

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF ALFRED ESCALANTE

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 20, 2026*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Alfred Escalante, who has passed away at the age of 100.

Born in Texas, Alfred left for California as a young man in pursuit of more opportunities. He embarked on a career as a car painter, becoming a master of the trade and a lifelong resident of Santa Ana along the way. Years into his career, he went to work for his son's Custom Auto Service in Santa Ana, which is nationally renowned for servicing and restoring Packard cars.

Together with his beloved wife Lucy, Alfred created a lifetime centered around family and the importance of living together. Alfred instilled in his children the importance of integrity, humility, and perseverance.

He also served as a father figure to countless others in his community, teaching them life skills such as faith and manners while providing them with a second chance and lots of hope.

Alfred is survived by his children Alfred, Jr., Robert, David, Sandy, Steve, and Cynthia, as well as by his grandchildren.

As he said to his family shortly before he passed, "I did not leave you any money but I left you a clean name. Protect it because it's worth more than a pot of gold."

IN MEMORY OF COLONEL PHAN  
VĂN HUẤN

**HON. DEREK TRAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 20, 2026*

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a renowned commander, distinguished veteran, and principled hero, Colonel Phan Văn Huấn of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. Colonel Huấn, a fixture in the Orange County Vietnamese American community, passed away on March 10, 2026, in Santa Ana, California at the age of 96.

Colonel Phan Văn Huấn was born in 1930 in Thừa Thiên, Huế, Vietnam. On October 1, 1953, following a national mobilization order, he enlisted in the military and attended Class 10 at the Vietnam National Military Academy in Đà Lạt. Following his graduation, he quickly established himself as a capable leader, eventually becoming commander of the 81st Airborne Ranger Group (Liên Đoàn 81 Biệt Kích Nhảy Dù). The 81st Airborne Ranger Group was one of the Republic of Vietnam's elite special operations formations, and specialized in small-team airborne insertions, reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, and deep-penetration missions behind enemy lines.

During Colonel Huấn's time as commander, the 81st Airborne Ranger Group earned a reputation as one of the most effective fighting units of the South Vietnamese military. The unit played important roles in several major campaigns, including the 1968 Tet Offensive, and at both An Lộc and Quảng Trị during the

North Vietnam's 1972 Easter Offensive. Colonel Huấn's courageous leadership at the siege of An Lộc earned him a promotion to the distinguished rank of Colonel.

Colonel Huấn was widely respected as an honest and principled officer who simultaneously placed great importance on discipline while caring deeply about the welfare of his soldiers. He was known for paying close attention to his soldiers' living conditions, morale, and recovery after combat operations, and it was his dedication that allowed the 81st Airborne Ranger Group to become known as a highly capable and battle-hardened unit.

In 1975, when President Dương Văn Minh ordered the South Vietnamese Armed Forces to surrender, Colonel Huấn remained with his soldiers and was imprisoned for 13 years in hard-labor reeducation camps in Northern Vietnam. In 1988, he was released from prison in poor health due to the harsh conditions of imprisonment and lingering wounds from his military service. For the next four years, Colonel Huấn and his family lived in hardship in Ấp Tân Thái Sơn near Tân Phú, Tân Bình District, before resettling in the United States under the Humanitarian Operation program in 1992.

Colonel Phan Văn Huấn is survived by his wife, Le Thi Thanh Nguyen, and their children, Dinh Van Phan, Andy Loc Phan, Son Van Phan, My Van Phan, Kevin Phan, Mimi Phan, Ann Phan, and Kristin Thuy Phan. Colonel Huấn's life remains a testament to dedication, sacrifice, and leadership in the service of his country. He will be dearly missed by his friends and family, and his legacy and service will continue to live on in the minds of everyone who has met him.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE  
MACV-SOG

**HON. MATT VAN EPPS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 20, 2026*

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam—Studies and Observations Group, also known as MACV-SOG, and to highlight an upcoming event honoring these brave veterans. On March 26, 2026, the Fort Campbell Historical Foundation will host a gathering to commemorate the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of MACV-SOG servicemembers and to preserve their stories for future generations.

