

proud of their son for pursuing his lifetime dream of attending Tech but nervous for his new chapter.

On August 18, 2014, Dalton turned 18. Days later, his loving family moved him into his freshman dorm, and by August 24, 2014, Dalton went home to be with his Lord. He never got to experience his first day of college nor the joy of graduating and beginning his adult career.

The night before he was set to begin his freshman year, Dalton was killed in an alcohol-fueled hazing incident. After being forced to drink a keg of beer in less than 30 minutes and half a handle of whiskey, Dalton was left in a room unconscious and covered in vomit, guarded by a fraternity member so he wouldn't be seen and couldn't be helped.

Mr. Speaker, 911 wouldn't be called until 3 hours after he was found dead, with a blood alcohol content four times the legal limit. Dalton's death was preventable.

Since Dalton's death, his mom, Debbie, has spoken out and used her platform to urge students to look after each other and to be someone her son didn't have.

In her discussions with colleges and universities, Debbie has been an incredible advocate, working to fulfill Dalton's dream of educating children. In doing so, Debbie and Dalton are saving lives.

Debbie has worked with the Anti-Hazing Coalition to warn families about the dangers of hazing and to pass legislation that will help prevent other parents from experiencing this immeasurable loss.

In 2019, Debbie worked to get Texas Senate Bill 38 signed into law, which changed criminal prosecution for hazing offenses and requires universities to be transparent about hazing incidents on campus.

In the more than 10 years since Dalton was tragically taken from us, Debbie has saved countless students and families from suffering the same fate.

Between 1959 and 2021, at least one hazing death occurred per year on a U.S. college campus. Currently, campus safety laws do not require colleges to report data about hazing, and State-level hazing definitions and penalties are inconsistent.

The Stop Campus Hazing Act provides uniform antihazing guidance, mandating that institutions include hazing incidents in their annual reports, requiring them to implement hazing prevention programs and publish their hazing policies online, along with information about which student organizations have a history of hazing incidents.

This is not only a tool for institutions to combat hazing but will also help empower students to make informed decisions when choosing between which schools to attend, clubs to join, and Greek life on campus.

I am hopeful that if we work together, we can put an end to the hazing

culture that is all too common on college campuses. It is imperative that we protect students, provide parents with reassurance, ensure accountability for perpetrators, and save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Debbie and her husband for their tireless work, advocating not only for Dalton but the countless other parents who tragically lost their children the same way. I thank my colleagues for supporting this important legislation as we take a crucial step to stop these preventable tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them for being here today.

CONGRATULATING DR. SUSAN HEREDIA

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Susan Heredia for her service to the Natomas Unified School District and the greater Sacramento community.

For nearly a quarter century, Dr. Heredia has worked tirelessly to ensure every Natomas student has access to the opportunities they deserve.

Dr. Heredia began her journey as a bilingual teacher, and her commitment to diversity and inclusion has been a constant throughout her career. As a member of the Natomas school board since 2000 and in her roles at UC Davis and Sacramento State, she has helped shape the education of thousands of students. Her leadership in bilingual and multicultural education has left a lasting impact on our community.

Beyond Natomas, Dr. Heredia has played a critical role on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and as a leader with the California School Board Association where she has been a strong advocate for improving educational access, opportunities, and outcomes for all students.

As Dr. Heredia steps into a well-deserved retirement, we celebrate not just her decades of service but the countless lives she has touched along the way.

We thank her for her tireless work and unwavering commitment to the students and families of Natomas and our great State. I wish her all the best in her retirement and know her impact will be felt in our community for years to come.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RIO LINDA GRANGE

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Rio Linda Grange No. 403, a cornerstone of community life in Sacramento since 1924.

For a century, the Rio Linda Grange has been a beacon of civic engagement and community spirit, embodying the Grange's tradition of being unspotted from the world while making significant contributions to the well-being of Rio Linda and Elverta.

