

When Joshue's family arrived in the U.S. in 1980, they came with nothing, searching for a new beginning and a better life for their children. Overcoming hardship through hard work, their son Joshue became the first in his family to graduate from a university, my own alma mater, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Despite his young age, Joshue has an extensive list of accomplishments. He was one of the first student participants in the Future Physician Leaders (FPL) mentorship program, created to address the physician shortage crisis in our communities. In 2011 Joshue showcased his leadership, becoming the founder of "A Healthier Future," a community outreach program to provide health education and medical screenings to the most vulnerable populations in the Coachella Valley. He was also a lead research and volunteer coordinator for the Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative. Joshue's dedication to community service also crossed national borders when he became a volunteer for the Ministerio de Salud, a program that every year gives free medical care to vulnerable populations in the city of Guadalupe, Mexico.

Joshue Leyva has been an integral and essential part of my District staff, committed to excellence in public service for the betterment of our communities. As he leaves my office to pursue his dreams—an American Dream—I wish him well and look forward to reading about his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER H. ISAAC, JR. FOR HIS OUTSTANDING MILITARY SERVICE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Lieutenant Colonel Alexander H. Isaac, Jr., for his 22 years of distinguished military service and to congratulate him on his retirement from the United States Armed Forces.

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander H. Isaac, Jr. has been decorated with numerous medals, awards and service distinctions. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen.

LTC Isaac began serving his nation in the United States Army in 1993 with the 3rd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). Here he served as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Assistant Operations Officer, and as a Rifle Company Executive Officer. During his time with the "Golden Dragons," LTC Isaac had multiple deployments throughout the United States, Central America, and a deployment to Haiti as part of Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY. In 1999, LTC Isaac assumed command of A Company, 2-2 Infantry, and his company was deployed to Kosovo in support of Operation JOINT GUARDIAN.

In 2001, LTC Isaac was assigned to Military District of Washington as a project officer where he designed the command's centralized Cyber Operations Center. In 2003, LTC Isaac was selected to support the Coalition Provi-

sional Authorities' staff as Special Projects Liaison between the Iraqi Ministry of Communications and U.S. Embassy in Iraq.

In 2010, LTC Isaac was selected as the Task Force liaison to the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean, Virginia. In 2011, LTC Isaac was one of three officers responsible for the establishment of a robust data analytics program within Special Operations Command as well as implementing a next-generation visualization system for the Joint Interagency Task Force—National Capital Region, a subordinate unit within Joint Special Operations Command.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Lieutenant Colonel Alexander H. Isaac, Jr. and extend my heartfelt appreciation to him for his years of service to our great country.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEAD START PROGRAMS

HON. LINDA T. SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Head Start program. Since its enactment, Head Start has helped more than 30 million families prepare for a lifetime of learning. Last year, nearly 36 thousand children in my district were a part of this program.

Head Start's fundamental purpose is to ensure that every child starts life on an equal playing field, regardless of their parents' income, country of origin, or zip code. It provides hard-working families access to comprehensive preschool programs that include nutritional, social and other services critical to early childhood development. Education is our nation's great equalizer—and few investments are more meaningful and have a larger return to society than programs like Head Start.

It's simple: when children receive quality, early childhood education, we give them the best chance to succeed. Studies have shown that kids who have been through Head Start are healthier, more academically accomplished, and more likely to make positive contributions to society.

My family understands first-hand just how life changing this program is. Head Start gave my family the tools we needed to succeed; tools that stretched well beyond the classroom. I would not be here today if it were not for the life changing resources and quality education that Head Start provided. On this 50th anniversary of Head Start, I renew my commitment to strengthening and extending this vital program, so that every child—regardless of their circumstance—has the best opportunity and chance to succeed in life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, Friday, May 15, 2015 I was away from the Capitol to attend my daughter's graduation from the University of Missouri Medical School. Due to this event,

I was unable to vote on any legislative measures on this date.

On the amendment of Mr. ROHRBACHER of California, Amendment No. 23 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 233, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On the amendment of Mr. LAMBORN of Colorado, Amendment No. 27 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 234, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On the amendment of Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon, Amendment No. 32 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 235 to H.R. 1735, had I been present I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Amendment No. 38 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 236, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On the amendment of Mr. NADLER of New York, Amendment No. 41 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 237 to H.R. 1735, had I been present I would have voted "no."

On Motion to Recommit with Instructions H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 238, had I been present I would have voted "no."

On Passage of H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, Rollcall Vote No. 239, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Foster Care Month and acknowledge the foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other community members who ensure that every child has an opportunity for a brighter future.

I am honored to be a founding member of the Congressional Caucus for Foster Youth, a caucus that allows Members to gain a better understanding of the current state of foster care throughout the nation and identify potential federal policy modifications that could improve outcomes for the children in our country's foster care systems.

In my home state of Texas there are more than 69,000 children in foster care, which is nearly 14.9 percent of the 463,000 children and youth in foster care nationally.

Nearly two of every three (65%) of children who are not placed in a permanent home emancipate themselves from the system and are often left unemployed, without a place to live and resort to homeless shelters.

2015 marks the 103rd anniversary of the Children's Bureau which works to support, assist, and improve the lives of children in foster care.

Throughout its history, the Children's Bureau has published the Minimum Standards of Child Welfare, which acknowledges the importance of keeping children in their own homes or providing a "home-life" experience with foster families as well as overseeing the temporary placement of 8,000 European children in WWII.

Before the creation of the Children's Bureau, children in foster care would often be