

with the California Faculty Association, California Teachers Association and National Education Association for over 35 years.

Professor Vazquez-Ramos earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mexican-American Studies and a Master's in Psychology at California State University, Long Beach and a Master's in Public Administration at Pepperdine University. As a student leader in 1969, Professor Vazquez-Ramos was a co-founder of the Chicano and Latino Studies department at California State University, Long Beach.

He has taught various topics and issues related to Chicano/Latino studies at California State University, Long Beach Chicano and Latino Studies Department. During his time at the Office of International Programs, he promoted California-Mexico exchange and North American Studies programs. Since 1998, he has led travel-study groups to Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela for students, faculty, and union leaders.

In 1999, he also established the California-Mexico Project at California State University, Long Beach. The California-Mexico Project raised scholarship funds for students to study abroad in Mexico and promote educational exchange. In 2008, Assembly Concurrent Resolution 146 recognized the California-Mexico Project and directed the California Research Bureau to conduct the "The California Research Bureau Report on California-Mexico Study Abroad Programs" study.

In 2010, Professor Vazquez-Ramos established the non-profit California-Mexico Studies Center to research, develop, promote, and establish policies and programs between higher educational institutions and cultural organizations that will enhance the teaching, mobility and exchange of faculty, students, and professionals between California and the U.S. with Mexico.

The establishment and creation of the California-Mexico Studies Center has allowed more than 400 students a safe opportunity to study abroad with an additional 200 students who participated through the California-Mexico Dreamers Study Abroad Program. The California-Mexico Dreamers Study Abroad Program was precedent-setting study abroad model which Professor Vazquez-Ramos established in 2014.

Professor Vazquez-Ramos has impacted the lives of thousands of students during his 55-year career and has created the opportunity for students to return to their birthplace, meet their families, and discover their homeland while advancing their academic careers. His legacy career has established precedent and model programs for universities and colleges to follow for future generations.

Professor Vazquez-Ramos was awarded the Barrio Station Lifetime Achievement Award on March 14th during the Barrio Station 54th Anniversary Dinner. He is celebrated for his dedication and lifelong commitment to his students and our community as a devoted professor, innovator, and mentor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 8812, the Water Re-

sources and Development Act due to air travel delays. I have long supported this bipartisan bill that continues to provide better resources for America's waterways, ports and coastal resiliency.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

HONORING REVEREND W.C. AND DONNA MARTIN

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Wilbert C. Martin, pastor of Bennett Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Shelby County, Texas, and his wife Donna Martin. Through their efforts to live out their faith and serve others, they brought about the foster or adoption of seventy-seven of the most at-risk children in the Texas foster care system.

Nearly three decades ago, Rev. W.C. Martin and his wife Donna, who already had two biological children, adopted another four, starting a movement of twenty-two families within the unincorporated Possum Trot community in East Texas to adopt seventy-seven children.

Mrs. Martin was inspired to adopt after the death of her beloved mother, Murtha, who had raised eighteen children. She stated, "And the Holy Spirit said, 'Think about those other children out there that do not have what you had with your mother.' I was overcome with such warmth. I walked back into the house, picked up the Yellow Pages and called an adoption agency."

The story of the Martins and the Bennett Chapel Baptist Missionary Association Church community has been retold in the recent film *Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot*, which dramatizes their unbreakable faith and generosity for these children. Their story is an inspiration for all of us to give and love more, especially for the most vulnerable.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. JANE BARTKE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mrs. Jane Bartke. Mrs. Bartke, who passed away at the age of 86, leaves behind an indelible legacy of service to our country and Contra Costa County.

A longtime resident of El Cerrito, California, Mrs. Bartke's commitment to her community

inspired her to serve in the California Public School System for over thirty years. Throughout her career in education, Mrs. Bartke served as a teacher, counselor, and Department Chair for West Contra Costa Unified School District. She consistently demonstrated a steadfast dedication to her students, and her wisdom and compassion undeniably changed the California education system for the better.

