

Stu is survived by his beloved wife of 32 years, Barbara Spencer; two children from a previous marriage, Karen Spencer of Palm Desert and Steven Spencer of Dana Point; a stepdaughter, Debbie DeSilva of Carlsbad, and six grandchildren. I extend my personal and heartfelt condolences to the Spencer family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Stu. Although he may be gone, Stu's many contributions to our Nation have left an enduring legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently gave birth and am unable to travel to D.C. to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 40 and NAY on Roll Call No. 41.

RECOGNIZING CASCADIA COLLEGE FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cascadia College for 25 years of invaluable service to students, faculty, and staff in Washington's 1st Congressional District and beyond. Since 2000, Cascadia College has strived to create a community that encourages life-long learning and delivers accessible and equitable educational experiences that motivate every person to achieve their academic goals and pursue a meaningful career. Offering 80 different certificates and degree pathways, Cascadia College places emphasis on teaching students how to think critically, learn actively, interact in diverse and complex environments, and communicate with clarity.

Recognized as an award-winning green campus, Cascadia College has made strides in sustainability. The campus is managed 100 percent pesticide free, and Cascadia has ranked number one in the Nation by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for six consecutive years. Given the school's devotion to maintaining the 58-acres of wetlands on campus, pollinator gardens, and their Food Forest, Cascadia students have the opportunity to pursue academic degrees and programs revolving around sustainability and are offered a hands-on learning experience to enhance both their campus and the greater community.

It's an honor to represent Cascadia College in Congress, and I hope to see them operate for many more years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cascadia College and their continued service to inspire students and faculty to achieve their academic and career goals.

RECOGNITION OF CHARLOTTE CREMIN, SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and dedication of Charlotte Cremin. Charlotte served my office for over six years. She was one of the first members of my team when I came to Congress in 2019 and has remained a loyal and trusted advisor throughout her tenure.

As every Member of Congress and staffer knows, taking on a new role in a freshman office is no easy task. Even throughout the challenges we faced as my office was stood up, Charlotte was always ready to take on something new for the team. I tasked Charlotte with managing the health care, veterans, foreign affairs, and defense legislative portfolio. Whether it was late nights reviewing NDAA amendments, or spending time listening to and helping each health care group or veteran who walked through my office door, I could always rely on Charlotte to get the job done well.

Charlotte has treated her colleagues and my constituents with kindness, professionalism, and respect. Everyone in the office could always rely on Charlotte. She has been a trusted advisor and staffer for Wisconsin's First Congressional District and her dedication and service will be greatly missed.

While Charlotte's title in my office has been Senior Policy Advisor, she has recently taken on the new role and title as a mom. Charlotte and her husband David welcomed Isabel Loretta Cremin into the world on November 20, 2024. I thank Charlotte for her steadfast commitment to serving Wisconsin's First Congressional District and wish her and her family the very best.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JUAN FRANCISCO OCHOA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Juan Francisco "Don Pancho" Ochoa of Laredo, Texas. Mr. Ochoa is a longtime Laredo restaurateur and is integral to the culture of South Texas and beyond.

Born in a large family in Sinaloa, Mexico, Mr. Ochoa first operated a small shoe store. After creating a novel way to marinate chicken, Mr. Ochoa knew he had a successful business opportunity.

Soon after, Mr. Ochoa's restaurant success began in 1975 when he opened El Pollo Loco, a legendary restaurant chain across Mexico and into California.

In 1987, Mr. Ochoa founded Taco Palenque, a second successful Mexican fast-casual chain. Today, Taco Palenque features 42 locations in Texas and Mexico.

Finally, in Laredo 2005, Mr. Ochoa started Palenque Grill, a family-style restaurant featuring live music and authentic Mexican recipes, many of which were created by his wife, Florida.

Mr. Ochoa is an exemplar of the American Dream. It is our country's promise that any dedicated, hard-working individual can build a business and thrive.

