

unofficially formed in 1915 when a group of 5 resourceful and determined women representing each of the churches in DeFuniak Springs gathered at the request of the mayor to take on the beautification and sanitation of the town. The group, which would later become the DeFuniak Springs Woman's Club, set about establishing sanitation standards by improving drinking water and sewer systems, as well as working to make the town as aesthetically pleasing as possible. They were able to secure extra law enforcement officials to prevent the free roaming livestock, and they beautified the parks and train depot by planting gardens.

Once their original purpose was met, the Woman's Club began to provide care to women and children, a mission that continues today. In addition to promoting good health and home sanitation, the Woman's Club has taken on projects to provide food for school children, library books, quality woman's clothing at discounted prices, and, as a sponsor for the Children's Advocacy of the Emerald Coast, support for child abuse victims.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the DeFuniak Woman's Club in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating all the members past and present on one hundred years of exceptional service to the Northwest Florida community.

IN MEMORY OF ALBERT "AL" P.
PIANTANIDA

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of my good friend and community leader, Albert "Al" P. Piantanida, who passed away on Monday, August 31, 2015.

Al was not only a great friend to me, but a leader in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. Al's dedication to his neighborhood and the surrounding community will be noticed by future generations.

Al was a proud Vietnam War Veteran, serving for three years. Al shared his familiarity and experience as a member of my Veterans Advisory Committee. He was also a proud member of the American Legion Post 817 in Panorama City.

While born in East St. Louis, Illinois, Al made his home in Arleta, California for more than thirty years. Al believed that building a better world begins in one's own back yard. Al's intrinsic motivation was to inspire others to become involved in the community.

Al was the perfect constituent. He not only engaged his elected representatives, he offered his service and personally invested in finding solutions to the issues facing the community. He was the perfect American.

He was an active member of his community, serving diligently as the President of the Arleta Neighborhood Council for three years as well as President of the Village Green East Home Owners Association.

Al was the founder of the Arleta Community Watchdogs Organization and member of the Arleta "Looky Loos" Neighborhood Watch Group for over twenty-five years.

Al was always there and involved, actively participating in community events, projects, and programs. Al had a lifelong commitment to public service and improving the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

Al's dedication went beyond his own neighborhood. He was an active member of the Los Angeles Police Department's Foothill and Mission Division Community-Police Advisory Boards, the Police Foundation, and Valley Traffic Advisory Council.

He devoted his life to the betterment of the students and less fortunate—actively participating in food banks, senior centers, and schools. His tireless efforts were recognized when Al received the 2011 Pacoima Spirit Award for community activist of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Albert "Al" P. Piantanida. Although Al is no longer with us in person, he will always remain in our hearts and memories. His legacy will continue for future generations.

CELEBRATION OF THE 70TH YEAR
OF ALBERT "RED"
SCHOENDIENST IN PROFES-
SIONAL BASEBALL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the celebration of the 70th year of Albert "Red" Schoendienst in professional baseball.

During his years involved with professional baseball, 45 seasons were in uniform with the St. Louis Cardinals as a player, manager, and coach. He is still currently involved with the organization as a special assistant to the manager. The organization, players, and fans will be celebrating Red all season long using the hashtag #LoveRed2.

His career with the Cardinals started in 1945 when he left his hometown of Germantown, Illinois, here in the 15th District. He quickly developed into one of the best hitting and fielding second basemen of all time. With multiple World Series wins and National League pennants won as both a player and a coach and as a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, I am honored to recognize such an accomplished athlete who hails from the district.

I look forward to Red's continued involvement with the Cardinals for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUN
TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud that members of Congress from both sides of the aisle came together to deal with the gun trafficking epidemic that has spread across our country and across our borders.

Our bill, the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act, will create a dedicated federal statute to com-

bat gun trafficking, and impose stiffer penalties for "straw purchasers" who buy guns for convicted felons and others who are prohibited from purchasing weapons. The bill also includes important enhancements for organizers of trafficking networks that funnel illegal guns into cities across the country.

These stronger penalties will enable law enforcement and prosecutors to bust these trafficking rings and make our communities safer from the threat of gun violence.

According to the ATF, more than 100,000 guns were recovered from crime scenes in Mexico between 2009 and 2014, and over 70 percent of those originated in the U.S. It's clear that gun trafficking across the border to Mexico is a major national security threat, but our current laws are so weak that it's not worth it to prosecute gun traffickers.

In testimony to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee in 2012, ATF Special Agent Peter Forcelli called the current laws against gun trafficking "absolutely toothless." And the consequences have been dire:

On Christmas Eve, 2012, a convicted felon named William Spengler, who served 17 years in prison for killing his 92-year-old grandmother with a hammer, sat down in his home in Webster, N.Y., and wrote a note vowing to torch his neighborhood.

He promised to "do what I like doing best, killing people." After setting fire to his own house and several others, Spengler ambushed the first responders, killing two firefighters by spraying them with bullets from a 12-gauge shotgun and a Bushmaster rifle.

How did Mr. Spengler—a convicted felon—get his guns? He used his neighbor as a straw purchaser.

And this May, authorities in New York charged 10 people in a gun trafficking ring that had channeled 90 guns from as far away as Maine onto our streets in just the previous six months.

Thank you to Representatives CUMMINGS, MEEHAN, FITZPATRICK, KELLY, KING, DUCKWORTH, and DONOVAN for their steadfast commitment to end gun trafficking, and their support of this critical legislation.

IN MEMORY OF THE HEROES OF
BENGHAZI: NAVY SEAL CHRIS
DOHERTY, DIPLOMAT SEAN
SMITH, AMBASSADOR CHRIS
STEVENS, AND NAVY SEAL TY-
RONE WOODS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in memory of the four American Heroes who died in the Benghazi Terrorist Attack three years ago on 9/11 in service to our country. Ambassador Chris Stevens, Diplomat Sean Smith, Former Navy Seals Chris Doherty and Tyrone Woods. Their courage and service to our Nation will always be remembered. On this third anniversary our thoughts and prayers go out to them and their families. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

Out of the Woods, and into the light
Those brave hearts who evil must fight
Those ones who served their country tis of
thee so magnificently,