

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN J.  
AREIAS

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of John J. Areias who recently passed away at age 95. John was a wonderful father, grandfather, husband, dairyman, and friend, whose commitment to improving the San Joaquin Valley can be matched only by his depth of love toward those close to him.

Born on April 27, 1921 to Jess and Genevieve, John was a first generation Portuguese-American from Volta, California. His family moved from Portugal's Azores Islands to California to start their dairy operation. John's father put \$10 down on 640 acres of land in western Merced County, where John spent much of his youth learning how to be a dairyman alongside his eight siblings. He was the valedictorian of Volta elementary and graduated from Los Banos High School in 1940.

John had an insatiable hunger for community involvement, which began with his high school's student government and the Future Farmers of America (FFA). His leadership position in the FFA granted him many opportunities early on, one of which called on him to present cattle at the California State Fair. This is also where he would meet the love of his life, Mary, whom he married shortly thereafter. John and his brother Jess then moved on to begin their own dairy, which quickly became the first grade-A dairy in the Los Banos Dairy-men's Association. Eventually their dairy became one of the biggest and most successful in California, but they never lost sight of the role family should play in their business. John's children played the same part that he did when he was younger, lending a hand in

day-to-day dairy operations to support the family business.

John was also very politically active in Central California Democratic circles. Because he understood that coming from an immigrant family, as a first generation American, that as a part of citizenship it was important to be involved. He served as Chairman of the Merced County Democratic Central Committee and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1960, where then Senator John F. Kennedy earned the nomination of his party as candidate for President of the United States. John was also a devout Catholic, serving as the Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus.

John is survived by his four children, Marcia, Lucia, Kathleen, and Rusty, all of whom left John immensely proud of their success. He is also succeeded by his five grandchildren, Evan, Nick, Bianca, Alexis and Austin.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleges to join me in memorializing the life of John J. Areias. His outstanding character as an entrepreneur, family man, and friend will be remembered fondly by those who knew him. He was a leader in California's agricultural community and a role model for the people of the San Joaquin Valley. His life is a testament to the immigrant's story, which is the strength of the American dream. I join John's family in honoring his life, love for our community, and our country.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2016*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday September 13, 2016, I was unable to vote on roll

call vote No. 502: Passage of H.R. 3590, the Halt Tax Increases on the Middle Class and Seniors Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2016*

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call numbers 502, 501, 500, 499, and 498, I would have voted NO.

On roll call numbers 504 and 503, I would have voted YES.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2016*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 13, 2016, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 496. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 496.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 508 (Rep. Boustany amendment). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote number 508.