As someone born and raised in Laredo, Texas, I have always enjoyed spending time with family and friends at Taco Palenque and Palenque Grill. These restaurants are an institution in South Texas and are a cornerstone of our community.

On top of achieving the American Dream, Mr. Ochoa is also one of Laredo's greatest cultural ambassadors. His restaurants and kitchens bring the cuisine of south Texas and northern Mexico to the world.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating "Don Pancho" Ochoa for his incredible success.

Let us all strive to share our passion for our communities and honor those who show what it means to be an American.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on February 12, 2025, I was not recorded on Roll Call Votes No. 40 and No. 41.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call Vote No. 40, and "NAY" on Roll Call Vote No. 41.

On February 13, 2025, I was not recorded on Roll Call Vote No. 42.

Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on Roll Call Vote No. 42.

RECOGNIZING ERIC KIM

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eric Kim, for his distinguished service as the Legislative Director for our Congressional Office. Eric stepped into a high demand environment and helped successfully execute on a series of legislative victories to improve national security, reduce government red tape, and improve America's financial operations.

Together, with a team of four legislative assistants, Eric helped drive our defense sector's innovation in unmanned aerial vehicles, cybersecurity, and joint ventures with key international partners, like Israel, to protect our national interests. These efforts were enshrined in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Moreover, Eric brought his tenacity to developing legislation directly impacting the citizens of Iowa, by traveling and hearing from constituents first-hand. From these efforts, Eric helped deliver as one of the Top 10 most bipartisan members of the 118th Congress, according to the non-partisan Lugar Center and the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

Ultimately, I am proud to recognize Eric's efforts, his thoughtful consideration and his kindness, as a reflection of his service to Iowa, and the American people.

SUPPORTING AUTOMATIC ORGAN
DONATION REFERRALS**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of studying the implementation of automated software tools that will improve and expedite the organ donation referral process.

The United States has one of the best organ donation and transplantation systems in the world. Still, over 100,000 Americans remain on the national waitlist for an organ transplant. Just one organ donor can save as many as eight lives, which is why we must ensure the process for identifying and evaluating potential deceased organ donors is as efficient and accurate as possible.

Hospitals are currently required to notify their collaborating organ procurement organization (OPO) of all imminent patient deaths in a timely manner to ensure they can maximize the number of organs recovered for transplant. The standard practice of hospital staff manually identifying patients to refer to donation, and then manually notifying OPOs of those patients, is not only time consuming and burdensome for busy hospital staff but increases the likelihood of human error missing a potential donor.

Today, automated electronic deceased organ donor referral systems exist at a select few hospitals. These systems automate the donor referral process, allowing hospital staff more time to focus on direct patient care, minimizing the risk of human error, and potentially increasing the number of organs available for transplant.

I am proud to have introduced the bipartisan Organ Donation Referral Improvement Act to help remove barriers to the national adoption of automated electronic organ donor referrals in health systems so we can give hope to patients waiting for the gift of life.

The Organ Donation Referral Improvement Act would authorize a voluntary study of the current use of automated electronic deceased organ donor referral technology across the Nation. This study will allow us to identify the best practices for the use of such technology and develop informed recommendations for its broad adoption.

The following organizations support the Organ Donation Referral Improvement Act: United Network for Organ Sharing, Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, National Kidney Foundation, American Kidney Fund, Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, American Society of Transplantation, American Society of Nephrology, American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American Liver Foundation, American Nephrology Nurses Association, North American Transplant Coordinators Association, American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, American Association of Kidney Patients, Waitlist Zero, Kidney Transplant Collaborative, LifeNet Health, Gift of Life Donor Program, Gift of Hope, Infinite Legacy, Association of Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation, Transplant Families, LifeCenter Northwest, Life Connection of Ohio, LifeBanc, HonorBridge, One Legacy, New Jersey Sharing Network, Lifesharing Donate Life Organization, LifeGift, LifeQuest

Organ Recovery Services, and Lifeline of Ohio.