Mrs. Bartke's commitment to her community extended beyond her critical efforts as an educator. She also served on the El Cerrito City Council, as Mayor of El Cerrito, and as President of the Trust for the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park. Mrs. Bartke's public service was characterized by her selflessness, advocacy for the people of El Cerrito, and commitment to the empowerment of women.

Mrs. Bartke exemplified the spirit of altruism in all areas of her life. She will be remembered not only for her decades of service to California students and teachers, but also for her genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. She leaves behind an everlasting mark on countless students, fellow teachers, and the El Cerrito community.

Mrs. Bartke's enduring spirit will live on in her husband, two daughters, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Bartke's loved ones I know that they, along with the people of Contra Costa County, join me in celebrating her life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF RUSHDIE'S ATTACK

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

"Prolific author, Salman Rushdie, with translations to more than forty languages and winner of multiple prestigious literary prizes, including the 2023 PEN Centenary Courage Award, rewards us with his latest publication, *Knife (Meditations After An Attempted Murder)*. New York: Random House. 2024. He made news around the world when attacked at the Chautauqua Institution, in upstate New York, on August 12, 2022, by a would-be assassin who acted upon the Fatwa of a death sentence issued by Ayatollah Khomeini 33½ years earlier.

The Ayatollah responded to Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses*, which he deemed blasphemous against Islam. Poignantly and ironically, Rushdie was to address that fateful day on creating safe spaces in America for foreign writers in a project, "City of asylum Pittsburg," initiated by Henry Reese and his wife Diane Samuels. The author's attacker was 24 years old and described by Rushdie as "the A.," referring derogatorily by the author to the vile attack, thus revealing his profound disgust for the attacker's both act and personality. Interestingly the author had a premonition in the form of a dream of being attacked two nights before the shaking event.

Rushdie's overwhelming hurting, physically and psychologically, of the 27 seconds brutal knifing is captured in his inimitable

style, "He had reached his target, after all; his blade was entering his target's body, over and over again, and he had every reason to think he had succeeded in his endeavor and was standing on the stage of history . . . But then he was dragged off me and pinned down. His twenty-seven seconds of fame were over. He was nobody again." Obviously, the author's anger at his attacker who had sought to serve his God at the cost of his victim's life, is tangible. He did suffer from PTSD manifested still in weekly nightmares, and credits writing this book to his literary agent, Andrew Wylie's urging, though reluctant and thinking that his time as an author was over, while expecting the publication of his twenty-first book, *Victory City*.

We are all better off for Rushdie's positive decision at a trying crossroad. Losing one eye and enduring six weeks in two hospitals, he however retained his biting humor, "Don't worry I'm the champion of draining fluids." Celebrating his "return to the world," he likened his joyful leaving the hospital to becoming a US citizen in New York in 2016, though this time surrounded by tight security. Ever pondering the meaning of the knife, the tool through which he was expected to die, the meticulous author offers profound reflections on his own artistic knife that is no less consequential without cutting into human flesh, "language, too was a knife. It could cut open the world and reveal its meaning, its inner workings, its secrets, its truths. It could cut through from one reality to another. It could call bullshit, open people's eyes, create beauty. Language was my knife."

Indeed, the author's heroic speaking truth to power before and after the ghastly attack that almost cost his life dedicated to the best in humanity, posits him with our revered teachers and sages uplifting humanity by pointing at its shortcomings. Rushdie reminds me of my late great friend, Eli Wiesel, winner of the Noble Peace Prize. Surely Rushdie too has earned it and/or the Nobel Literature Prize, for his immense contribution toward a sane world. Speaking on May 13, 2022, in the United Nations on behalf of PEN America on the writers' potential contribution in a troubled world facing the Ukraine war, Rushdie did not mince words, harshly criticizing Putin while praising Zelenskyy.

He also expressed grave concern on the role of white supremacy in turning America back and backwards, the deadly attack at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue, yet aiming sharp barbs at his own birthplace India for its religious Hindu-Muslim wars threatening democracy. Regarding himself as non-religious, his deep concern is with religion's proclivity for violence and its need to remain in the private sphere. Reflecting on the September 11 Twin Towers attack, "An aircraft could be a knife, too." He gratefully recalls deceased Egyptian author and Nobel Literature Laureate, Naguib Mahfouz, who opposed the Fatwa against Rushdie, prompting an Islamist terrorist to attack him on October 14, 1994, but he survived. This remarkable book's contribution—testimonial by a great author and humanitarian is both a warning and a celebration."

