

his work with the Lucky Duck Foundation, Champions for Health, Father Joe's Villages, and Feeding San Diego. He supported the Brad Fowler Memorial Scholarship, which used sports to help teens overcome substance abuse. He helped the Challenged Athletes Foundation equip disabled people to participate in sports.

He helped San Diego State become a national basketball power. He cared deeply about the environment and joined the activists and organizations working to protect San Diego's natural resources. He never just raised money, although he was willing to do that. He was there personally to thank, to encourage, to congratulate, always with a big smile and never intending to be the center of attention, but inevitably always the center of attention.

Bill also faced hard times. The injuries he had suffered in sports led to such intolerable pain that Bill actually considered ending his own life. Fortunately, medical innovations in spine surgery helped him have close to a normal life, though he often brought his own tall chair with him so he could have a more comfortable spot for his 7-foot frame to sit.

Given the physical pain he suffered, I guess it is a little ironic that when you encountered Bill, what you noticed was his joy. You could feel that joy when he did a basketball broadcast or when he talked about the Grateful Dead or when he told basketball stories about Coach Wooden or about Larry Bird. Thankfully, he found joy in riding his bicycle.

When I rode the Bike the Bay with him once, he told me that that was really important to him. Even though this amazingly accomplished world-class competitor was notoriously slower on a bike than his friends, he would regularly proclaim himself the luckiest man in the world. Just being healthy enough to ride was the win.

Mr. Speaker, I offer condolences to Bill's wife, Lori; to his sons, Adam, Nate, Luke, and Chris; and his grandchildren, Olivia, Avery Rose, and Chris.

Bill Walton was a great San Diegoan and a great American, and while we will miss him so much, he will live on through the thousands he served as a philanthropist, as a citizen, and as an example.

CELEBRATING DIA DE PORTUGAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dia de Portugal. It is a national Portuguese holiday celebrating the anniversary of Portugal as a nation. It is the equivalent of their Fourth of July.

The story of the Portuguese Americans, I think, is also a part of the American story. Why? Because the American story is one of immigrants past and immigrants present. I think it is the secret sauce of America.

Every generation of immigrants coming to this country for over 200 years add value to our country. My district in California is home to generations of the Portuguese diaspora, the majority of them coming from the Azores Islands off the coast of Portugal out in the middle of the Atlantic.

As the co-chair of the Portuguese Caucus and a proud descendant of Portuguese immigrants, the traditions and values that my family took from the Azores have always been a part of who I am.

This year, it is particularly meaningful to celebrate Dia de Portugal because it is the 50th anniversary of what they call the Carnation Revolution. That is a revolution that occurred in Portugal in the mid-70s when they transitioned from a dictatorship to a full-fledged democracy.

Now a contributing member of the European Union, Portugal is one of America's longest and strongest allies. It was one of the first to recognize the United States as an independent Nation after the Revolutionary War and it is also an original member of NATO.

Join me in celebrating this special occasion and the strong bond between Portugal and the United States and the Portuguese people and people from our country. "Happy celebration of the day of Portugal," "Feliz Dia de Portugal."

PROTECT SNAP

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, millions of families continue to struggle to put dinner on their table every night, and that is why I will speak about the American safety net known as SNAP, which is providing food for people who are insecure, 41 million Americans.

Fresno and Tulare Counties that I represent are among the top agricultural-producing counties in the country. It is a real dichotomy because we produce so much aplenty, over 300 commodities, 20 percent of America's milk production, almost half of the fruits and vegetables, 75 percent of the almonds in the world, and 50 percent of the pistachios. The list goes on and on.

However, in my district I have a significant amount of food insecurity. Mr. Speaker, 42 million Americans are food insecure, or 12.5 percent of our Nation's population rely throughout the year on SNAP, this food supplement.

In my district, out of 52 congressional districts in California, 28 percent rely on SNAP. They are food insecure, whether it be young or old or people with disabilities or working people. A lot of them are seasonal workers in our fields that live on \$20,000 a year or maybe a little bit more but have a family of four or five that they have to feed every night.

When we think about the farm bill and the reauthorization, it is not only the safety net to American farmers, ranchers, dairymen and -women, but it is also the safety net to 42 million Americans who are food insecure.