I would like to thank the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) for being a steadfast partner on this critical issue. UNOS is a mission-driven non-profit that has led the United States' Organ Procurement and Transplant Network for nearly 40 years. UNOS employees have a significant and consistent impact on the Greater Richmond Region area, and I am proud to have so many passionate constituents in my district who work every day to support our Nation's organ donation and transplant system. UNOS continues to lead efforts to improve the system, including advocating for the importance of automated electronic deceased donor referrals. I thank them for their work to promote the gift of life through organ donation and transplantation.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you rise with me to honor the work being done to advance the automatic organ donor referral programs across the Nation.

HONORING WWII VETERAN RICHARD REARDON ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary life and service of Private First-Class Richard F. Reardon of Bemus Point, New York, as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

During World War II, Richard Reardon served with the 245th Port Company in the Pacific Theater. His service took him from training camps in the United States to the jungles and beaches of New Guinea and Luzon, where he played a vital role in unloading critical supplies for Allied forces. Richard was among a group of 10 soldiers from the Jamestown area, affectionately known as the "Jamestonians" who remarkably stayed together throughout much of their deployment.

For his courageous service, Richard was awarded numerous commendations, including the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the Arrowhead Victory Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. His dedication and sacrifice are a testament to the bravery and resilience of the Greatest Generation.

Today, as we celebrate Richard Reardon's 100th birthday, we honor his service to our Nation and his lasting legacy. On behalf of New York's 23rd Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to Richard and his family on this monumental occasion.

HONORING THE LIFE WILLIAM "BILL" LESTER SPRUILL, JR.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life and legacy of Wil-

liam "Bill" Lester Spruill, Jr., a brilliant man who left us peacefully on January 18, 2025.

Born and raised in New Haven, Bill was a lifelong public servant, member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and proud veteran who was exceptionally passionate and determined to make the world a better place for all.

Shortly after graduating from James Hillhouse High School in 1953, Bill enlisted in the Marine Corps and received the honorable rank of Sergeant. His career after serving our country began at Pratt and Whitney where he worked as a machine operator.

Bill continued his passion for serving his country by working for various initiatives in Connecticut's public sector. Bill was a housing specialist at the Redevelopment Agency, Executive Director of the Commission on Equal Opportunities for the City of New Haven, and finished his successful career as an Affirmative Action Administrator of the State of Connecticut's Department of Social Services. In these roles, he continued to fight for the greater good and helped improve the lives of thousands in our community and beyond.

Even after retirement, Bill continued to work by assisting others as a volunteer at the Hospital of Saint Raphael's for fifteen years—this is just one example of how passionate Bill was to help those around him. Bill had a presence in this world that lifted others up, making everyone feel loved and supported. If you knew Bill, you would know he believed in serving his community and always being there.

My heart and my prayers are with his family, loved ones, and friends, and I know that he will always be remembered for making Connecticut a better place.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 16, 2025,
AS NATIONAL ALMOND DAY**HON. ADAM GRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleagues, to recognize February 16, 2025, as National Almond Day.

This day serves as an opportunity to celebrate the incredible contributions made by almond farmers, processors, workers, and all those whose dedication sustains this vital industry. National Almond Day shines a light on the remarkable achievements and innovations that have made the almond industry a cornerstone of our agricultural economy and a source of pride for our nation.

Almonds, often hailed as a nutritional powerhouse, offer an array of health benefits. They are a naturally gluten-free, shelf-stable protein, packed with essential nutrients like healthy fats, fiber, vitamin E, calcium, magnesium, iron, potassium, and niacin. Almonds are known to promote heart health, support healthy cholesterol and blood sugar levels, and contribute to radiant skin and overall well-being. Few foods can claim such a combination of health benefits and versatility.

Beyond their nutrition, almonds are an essential ingredient in countless recipes and culinary traditions. Whether enjoyed as a wholesome snack or incorporated into baking and cooking, almonds have become a staple in households nationwide, adding flavor, texture, and nourishment to our meals.