team's historic first regular season conference championship, Coach Abdur-Rahim said, "It's just great to see growth in young people, man, when they start to see themselves as more than just basketball players, when they start to see themselves as men."

Following last year's historic season, Coach was unanimously voted American Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. Yet, he felt an individual accolade was unfitting. Coach changed the trophy engraving from "Coach of the Year" to "Staff of the Year." In all he did, Coach Abdur-Rahim found a way to serve those around him.

Above all else, Coach Abdur-Rahim loved his family. He is survived by his wife, Arianne, and their three children, Laila, Lana and Aydin. His legacy will live on through his family and all who had the privilege of sharing time with him on the basketball court.

Coach Abdur-Rahim used to say: "No record is going to tell you what impact you have on people around you." The impact Coach had on the USF community is immeasurable, and his optimism, devotion and servant leadership will continue to inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors across Tampa Bay, I sincerely thank Amir Abdur-Rahim for the joy and life he infused into our community. We are all eternally grateful.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF GARY LEE BRUNO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a distinguished marine, successful businessman, philanthropist, and cherished family man, Gary Lee Bruno. Born on August 11, 1946, in Morgantown, West Virginia, Gary's life unfolded as an inspiring tapestry of service, resilience, and unwavering commitment.

At the age of 8, Gary and his family planted roots in Fresno, California, where he navigated the vibrant complexities of a large Italian family as the middle child of five boys. His academic journey, led him to Central High School and later to Fresno State University, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science. Concurrently, Gary embraced

a profound sense of duty, joining the Marine Corps while in college, earning his commission as an officer in July 1966.

Gary's steadfast commitment to service saw him proudly serving as a U.S. marine for nearly four years, including a tour in Vietnam as an artillery officer. His valor and dedication earned him accolades such as the Navy Commendation Medal (V for Valor), Combat Action Ribbon, and numerous other commendations. Retiring from the Marine Corps Reserve as a lieutenant colonel in 1986, Gary carried the pride of his military service throughout his life. While in the reserves, Gary served as the Headquarters and Support Commanding Officer and was well respected by fellow marines for his honorable leadership.

Returning to Fresno in 1972 with his wife and baby daughter, Cynthia, Gary, as a father, reveled in coaching his daughters' cross-country teams, participating in family activities, and instilling a love for adventure and shared experiences. In 1978, he founded G.L. Bruno Associates, Inc., focusing on real estate development and medical facility construction, making significant contributions to healthcare accessibility in the Central Valley.

Beyond his business endeavors, Gary was driven by a core belief in giving back. In 1996, he established the G.L. Bruno Family Foundation, channeling over \$2 million to support socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, with a particular emphasis on matters concerning women and children.

Gary lived life with fervor, finding joy in flying his airplane, playing golf, and savoring a good martini. His dignified demeanor, witty jokes, and a ready handkerchief became hallmarks of his presence. Even in the face of a courageous battle with Parkinson's disease, Gary's sense of humor endured.

Gary leaves behind a legacy of passion and generosity. Survived by his daughters, Cynthia Bruno Rafferty and Aimee Bogna, their families, and loyal dog Bailey, Gary's impact extends to his ex-wives, brothers, nieces, nephews, and cherished friends. In commemorating Gary Lee Bruno, we honor a life that blended duty, enterprise, and compassion—a life that will forever inspire those who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Gary Lee Bruno.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY "TONY" VENDETTI

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Anthony "Tony" Vendetti. Tony is guided by a sense to better his community and has always demonstrated his ability to overcome complex challenges and situations.

As an accomplished scout from BSA Troop 82, Tony is no stranger to giving back to our community. He has contributed to several service projects, such as Adopt a Highway, Scouting For Food, and Wreaths Across America. He also continues to volunteer alongside his father at Harvest Ministries food pantry. Tony is also a member of Neshaminy

High School's Football Team as a defensive tackle and is a proud electrical engineering student at Bucks County Technical High School. After his graduation in 2025, Tony plans to join the United States Marine Corps while continuing his education to earn a degree in electrical engineering.

We are all incredibly proud for the positive impact Anthony has on our community and wish him the best of luck in his bright future ahead.

COMMEMORATING THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF CARECEN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) Established in the District of Columbia as the Central American Refugee Center, CARECEN is celebrating its 43rd anniversary this month.

CARECEN was founded in 1981 to provide legal assistance to Central American refugees. Today, in addition to providing such assistance, CARECEN provides several services to D.C.'s Latino community, including citizenship classes, tenant organizing and legal services. CARECEN also advocates for refugees and immigrants from Central America on the federal level. Since the 1990s, CARECEN has advocated for granting Temporary Protected Status for nationals from Latin American countries.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing CARECEN for its contributions to D.C. and D.C.'s Latino community over the last 43 years.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF THE LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION OF HOUSTON

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an organization that has spent 35 years building a legacy of hope, resilience, and sustainable communities across the Houston area—the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Houston. Since 1989, LISC Houston has been more than a community builder; it's been a lifeline to countless families and neighborhoods, investing over \$592 million and leveraging \$1.5 billion to bring more than 11,000 affordable homes and over two million square feet of community spaces to life.

Think about that for a moment. Over three decades of building homes and hope—three decades of investing in people, families, and neighborhoods that are the bedrock of this great city. LISC Houston is grounded in the belief that everyone deserves a roof over their head and a vibrant community, a place where they can work, raise their children, and feel a sense of belonging.