REMEMBERING THE OUTSTANDING LIFE OF THE LATE DOUGLAS A. HARGRAY

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Late Honorable

Douglas A. "Doug" Hargray, as he passed away at the tender age of 58, though a true fighter as a 31-year quadriplegic following a motor vehicle accident.

Doug was born May 21, 1965, in Chicago, Illinois. In his early years, he attended Charles Wacker Elementary School. As a courageous youth, he was an active member of the Cub Scouts and later the Boy Scouts of America. He attended summer camp at Culver Military in Culver, Indiana, from 7 to 10 years old. Doug was awarded first place in a science fair, allowing him to showcase his ideas at a District Science Fair thereafter. Doug then attended Saint Ignatius College Prep for high school in Chicago, IL, graduating in 1983.

Doug was beyond excited to have been accepted and enrolled at Xavier University of Louisiana, located in New Orleans, Louisiana, an institution in my district, of which I am a proud alumnus. After only one year on campus, Doug pledged the most auspicious fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.'s Beta Iota Chapter, at Xavier University of Louisiana in 1984. To further define his true fraternal dedication, he was a life member of this outstanding organization, a great fraternity brother, and a mentor to many young men.

After his time at Xavier University, he enrolled at Meharry Medical College to pursue a master's degree in public health. Sadly, during his time at Meharry Medical College, he was seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident on April 21, 1991, leaving him a quadriplegic. He was to enroll as a medical school student later that year.

Doug's gift to serve as an exceptional role model did not only help youth, family, and friends; he also was a significant role model to those that cared for him as a quadriplegic; what a true gift from God. I know that I will miss the opportunity to connect with Doug. He has been a great inspiration to me, and I credit him for the encouragement he offered throughout my political career. His kind words have always been an inspiration to me.

I will forever carry Doug as an Angel on my shoulder, guiding me to further propel in future life achievements. He will truly be missed, warmly thought of, and forever loved for endless years to come. Though his passing brings a tear to our eyes, may all the love, support, and great times bring a smile to our faces as we forever cherish his memories.

May he take his rest in God's Kingdom. His life, legacy, and impact on those he touched will forever be remembered.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDREW S. CLYDE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, due to the Cloudstrike outage, I experienced extreme flight delays and was delayed at the Atlanta airport for twelve hours.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356; NAY on Roll Call No. 357; and NAY on Roll Call No. 358.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my votes for S. Amdt. 3249 or H.R. 8812.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356, and YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

RECOGNIZING THE PROFOUND SERVICE OF GIANNA EMANUELA MOLLA

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the living legacy of Gianna Emanuela Molla, MD—who has dedicated her life to the health of women and children as she serves and advocates for the sanctity of life. Her journey, intertwined with compassion, dedication, and profound faith, serves as an inspiration to all who seek to make a difference in this world.

Her mother, Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, showed immeasurable courage during her pregnancy while facing a life-threatening condition. In the end, she was forced to make the hardest choice, herself or her daughter. She heroically chose to prioritize her unborn child, demonstrating a profound act of sacrificial love as a testament to her unwavering belief in the sanctity of all life, a belief that guided her every action and decision.

Continuing in this legacy, Gianna Emanuela Molla has traveled the world bringing a message of hope, love, and maternal appreciation. She actively supports initiatives that promote life-affirming values and contribute to organizations that assist women facing difficult pregnancies. Her life of service extend beyond the confines of her clinic, touching many through her kindness, generosity, and unwavering faith.

Her service is a reminder that we must be grounded in a deep appreciation for life—because there is no greater gift.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE SHEILA JACKSON LEE

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, tonight, we mourn the loss of our dear friend, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

She was a fighter, a fierce intellect, and above all, a force. Her presence here in Washington—for almost 30 years—was unmatched.

Her constituents were not only the good people of Houston; they were the disadvantaged looking for an opportunity, the destitute