

She continued to advocate for people while at El Paso High School, and her advocacy transcended our borders. She was particularly concerned about drug cartel violence and the disappearance and murders of hundreds of women factory workers across the border from us in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. She petitioned city leaders on both sides of the border to take action to curb violence and to safeguard those vulnerable workers.

Her activism and community involvement were evident to others. She attended Stanford University for her undergraduate degree and Boston University Law School.

Incensed by our country's failed immigration policies and actions that gave rise to the separation of families, Jessica decided to return to California. She would go on to work on advocacy on behalf of migrants and refugees at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles.

Jessica was also a mother to her daughter, Leila. She raised Leila to embody her core values of fairness, equality, and giving back to her community. She felt it was her obligation that Leila be raised to speak out as a woman in our society and be proud of her Latina heritage and family background.

It was not all about politics. Jessica and Leila also had fun singing and dancing and reading books. They enjoyed making arts and crafts together and decorating their annual Christmas tree with projects made throughout the year. They watched children's television shows, like "Sesame Street" and "Bluey," and spent summer afternoons playing in their neighborhood park and feeding the ducks there.

Jessica was a woman of faith and believed strongly that we are all tasked with utilizing our God-given gifts and talents to journey in solidarity with those we encounter in life and contributing to the common good.

I close by sharing a reflection Jessica delivered as an intern with the Catholic community in June 2009 during a Sunday service at Stanford's Memorial Church. It captures her philosophy and her outlook on Christian discipleship that she practiced throughout her young life very well.

Jessica's reflection is as follows:

"I remember the first time I answered my call to service. My home parish in El Paso, Texas, sponsors a Thanksgiving dinner for homeless residents in our binational community. My family and I showed up at the church cafeteria and were assigned the task of serving guests plates of food. I was 8 years old and extremely intimidated by strangers.

"Anxiety grew in the pit of my stomach as I carried a meal to my first guest, an older woman in a Dallas Cowboys' jersey. As I placed the plate in front of her, she glanced up. She didn't speak, but there was a calm gratitude in her eyes. I felt connected to her. God opened my heart in that moment and enveloped me with peace.

"For the first time, I understood the gift of service. It has made an indelible impression upon me. My commitment to service played a huge role in my decision to accept the intern position with our Catholic community at Stanford. I was called to give back to a community that supported me in my time of need."

Those were Jessica's beautiful words. Madam Speaker, on behalf of El Paso, I extend my deepest condolences to Jessica's family. Jessica left us too soon, and I and everyone who knew her will cherish our memories with her. I am proud to honor the life of Jessica Alana Sanchez and ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing her lifetime commitment to advocating for her community.

□ 1045

HONORING ACHIEVEMENTS OF DEMITRI AYALA AND SERGIO LERMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible achievements of two outstanding young men from the Rio Grande Valley.

Demitri Ayala, a McAllen resident and recent high school graduate, has made us all proud by winning first place at the International Powerlifting Federation Sub-Junior and Junior World Powerlifting championship in Malta. Demitri's dedication and discipline serves as an inspiration to all of us.

Madam Speaker, I also recognize Sergio Lerma from Donna, Texas, who earned second place in the same competition.

Both of these young athletes have showcased not only their physical strength but their perseverance and commitment to excellence. Their accomplishments represent the best of south Texas, and we are incredibly proud to have them as part of our community.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Demitri and Sergio on their remarkable achievements.

WELCOMING HOME CHIEF MICHAEL SANDOVAL

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, today, I have the distinct honor of welcoming home Chief Michael Sandoval of the United States Navy from his deployment in Djibouti, Africa.

Senior Chief Sandoval led the boat maintenance facility, overseeing 22 sailors and ensuring that all patrol boats were ready for critical missions in the area. His leadership and dedication were vital as his team launched and operated four patrol boats to safeguard Navy vessels, maintaining a strong security posture and a 360-degree perimeter until all vessels safely departed.

In addition to their vigilant patrols, Senior Chief Sandoval and his team

played a crucial role in training local Djibouti forces, enhancing their defensive tactics and strengthening partnerships.

His service exemplifies the best of our military: strong leadership, a commitment to excellence, and dedication to the security of our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of our community, we welcome him home and thank him and his team for their service. May God bless him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARBARA SUE REAVES

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Barbara Sue Reaves, a remarkable woman from Alice, Texas, who passed away on August 21, 2024, at the age of 73.

Barbara dedicated her life to public service, working first as a city planner and a grant writer for numerous cities, including her last role with the city of Alice. Her efforts played a crucial part in shaping and improving the communities she served, making her legacy one of lasting impact.

Barbara's love for her family and her dedication to her faith were central to her life. She is survived by her brother, Alan, and his family, who will carry on her memory with love and pride.

Barbara was also known for her passion for running and her devotion to her local church, where she was active and a cherished member.

Madam Speaker, her passing is a great loss to all those who knew her, but her contributions will never be forgotten. We send our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones. May her memory be a blessing and an inspiration to all of us.

CELEBRATING ROBERT T. SCOTT, PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Robert T. Scott as he is bestowed the prestigious title of president emeritus of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Buffalo, New York.

Mr. Scott began his career as a religion teacher at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, affectionately known as St. Joe's, in 1971. Over the years, he served as a social studies teacher, vice principal, principal, and president.

In 2001, Mr. Scott earned his letters of affiliation, the highest honor awarded by the Institute of Brothers of Christian Schools, the religious order that founded St. Joe's in 1861.

Mr. Scott retired in 2018 after an extraordinary 48-year career at the all-boys high school.

Throughout his career, Mr. Scott has exemplified the mission of St. Joe's: to transform the lives of students from diverse backgrounds through academic excellence and care, rooted in a Lasallian Catholic community, developing and cultivating each student's

unique talents in preparation for college and life.