What we need to understand is that four out of five SNAP households include a child, an elderly individual, or

a person with a disability. I know because my district ranks among the highest in California and the sixth highest in the Nation.

SNAP is more than a lifeline. Why? Because it also benefits local economies and cuts hunger by 30 percent. Every dollar spent on SNAP generates economic activity and support for our farmers and small businesses and obviously puts food on those families' dinner tables.

Nothing is more challenging than to educate a child. For many of our children, the breakfast and lunch program in our schools is the best meal they get during the day. I don't look at this as a burden on taxpayers. I look at it as an investment in our Nation's health and well-being.

As we debate the importance of reauthorizing the farm bill, let's address the income inequality that makes people food insecure and let's sit together to try to find a bipartisan agreement to reauthorize the farm bill.

RECOGNIZING ILWACO FIRE DEPARTMENT AS FIREHOUSE OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Ilwaco Fire Department, which was recently recognized as the Firehouse of the Year by the Washington State Fire Fighters' Association.

First responders and firefighters are on the front lines of keeping our communities safe, and many of them are doing this as volunteers because they are committed to serving their community.

At the Ilwaco Fire Department, the ambulance component is entirely run and operated by their volunteers. Whether it is a wildfire or a house flood, our first responders are constantly prepared for emergencies throughout our community.

In this last year, the Ilwaco Fire Department was responsible for transporting more than 200 patients and traveling over 23,000 miles. The crucial role they play can't be done without proper funding, which is why I will always fight to bring back the Federal dollars they deserve. I am honored to have such a hardworking and outstanding fire department in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of the brave members of the Ilwaco Fire Department, and a special thanks to Sparky, the fire dog, for keeping everyone's spirits high.

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21-YEAR-OLD ANDREW OKERLUND SUMMITS 100 HIGHEST PEAKS IN WASHINGTON STATE IN 85 DAYS

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrew Okerlund, a young mountain climber in my district. Last summer, Andrew became the 91st person to summit the 100 highest peaks in

Washington State, which he accomplished in just 85 days. This list of summits is known as the Bulger List or the Bulger 100.

Okerlund turned 21 this past March, making him the youngest person ever to complete the Bulger List. He started his climbing journey just 2 years prior, when he became inspired by the stories of other young people who had competed in the 100 summits.

Andrew's meticulous planning and grit was evident throughout his trek. From precise meal planning to his high standards for climbing partners, each decision made in the 85 days was deliberate.

Andrew Okerlund's accomplishment is a testament to his dedication and strength. I applaud him for such an impressive feat.

ANGELINA RODRIGUEZ-CALDWELL NAMED STEM
RISING STAR

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angelina Rodriguez-Caldwell, a freshman at Kelso High School. Angelina was just named the Southwest Washington STEM's Rising Star in recognition of her work as an active member in her school's medical club, known as ClubMED. Her time in ClubMED has allowed her to participate as well as lead a variety of events and conferences.

This upcoming school year, Angelina will serve as the ClubMED president, allowing her educational opportunities to continue to grow in the medical field. Her teachers have shared that she excels in communication, work ethic, and spirit, rising to challenges above her grade level.

Angelina Rodriguez-Caldwell has made her teachers and community extremely proud. I have no doubt that this is just the beginning. Her success with ClubMED shows how much students can accomplish when they are given the tools to work on issues they are interested in. I congratulate Angelina. I can't wait to see what she accomplishes next.

PSP SHUTS DOWN SHELLFISH FISHING IN
WILLAPA BAY

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a recent harmful spike in paralytic shellfish poisoning, known as PSP, that has partially shut down shellfish fishing in Willapa Bay.

The PSP biotoxin is caused by a harmful microorganism that can spread in coastal waters. This spike was the first to cause commercial closures in Willapa Bay since 1997.

The shellfish industry plays a critical role in southwest Washington's economy and ecosystem. However, due to this outbreak, most commercial shellfish farming was halted for over 10 days, costing growers, their families, and employees financial hardship and challenges.

Testing requirements have put constraints on growers, and shutting down harvesting operations has threatened the jobs of hundreds of southwest Washingtonians. Imagine what 10 days of lost pay would do to your ability to

pay rent or make a payment on your car.

