

Mr. Speaker, Officer Gilbert Manglona Taisacan was a family man. He was born, lived, and died on Tinian. Brought into the world by his parents Teresita and Bernadino Taisacan. Gilbert was born on August 1969. He grew up on Tinian, was educated on Tinian until leaving for the only time in his life to attend Marianas High School in Saipan, graduating in 1987. He was active in his community, always looking to help others. It was with that spirit that he joined the Department of Public Safety and was not surprisingly, assigned to Tinian. Gilbert was an exceptional officer. He moved through the ranks with merit. In 1990, Gilbert was married and in 1991 he and his wife Alma had a daughter named Terrilynn. In 1995, Gilbert was named the Police Officer of the Year. As the month of August 1995 began, Gilbert had developed a good and meaningful life for himself in the only town he had ever known. It was in that spirit that Gilbert Taisacan was killed.

On August 20, 1995, during a routine patrol, Gilbert Taisacan was called to respond to a disturbance involving harassment against a waitress. Taisacan and his partner Sgt. R.C. Borja went to apprehend the suspect for the second time and were confronted by the suspect, who shot both before killing himself. Sgt. R.C. Borja, through the grace of God, survived the accident and today walks around with a bullet in his stomach. Gilbert Taisacan was killed.

Tinian is a small place in the middle of a small island chain known as the Northern Mariana Islands but the life and contribution of Gilbert Taisacan was as large as any citizen of the biggest city. In a small community, the presence of one special person makes a big difference. Despite his untimely death, Gilbert Taisacan stepped up and made a difference. Tinian is a better place because of that.

Accompanying the Tinian delegation to the memorial service was the Honorable Juan N. Babauta, Resident representative of the Northern Marianas, Mrs. Alma M. Taisacan, widow of Gilbert, Ms. Terrilynn Taisacan, daughter of Gilbert, Mrs. Teresita M. Taisacan Ngiraidong, mother of Gilbert, Sgt. Anthony M. Taisacan, brother of Gilbert, Gil Borja, Director of Public Safety, Capt. Juanis M. King, Sgt. Antonio S.N. Borja, and William B. Nabors, representing the mayor of Tinian.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast my vote on rollcall 174, final passage of the national defense authorization bill. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

THE COPS PROGRAM

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I rise today to talk about one of the most successful initiatives of the Clinton administration—the COPS program.

Since we passed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, over 43,000 new law enforcement positions have been funded.

In towns small and large, rural and urban, we heard from county sheriffs, chiefs of police, and prosecutors.

They told us that more officers and greater use of community policing strategies would make their jobs easier. And we responded.

Community policing has been so effective because police officers who are visibly involved in their communities are one of the best deterrents to crime.

It remains widely supported by law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

Today, we commemorate the 15th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service at the Capitol.

Their sacrifice remind us that we should redouble our efforts to do everything that we can to assist our towns and cities and police officers in the fight they make against crime.

It is simple—putting more cops on the beat means safer streets.

HONORING THE DEFEATED CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Defeated Creek Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expected nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their homes catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

HONORING THE BILINGUAL FOUNDATION OF THE ARTS

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts [BFA] for its contributions to the greater Los Angeles community.

BFA has, for over 20 years, proved itself to be an invaluable resource for artists of Latino descent. Founded in 1973, and incorporated in 1975, by my dear friend and award-winning actress, Carmen Zapata, along with Margarita Galban and Estela Scarlata, BFA has produced over 100 plays.

BFA was founded because of a need for an organization to present world drama and literature to both English and Spanish speaking audiences. BFA programs annually serve more than 125,000 adults and children for whom theater is often a new experience. BFA has helped to provide a bridge between generations and cultures, and in doing so, has brought together our community. It has become an enduring bilingual theatrical institution of international stature.

BFA carries out its work through a number of major productions and programs each year. BFA has a touring program that brings a mainstage production to California's rural areas and small towns, to reach out to those who otherwise do not have access to theatrical drama. There is also a theater in education program that helps to educate, through drama, our youth about current social and emotional issues. Both elementary and secondary school audiences are targeted and to date, over 2 million youth have been reached. BFA also presents three mainstage productions each season, alternating weekly between English and Spanish.

I also would like to recognize and thank BFA's board of trustees for their tireless dedication and selfless support of this worthy organization; Mr. Robert J. Gomez, Chair; John J. Menchaca, vice chair; Richard M. Lopez, treasurer; Zinnia C. Barrero, secretary; Joseph Arelano-Musser; Enrique "Henry" Baray; Pedro Birba; Gilbert de Cardenas; Daniel C. Carmichael III; Susana Duarte; Richard Gonzales; Albert Greenstein; Anthony Hurtado; Olivia J. Manzo; Oscar C. Parra; Vince Ramirez; Karime Sanchez; Elaine Sedillo; Martha Tapias-Mansfield; and Gregory Villanueva.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask my colleagues to join with me in saluting, thanking and honoring the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts along with its founder, president, role model, and inspiration, Carmen Zapata, for its many years of sharing the beauty of Latino drama with the entire community, and for providing artists of Latino descent with opportunities to perform before appreciative audiences.