From the early days of installing the iconic Rio Linda arches to their ongoing

ing efforts in education, infrastructure, and community support, the Grange has tirelessly worked to improve the lives of local residents.

They have championed causes that led to the establishment of critical infrastructure such as supporting the formation of reliable utility services, advocating for safer rail crossings, and petitioning for better street lighting.

The Grange's influence is deeply woven into the fabric of the community from offering practical workshops on homesteading and fruit preservation to serving as a gathering place for shared learning and support.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, I am proud to honor the Rio Linda Grange for its enduring commitment to the community and its significant contributions to the social and civic fabric of Sacramento County. Their legacy of service continues to inspire and uplift all who have been touched by their work.

HONORING BILL CAMP

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of my good friends, Mr. Bill Camp. He passed this week, and it is with heavy hearts that those of us in Sacramento who got to work with Bill celebrate and remember his extraordinary life.

I first met Bill about 20 years ago through the American Leadership Forum and got to know Bill's life of service. He was an unsung hero.

This was a gentleman who rose up in the civil rights movement in Mississippi and worked tirelessly to give a voice to those that had no voice.

In the words of our former colleague, John Lewis, Bill embodied that spirit of showing up, of standing up, and of speaking up.

He came to Sacramento in the early sixties and became one of our labor leaders. He really did fight tirelessly.

We weren't always on the same side of each issue, we had our disagreements, but Bill showed up and stood up for those that didn't have any voice.

Thank you, Bill, for a lifetime of service. Rest in power, brother Bill. Your fight lives on in all of us.

HONORING JOE QUATTRONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EDWARDS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joe Quattrone, a legend on Capitol Hill who recently passed away at the age of 90.

Joe was the barber in the Rayburn barbershop. He served there for 52 years. During the course of his service, he cut the hair of multiple Presidents, including George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, and the late Gerald Ford.

Joe was known for his outrageous stories, wonderful sense of humor, and love for life. I first met him in 2019 when I got my start right here in Congress, and I was lucky enough to sit in

his chair once a month every month until he retired. I could always count on his positive attitude and his steady hands.

Joe immigrated to the United States from Italy when he was 18 years old. He served in the Air Force and was married to the love of his life, Rita, for 65 years until she passed away.

He is survived by his two grandchildren, his daughter-in-law, and his son, Frank, who described his father as a "one-of-a-kind guy."

To know Joe was to love him. He was kind, openhearted, and possessed a unique ability to brighten anyone's day. We will miss the man who loved his family, worked hard, gave great haircuts, and made everyone laugh.

Joe, may you rest in peace.

WE ARE NOT A NATION IN DECLINE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, one of the most ridiculous and, really, almost offensive narratives that is out there is that America is a nation in decline. You see it on social media. You see it at rallies that are being held all across the country.

I would suggest to all of my colleagues, if you really want to see the ultimate rebuttal of that argument, then you should go visit a facility like Naval Station Great Lakes, which is in north Chicago and is the largest training facility for recruits going into the Navy since 1911.

When I was at the national convention back in August, I had a chance to stop by and visit the Great Lakes Naval Station.

I spoke at a graduation ceremony for 946 enlistees. It was just a magnificent sight. It was the melting pot of America, recruits from all over the country, every corner, every ethnic group.

There were naturalized Navy recruits, immigrants who had come to this country and gone through the immigration process to now wear the uniform of our country.

I can tell you, those recruits were ramrod straight and were totally motivated and excited about the decision they made to serve our Nation. In my opinion, that is the best rebuttal to anyone who thinks that this country is headed in the wrong direction.

Last year, the Navy fell short in its recruitment efforts. Their target was 37,700. They ended up recruiting only 30,236.

As the ranking member of the Armed Forces Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, this is an issue of great concern because the tempo of Navy deployments, whether it is in the Middle East, whether it is in the Indo-Pacific, or whether it is in the North Atlantic is really at a high, high level. We need more people, and we need more good people.

