Leroy Ellis, U.S. Army; David Gibons, U.S. Army; Larson Kalama, U.S. Army; Janice Smith, U.S. Army; and Michael Williams, U.S. Navy.

These 10 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, D.C. to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, and Marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Michael Williams for his tireless work in organizing this group visit to Washington, D.C.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOE COX

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joe Cox for his many years of dedication to the Los Banos Future Farmers of America (FFA) as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their win at the FFA Nationals Contest. His commitment to young participants of the FFA program as well as many other community activities, make Joe Cox most deserving of this honor.

Joe Cox was born in Booneville, Arkansas in 1925. During the Great Depression, his family—including his two sisters, parents and grandmother—decided to leave Arkansas. They traveled across the country for two years, camping along the way, until they made it to Reedley, California.

Once the family settled in Reedley, Joe was able to return to school. Joe's family moved around the Reedley area, wherever there was work for his father. During one year, his family moved eight times. Even though his life was at times unstable, he was inspired by his father's commitment to working hard and supporting his family. This lifestyle also sparked his devotion to his life in education and his empathy for students who had to overcome obstacles.

As Joe graduated high school and World War II ensued, Joe decided to enlist in the Navy. He was assigned to the radio operators training after just five weeks of basic training. After his education was complete, Joe volunteered to serve on submarines. Out of one hundred volunteers, Joe was chosen as one of five to attend submarine school. He was assigned to a tender ship, the U.S.S. *Orion*, and the U.S.S. *Batfish*, which patrolled off the coasts of Japan.

When the war was over and he was discharged, Joe joined his brother-in-law in the farming business. After farming for several years, Joe decided that he wanted to continue his education. He attended Reedley College and then California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo. Joe was in his first quarter at Cal Poly, when he was called to serve in the Korean War. After two years, he was able to return to Cal Poly and complete his degree and teaching credential.

Joe began his teaching career as an Ag Science teacher with Los Banos High School in 1955. He went on to become the Agriculture Department Chair, which he turned into a highly respected program. In the spring of 1963, Joe coached the Los Banos High School FFA team to a first place finish at the state dairy judging contest, and then went on to win the National title in Waterloo, Iowa.

Joe continued to take summer classes to further his knowledge in the education field. He earned a master's degree in education from Cal Poly in 1957. Then in 1981, he earned his doctoral degree in education from the University of Southern California. Joe shifted his career into administration when he took the role of Assistant Principal at Los Banos High School in 1963 and Principal in 1969. One of Joe's assignments was to focus on adult education, which eventually led him to a position at the new Merced College Los Banos campus to run the evening programs. In 1982, he took the position of Principal at the junior high in Los Banos where he stayed until his retirement in 1988.

During his retirement, Joe has done more than many people do in a lifetime. He served for 12 years on the Los Banos Unified School Board. In addition, he served as President of the Los Banos Golden Agers, District Governor in Rotary, Chair of the California Seniors Legislature and most recently National President of the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II. The City of Los Banos recently acknowledged his longtime service to the community by inducting him into the Los Banos High History-Society Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize the leadership and commitment Mr. Cox has shown to Los Banos and the Future Farmers of America. He personifies a man of principle and integrity. Joe Cox is a role model for all of us, and it is with great pride that I recognize him for everything he does for our community.

HAZLETON PATROLMAN ERNESTO ''NESTY'' VALENTE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Hazleton, Pennsylvania Patrolman Ernesto ''Nesty'' Valente, who passed away on May 15, 1938, while serving in the line of duty.

Mr. Valente met his untimely death while escorting an automobile carrying John Sotack, age 8, through the congested city business district to the hospital. While attempting to ensure quick passage of the automobile through the intersection at Broad and Wyoming streets, Mr. Valente was propelled from the running board of the vehicle when the driver applied the brakes. Despite the best efforts of his fellow patrolman and medical professionals, he perished shortly after at the State Hospital.

At the time of his death, Mr. Valente was one of the oldest members of the Hazleton Police Department in the line of service, having been appointed on April 21, 1921. He was considered to be an outstanding traffic officer and served the city of Hazleton with distinction. A husband and father of two daughters, Mr. Valente was also appointed as a member of the Lodge No. 18, Fraternal Order of Police and a member of the Most Precious Blood Church.

Mr. Speaker, for his dedication and sacrifice to keep the citizens of Hazleton, Pennsylvania safe, I commend Patrolman Ernesto ''Nesty'' Valente.

CONGRATULATING SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), Chapter 78, it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I congratulate Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana, as its members celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the parish. Father Ted Poteres, along with Parish Council President JoAnn Massow and the congregation, will commemorate this momentous milestone with a celebratory reception on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at the Saints Constantine and Helen Cultural Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Northwest Indiana is especially grateful for the unshakable faith, boundless wisdom, and exemplary service of Father Poteres, a truly outstanding religious leader. I also wish to acknowledge the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos and all the other committed religious leaders who have joined in this celebration.

The founding of Saints Constantine and Helen began when a group of immigrants joined together with the goal of preserving Greek culture and religious tradition for the many Greek families that were moving into the Northwest Indiana region. In 1913, the first worship services were held in a rented store building in Gary, Indiana, making Saints Constantine and Helen the first Greek church in the City of Gary. The name was chosen to signify the importance of Saint Constantine, the Roman emperor who, during the fourth century, permitted the freedom of practicing Christianity, as well as Saint Helen, Saint Constantine's mother, in their fight for the sustentation of their religious beliefs and Greek heritage. The church continued to gain support, and as a result of the congregation's dedicated and unwavering efforts, on Easter Sunday of 1919, Saints Constantine and Helen opened their first church building in Gary.

The church has continually been blessed with extraordinary religious leaders, none more exemplary than Father Ted. And we all recall the appointment of Father Evagoras Constantinides as pastor of Saints Helen and Constantine in 1969. Under his leadership, the Hellenic Cultural Center and the Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral were constructed in Merrillville, Indiana. Father Ev served as pastor for 26 years and was held in the highest regard by church leaders internationally, by his congregation, and by the entire Northwest Indiana community. Father