Through its Financial Opportunity Centers and partnerships with local businesses,

LISC has helped thousands in our area find good-paying jobs, start businesses, and build brighter futures. When it comes to affordable housing, they haven't just built homes; they've built foundations—places where families feel rooted, children feel safe, and communities can grow and thrive. LISC stands alone in the Houston region as the organization that tackles every facet of affordable housing—from providing training and developing new housing to preserving existing homes, expanding access to homeownership, and leading post-disaster recovery efforts.

And LISC Houston's work is far from finished. As they look to the future, they're setting their sights on new challenges—focusing on digital literacy, place-based development, economic mobility, and climate resilience. They're supporting small businesses, including childcare providers, and empowering emerging housing developers. They're creating pathways to homeownership, lifting up families, and transforming communities with every project.

Mr. Speaker, LISC Houston's legacy reminds us that when we come together, we can build something lasting. It's a vision that speaks to the best of who we are—a belief in the power of community, in lifting each other up, and in making sure that everyone has a fair shot at a better future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating LISC's important milestone and their tremendous impact.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CLEMENTINE PUGH

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the life, legacy, and work of Clementine Pugh, a dear and distinguished friend of my predecessor, The Honorable Charles B. Rangel. As a strong believer in the power of knowledge, she demonstrated the importance of learning and expanding educational opportunities for women and African Americans throughout our great Nation.

On June 20, 2015, at Harlem's historic Riverside Church, family and community gathered to memorialize Clementine's life and contributions to opening our minds to the importance of culture, honesty, and knowledge. On April 11, 1925, Clementine was born to Alberta and Otho High in Raleigh, North Carolina. She attended Shaw University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She began her career as a psychiatric social worker, moving on to becoming a public school teacher and, eventually, a professor at Hunter and Lehman Colleges of the City University of New York.

After 20 years of service at Lehman College, she was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus of Education. She earned a Master of Social Work degree in 1949 from New York's Columbia University and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1982. For her teachings, she was awarded the prestigious title of Professor Emeritus of Education.

Clementine vividly strived for honesty and understanding. She made it her duty to present others with the awareness she ob-

tained. Her tireless effort to engage, enjoy, and educate people touched the hearts of every person she met. A woman ahead of her time, Clementine Pugh tackled the many realms of "isms" including racism, sexism and classism. Her life was devoted to acknowledging and improving how these systems affect African American people. With her remarkable resilience, my predecessor, The Honorable Charles B. Rangel, is proud to have called Clementine and her husband, G. Douglas Pugh, dear and very special friends.

I know that Clementine's legacy will live on for many years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me as we pay tribute to such a treasure to our community. I pledge to continue to carry out her tradition of provoking thought and feeling for all who have lost their way or simply need to be reminded of who we are, what we come from, and how we can overcome any obstacle.

HONORING THE CAREER OF OFFICER GRACIELA SANTILLANO JAMES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Graciela Santillano James for her service and dedication to the community's safety and prosperity.

Graciela graduated from Dos Palos High School in 1992 and earned her bachelor of arts degree from Saint Mary's College of California in 1996. She began her lifelong career after completing the California Highway Patrol Academy in September 2003. Initially serving in the San Jose area, she later transferred to Fresno. Her skills and teamwork were recognized, leading to her promotion to the Central Division Traffic Management Center in April 2009.

She quickly established herself as a respected member of our valley through her unwavering dedication and eagerness to grow. In May 2012, she was chosen for the Central Division El Protector Community Outreach Program, where she engages with the Hispanic community to share information about local events, such as townhall meetings, and to foster trust in law enforcement. She takes great pride in this initiative, describing it as a "service to California."

As a young girl, Graciela aspired to become a California Highway Patrol Officer. She remembers her parents consistently stressing the importance of education, and she was inspired by watching Spanish television with her father. From an early age, she resolutely decided that she wanted to be the "El Protector" of her community.

Her service extends beyond her job as she has demonstrated her involvement with numerous organizations such as El Concilio de Fresno—Cesar Chavez Concilio, who has built fundamental relationships for her programs, Mexican Consulate of both Fresno and Atlanta, Proteus, Inc., the Latino Rotary—Fresno, Holy Cross Center for Women, U.S. Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration and numerous schools in both Madera and Fresno Counties.

Officer Santillano James has been recognized for her extensive accomplishments

among which include holding office as vice-president and scholarship coordinator for the Latino Peace Officers Association—Fresno Chapter, where she is committed to their mission of "honoring family, education, and community through service and mentorship." Additionally, she was appointed vice-chair for Centro La Familia Advocacy Services and recognized as an Outstanding Board Member for her commitment.

Today, we bid farewell and thank Officer Graciela for her service and going above and beyond for her community. Despite her career coming to an end, she continues to represent the Hispanic community as a bilingual and bicultural officer and aims to motivate individuals. As we honor the career of Officer Graciela Santillano James, I commend her for her advocacy and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the career of Officer Graciela Santillano James. Let us celebrate her diligence and devotion to the safety of others and educating her community.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP POLICE CHIEF DAVID METTIN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 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 Chief David Mettin, 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. Chief Mettin has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In his role as Plumstead Township Police Chief, David Mettin has not only served our community but transformed the lives of those around him. Throughout his remarkable 37-year career, his efforts and contributions have played a pivotal role in safeguarding our community and nurturing the next generation of law enforcement professionals, in which he instills a commitment to upholding excellence. Constituents like Chief Mettin 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 Chief Mettin that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Their 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