I stand by the shellfish farmers during this difficult time. Local farmers are a staple in southwest Washington, and it is essential that they get the support they need to be able to continue their operations. My staff and I are closely monitoring the situation as more information is discovered.

REMEMBERING MAYOR ROB GORDON

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Rob Gordon of Bucoda, who recently passed away after battling stomach cancer.

Mayor Gordon was born in Centralia and remained a lifelong resident of southwest Washington. Before and during his tenure as mayor, Gordon was the assistant chief of the Bucoda Fire Department and has been serving as a firefighter since the age of 16.

In addition to serving the public, Mayor Gordon also worked for his family's company that he co-owned with his brother, where he drove dump and log trucks. Outside of work, he enjoyed raising cattle on his family farm, collecting old International tractors, and teaching these skills and values to his children, Jakob and Anna.

Mayor Gordon was the epitome of a servant leader, and the impact he had on our community cannot be overstated. He was old school, tough, fair-minded, and at times reserved, but he always gave people the chance to be the best version of themselves.

This loss will be felt by many, and his life of service and dedication to Bucoda will echo forever. My thoughts are with his family, Miriam, Jakob, and Anna and loved ones grieving this devastating loss.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND JAMES LAWSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend James Lawson, a pioneering civil rights activist whose enduring commitment to unity and nonviolence shaped our Nation. He was a beloved constituent of the 37th Congressional District.

As a young missionary, Reverend Lawson traveled to India, where he studied under Mahatma Gandhi. It was during this trip that he developed his guiding philosophy of civil disobedience, one that would inspire a generation of activists.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Reverend Lawson led nonviolent workshops with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as the organization worked to desegregate the South. In 1974, he moved to Los Angeles and was named senior pastor of Holman United Methodist Church, also in my district, a largely Black congregation of 2,700. He preached for 25 years, leaving an enormous impact on the south L.A. community.

Reverend Lawson's visionary leadership changed the course of American history. At a time when tensions are escalating at home and abroad, his guidance will be deeply missed. He was a mentor to so many and a blessing to so many more.

Please join me in honoring his legacy and the values that he championed during his lifetime.

HONORING BASKETBALL LEGENDS JERRY WEST
AND BILL WALTON

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacies of two L.A. basketball legends, Jerry West and Bill Walton, who both changed the game in their own rights.

Jerry West was a man of many names: The Logo, Mr. Clutch, Mr. Outside, and Zeke from Cabin Creek. He was also a man of many titles: player, coach, scout, and general manager, all for my Los Angeles Lakers.

After a stellar college career in his home State, at West Virginia University, West was drafted second overall to the Lakers, beginning a career that would span over 40 years. As a player, West dominated the backcourt, garnering all-star honors in each of his 14 playing seasons and bringing home a championship in 1972.

Upon his retirement, he came back to the Lakers as a head coach, then scout, and finally as an executive, where he truly thrived. West constructed the Lakers' 1980's Showtime dynasty, which helped bring the NBA into the mainstream, and won five championships.

Toward the end of his tenure as general manager, he orchestrated the trade for Kobe and signed Shaq, leading to a championship in his final season with the Lakers and setting them up to complete a three-peat with two more in the following two seasons.

While West later pursued other opportunities in the NBA, he will forever be a Los Angeles legend for his fierce loyalty and contributions to the team and our city.

A California native, Bill Walton was recruited to UCLA by the illustrious John Wooden, where he went on to lead the Bruins to two consecutive 30-0 seasons and two NCAA championships, earning the honor of Naismith College Player of the Year three times. While I am a Trojan for life, I have to respect that.

Walton then went on to have an equally impressive career in the NBA, leading the Portland Trail Blazers to their first title in 1977 and following up that season by taking home the NBA MVP. I won't go into further detail, but he did later win another title with a certain team from Massachusetts in 1986.

Walton's entire career is a story of perseverance. Throughout his basketball career, he battled injuries to support his teams the best he could, and following his playing career, Walton overcame a stutter to become a celebrated broadcaster.

After living all across the U.S., he never let the California free spirit in