The students that Mr. Scott impacted throughout his tenure have excelled in their personal and professional lives in large part due to his mentorship and dedication.

Today, he continues to inspire all who know him, sharing his compassion and dedication to his family, friends, colleagues, and community.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Scott as my former principal and now my friend. The lessons he imparted went beyond academics. They instilled in me the values of integrity, leadership, and perseverance. For that, I am forever grateful and continue to carry his influence with me each and every day.

In retirement, he has cherished the opportunity to spend more time with his beloved family—his wife, his children, his grandchildren, and his four brothers—creating lasting memories with those closest to him while still giving back to the institution he poured his life into.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Robert T. Scott on an inspiring career and the continuation of his commitment to education and the Lasallian tradition as president emeritus of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.

May St. John Baptist de la Salle pray for us. May Jesus live in our hearts forever. Go St. Joe's Marauders.

REMEMBERING DOMINIC "NICK" BONIFACIO, JR.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of former Buffalo Common Council Member Dominic "Nick" Bonifacio, Jr., who passed on August 2.

Nick was a hardworking and dedicated leader who made a lasting impact on Buffalo and everyone whose lives he touched.

With deep roots in the city, he was one of three children born to Dominic J. Bonifacio, Sr., and Ruth Boundy Bonifacio. After attending School 77, Nick graduated from Hutch-Tech High School in 1966, where he was a leader on the field and on the court, competing on the baseball team, the cross-country team, and the varsity basketball team.

In college, Nick became involved in mentoring and serving Buffalo youth. He was the director of the Butler Mitchell Boys and Girls Club and worked to create a place for young people to find camaraderie and receive mentorship.

Nick became a recreation instructor for the city of Buffalo in 1996, while also taking on the responsibilities of being the program director and an interim executive director for the Buffalo Police Athletic League.

In 1999, he became a member of the Buffalo Common Council. During his tenure, he fought to make Buffalo better, taking on projects like cracking down on absentee landlords and creating what is now Freedom Park along the Niagara River. Addressing health

concerns, he led a project to install sidewalks and plant vegetation in Buffalo.

While chair of the council's police reorganization committee, and during his time as member of the Peace Bridge advisory panel, he protected residential neighborhoods from commercial expansion.

A baseball player at heart, he was a star pitcher and founded the Butler Mitchell baseball program in 1975. Four years later, he was coaching nine different teams. Nick even filled in when needed at a handful of Buffalo Bisons games. In 2010, as recognition for his love of and service through baseball, he was inducted in the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame.

Nick leaves behind his brother, Joseph, many loving nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Madam Speaker, he will be missed. May my friend, Nick Bonifacio, rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING TOM DELL OF DELL BROTHERS

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Dell, who, with his retirement, will close Dell Brothers, a store in my hometown of Columbus, Indiana.

I am proud to say that Pence family members have been loyal customers for half a century.

Dell Brothers has been at the same location downtown since 1916, where it was originally opened by Tom's grandfather. It was passed down to his father and uncle and then to Tom and his late brother, Mike.

The store has been an institution throughout my life, and I am sorry to see it close. I thank Tom for his work and wish him the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING JEFF CARDWELL FOR HIS SERVICE TO INDIANA

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeff Cardwell, who has faithfully served our State for many years.

Jeff has become a dear friend of the Pence family, serving as a trusted adviser for my brother, Mike, when he was Governor of the State of Indiana and as I have been here in Congress.

A graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, Jeff gave back to his community as a member of the Indianapolis City-County Council for 4 years and later served as chairman of the Indiana Republican Party.

Throughout everything, Jeff has shown his passion for helping others, making at least one mission trip to El Salvador every year for decades.

We are blessed to have Jeff in our lives.

RECOGNIZING GRACE NUHFER ON PARALYMPIC SILVER MEDAL

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greenwood native

Grace Nuhfer, who recently won the silver medal for the 100-meter butterfly in the 2024 Summer Paralympics.

Grace has brittle cornea syndrome and swims under the S13 classification, the least severe vision impairment.

Grace represented the United States in the 2023 Parapan American Games in Chile, winning silver for the 50-meter freestyle. She is also a three-time State qualifier during her time at Greenwood High School, and she now attends University of Akron.

Madam Speaker, Grace has made her State and country proud, and it is an honor to recognize her massive achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK THOMPSON

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frank Thompson, who passed away in July at the age of 84.

Frank never met a stranger and was dedicated to his family, friends, and community. He prioritized economic development throughout his career, serving Franklin County, Batesville, Greensburg, and eventually serving on the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce.

However, his favorite job was as grand ambassador at the Horseshoe Indianapolis in Shelbyville, furthering community outreach and public relations.

We will miss his joy, dedication, and fun political facts, which he never forgot to share.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with his family—my friend, Senator Jean Leising, and their children, Sharon, Jill, Jennifer, and Jeffrey.

□ 1100

RECOGNIZING GOVERNOR ERIC HOLCOMB

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Governor Eric Holcomb, who has served as Governor of Indiana since 2017. An Indianapolis native and Hanover College graduate, Governor Holcomb is a lifelong Hoosier.

After serving in the U.S. Navy for 6 years, he turned to politics, working for Indiana on staff in the house and the senate and as well as for former Governor Mitch Daniels.

Over his two terms in office, Governor Holcomb has worked to strengthen our economy, infrastructure, education system, and public health.

Under his leadership, we finally completed I-69. This success came from the work of a generation of Hoosier leadership, and Governor Holcomb got it over the finish line.

Today, I am glad to recognize his legacy and thank him for his work in Indiana.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUZANNE CROUCH

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch for a lifetime of service to Indiana.

A Purdue graduate, she began her political career as a Vanderburgh County