This event will feature a panel of distinguished veterans who served in some of the most dangerous and secretive missions of the Vietnam War:

John Stryker "Tilt" Meyer, serving as the panel's moderator, is a U.S. Army Special Forces combat veteran of MACV-SOG. He served two tours from 1968 to 1970, running top-secret reconnaissance missions in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Meyer signed a 20-year secrecy agreement and has since published three works about his experiences, including *Across the Fence: The Secret War in Vietnam*.

John L. Plaster, a Green Beret veteran, served three years with MACV-SOG, leading reconnaissance teams on 22 missions deep behind enemy lines in Laos and Cambodia. He flew over 350 aerial combat missions sup-

porting SOG operations and was inducted into the Air Commando Hall of Fame in 2004 and named a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment in 2008.

Randy Harrison, a U.S. Army Captain and Special Forces Green Beret, served with MACV-SOG in Cambodia. He survived a near-fatal reconnaissance mission in November 1968, during which he was rescued by Air Force "Green Hornets" under heavy enemy fire.

Roger Lockshier was a crew chief and door gunner with the 101st Airborne's Black Angels Huey helicopter gunships, providing combat support to the 101st Airborne and 5th Special Forces MACV-SOG. He returned to the U.S. in December 1968 and has written several books about his experiences in Vietnam.

Skip Ullyot served as an Army L-19/O-1 Birdog pilot for MACV-SOG from 1969 to 1971, providing forward air control, visual reconnaissance, and radio relay. He flew over 1,000 combat hours across 300 missions, earning a Distinguished Flying Cross and 20 Air Medals, and later flew OV-10s for the U.S. Marine Corps for 18 more years.

CSM(R) Mario Vigil, also serving as a moderator, served in Special Operations from E-4 to Command Sergeant Major level, including as CSM of the 5th Special Forces Group and CSM for Army Special Forces Command. As one of the initial teams on the ground in Afghanistan, Vigil arrived early on the night of November 2, 2001, as one of the "Horse Soldiers" who helped liberate Mazar-e-Sharif and Konduz.

This event will give attendees the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts of the dangerous missions undertaken by these remarkable servicemembers. Their courage, patriotism, and commitment to duty exemplify the very best of the American fighting spirit. I commend the Fort Campbell Historical Foundation for preserving their stories and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the veterans of MACV-SOG.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF AU PAIR IN AMERICA

**HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 20, 2026*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of Au Pair in America (APIA), a program of the American Institute For Foreign Study (AIFS). A pioneering cultural exchange program, it has strengthened families, expanded educational opportunity, and advanced people-to-people diplomacy between the United States and nations around the world.

APIA is the longest serving au pair program in the United States, officially recognized in 1986. For four decades, the program has connected young people from abroad with American host families in a spirit of mutual learning and cultural understanding. The au pair program was made permanent when it was signed into law in 1997, reflecting its value to American families and its importance as a cultural exchange initiative.

APIA offers a flexible, dependable, and enriching childcare solution for American families. Au pairs become full-fledged family members, sharing a cultural exchange experience

that often leads to a life-long relationship with their host family. The program now spans more than 50 countries across six continents.

Over the past 40 years, APIA has supported over 130,000 au pairs and host families. The program plays a meaningful role in advancing U.S. public diplomacy by fostering cross-cultural understanding, global citizenship, and en-

during personal ties between Americans and people around the world.

This milestone anniversary is an opportunity to recognize the program's lasting contributions to cultural exchange, the families who have welcomed participants into their homes, and the au pairs whose experiences in the

United States have shaped lives, careers, and international friendships.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating APIA on its 40th anniversary and in acknowledging its continued role in strengthening cultural exchange and mutual understanding across borders.