Here is the good news. In 2024, the Navy is exceeding its recruiting targets. What we saw at Great Lakes in Chicago was that, in fact, this year, they are having to defer some of the recruits that have signed up coming out of high school this year, and they had to find more beds to accommodate the recruits that are coming into the service.

The young people of this country, in my opinion, that is the most powerful statement about them, the fact that they are willing to put their time and their lives into the decision to serve our Nation.

Another indicator, Mr. Speaker, is how our allies regard us.

Here is a picture from the Groton submarine base in southeastern Connecticut, which I have the honor to serve.

Last year, we passed a measure to establish the Australia, U.K., and U.S. security agreement, AUKUS, which provides for those three countries to unite in terms of pushing back and rebalancing the security environment in the Indo-Pacific.

Crucial to that is joint training of Australian Naval officers and enlisted persons who are going to be undertaking nuclear-powered submarines in the early 2030s built here in the U.S.

This is a graduating class of Aussies in Groton, Connecticut, the first enlisted group. They were tops in the class. They actually ranked higher than Americans who were part of the class that was there.

The excitement and enthusiasm, the passion that they have for their work, but also their love for America was just so powerful.

Talking to these young men who were there that day, one of their first graduates, an officer, was at the helm of the USS *Hawaii*, a Virginia-class attack submarine, and he drove it into the Navy station in western Australia in Perth.

Again, that training took place here in the U.S., in Groton. That is going to continue. There are over 100 more Australian Naval enlisted and officers that are going to come through this process.

Those countries are committed, and they see the U.S. as really at the center in terms of trying to provide peace and prosperity, supporting the rule of law, and maritime freedom in the Indo-Pacific, which is under such great stress and strain.

Again, we are not a nation in decline. The young people up at the Great Lakes Naval Station and our allies are coming to the U.S. to skill up and uplift in terms of making sure that the mission and the values and interests of democracies in this country are going to survive and prosper well into the 21st century.

Again, I congratulate those sailors, and I congratulate particularly those young 17- and 18-year-olds who enlisted and are in Chicago and who are going to do great things for our Nation.

ENFORCING THE OFA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STAUBER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep opposition to circumvention of the merit-based process, and instead, grant Federal recognition to the Lumbee community through political means.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the representatives of the Eastern Band with us in the gallery today. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are the descendants of those that fought to stay in their traditional homelands in the face of forcible Federal removal efforts.

Some Cherokee, including a man named Junaluska, made the forced journey and then walked back to the mountains of western North Carolina to return home.

It must be noted that the Lumbee community has no standing treaties with the Federal Government, no reservation land, and no common language.

As Members of Congress, one of our most sacred duties is making sure that laws are drafted and implemented in an objective and an equal manner.

For over 40 years, the Department of the Interior has carried out a merit-based process, as set out by Congress and administered by the Office of Federal Acknowledgment, the OFA, to make determinations on Federal recognition of Tribes.

If the administration or Congress allows the Lumbee to bypass the OFA, it sends a clear message that other groups with dubious claims for Tribal recognition can also avoid the deliberation and scrutiny that the OFA petition process is designed to provide.

We need the OFA process to protect Indian Country and the public. The process requires verification that the persons who claim to be Tribal members actually have Native American descent.

Believe it or not, the OFA has determined that some petitioning groups are comprised entirely of people that can't demonstrate Native American ancestry; not a single person.

Regarding the Lumbee, in one fell swoop, the Federal Government would recognize a Tribe that would then soon be the largest in the country, and all enrolled members would likely gain full access to all Federal benefits, which will further strain the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services' already stressed budgets.

As a member of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee on House Appropriations, I am proud that we funded the needs of the Indian Health Service and other critical priorities for our Nation's Tribes in fiscal year 2025, the bill that was recently approved in the House.

That said, if the overall Tribal population covered by the services is allowed to swell by tens of thousands of