

Springs, California. This program covered all expenses, paying to fly Alicia's family of five out to LA, and waived the treatment facility's one-month fee of \$25,000. It was a miracle. Alicia's family had so much hope.

After completing the program, Alicia told her mother, "Mom, I've never felt so good in my whole life." She was given the option to take up residency in a sober living environment; however, Alicia's boyfriend back home was more important to her. Therefore, she returned home and again began her codependent, toxic relationship.

Alicia's boyfriend, along with others, enabled her addiction. It was a constant tug-of-war; Alicia's family pulled her in the right direction, as her boyfriend pulled her towards a life of drugs, crime, sleeping under bridges and jail.

At this time, Alicia got pregnant for the second time. However, her boyfriend left her for another girl. Her mother helped Alicia find a OB/GYN doctor that would prescribe her subutex. She moved into a shelter that August. Things were going well. Her mother would pick Alicia up every day, and gave her whatever she needed. She saw her doctor every week.

Alicia started seeing another guy, who she knew through her previous boyfriend. Alicia's new guy seemed to be very laid back, and Alicia appeared to be happy with him. On November 18, 2014, Alicia's mother, her husband, and Alicia's daughter, Alexa, all flew to Fort Lauderdale to visit family. Alicia was eight and half months pregnant at the time, so they thought it would be best to visit before she gave birth to her new baby girl, Arianna Marie DeMarco.

On November 21, 2014, Alicia's mother received that dreadful phone call from the North Reading Police Department. Her beautiful daughter Alicia and precious granddaughter-to-be were both dead. Alicia's doctor had taken her off of her subutex medication eight days prior to her overdose. Alicia's death certificate indicated Fentanyl, not heroin, was the cause of her overdose. She was 28 years old.

Alicia was a very compassionate and loving person. She loved her family and especially her daughter, Alexa.

CAIN FRANKLIN—WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

Cain Franklin exhibited a unique and joyful spirit from the very beginning. At age seven, he asked for a tuxedo and a Bowflex for Christmas. In the second grade, Cain dressed up as Bill Gates for his private school's "Famous People Day." Growing up, his favorite toy was a cash register and Cain would open up little shops and sell things to his mother. Despite excellent grades in school, Cain had some behavioral problems and was tested for ADD. The results determined Cain did not have ADD, but rather he had an extremely high IQ; he wasn't being stimulated in school and would finish his work before everyone else.

Cain proved to be an exceptional martial artist and was presented with his second Dan (rank) black belt at just 11 years old. As soon as he picked up a football he joined a league and, within two weeks, he replaced the coach's son as quarterback. Cain's personality was larger than life. He could carry on conversations with anyone, no matter their

age, and had a contagious smile. Despite Cain's popularity and leader persona in school, he always befriended the underdog. He also taught himself how to play the guitar and in weeks, he was writing his own songs. Cain and his mother shared an unbreakable bond. He was truly gifted and his life seemed blessed—he was truly loved.

When Cain was older he started using alcohol and marijuana, which began to affect his school work and his personality. He was sent to a 28 day treatment facility and later to an outdoor-education program, in an attempt to try and discourage his drug usage. However, each time Cain returned home he went right back to using.

When Cain and his mother moved into town, people started coming and going from their house at all hours. His mother saw evidence of pills and Cain admitted to using them. She started losing control over Cain's actions. She tried to set boundaries, all of which were ignored. She started to notice that her spoons were going missing and the ones she did find had black marks on the bottom. She also was finding bits of cotton and Q-tips everywhere. She still had no idea of what was going on. Once she discovered a needle, she understood.

Cain's mother began having to take regular trips to the Emergency Room when she would find Cain passed out on the floor. She then sent Cain to another treatment facility and, on his return, to AA and NA meetings. Cain's mother watched her son go from a robust young man, to a pale, skinny kid with broken out skin. She accompanied him through many self-detoxes and was by his side when he underwent various withdrawal stages—the chills, fevers, diarrhea, vomiting, cramps, and him pacing for hours. But in the end, Cain went right back to using.

One day, in the early hours, the police came knocking at Cain's mother's door asking if the boy they found face down and blue in the driveway, was her son. Cain was arrested for being in his car, unresponsive, a needle at his feet, with heroin residue.

The attorney fees, plus the treatments and hospital visits wiped out a good part of his mother's savings. Cain started to steal her jewelry and pawned it for cash. Cain also stole his mother's debit card, spending hundreds and only would return it for more money. Finally, Cain failed a urine test and was sent to jail for three months.

When Cain was released, he was clean for 11 months and started to get his life back on track. He attended AA meetings and exchanged his former druggie friends for models of sobriety. He started kickboxing, going to the gym, and working long, hot hours as a landscaper. Him and his mother would talk or text on a daily basis and Cain would occasionally come over to talk more. Cain promised his mother he would pay her back for everything and began making these payments. Things were looking up. Then, four days of silence during which, in her heart, his mother knew was not good. She got a knock on the door to find an officer and a police chaplain. Cain's mother was devastated, but also relieved that Cain's battle was over—though hers was just beginning.

Cain died July 17, 2015, and had been dead for four days, according to when he last used his key card to enter his home. Cain's

housemates called the landlord because of the smell protruding from his room; his body was only identifiable by his dental records due to the decomposition.

Cain is missed every single day.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. PACO VALENTIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Mr. Paco Valentin after 37 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Mr. Valentin was born on November 14, 1951 in Brownsville, Texas. After graduating from St. Joseph Academy high school in Brownsville, he went to Texas State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Mr. Valentin began his career with the USDA in 1979. Throughout his tenure, he served in numerous leadership roles including USDA Rural Development Housing Loan Specialist, Assistant County Supervisor, and eventually County Supervisor for the USDA Farmers Home Administration.

In 2009, the Obama Administration appointed Mr. Valentin to be the Texas State Director of Rural Development for the USDA. During his tenure as State Director, Rural Development has provided nearly \$12 billion in rural investments throughout Texas for housing, rural utilities, community facilities, and rural business and cooperative development. He also dedicated his time to the promotion, retention, and recruitment of minorities and women, as well as establishing a diverse senior management workforce in an effort to create jobs and spur economic growth in rural communities with limited resources and incomes below the poverty line.

Mr. Valentin dedicated his professional career to working for agricultural and rural interests. His passion and devotion for helping others serves as a model for all of us. Among his numerous awards, he has been recognized with the Habitat Texas 2014 Statewide Community Partner of the Year Award, 2013 Statewide Rural Leadership Award by the Coordinating and Development Corporation of the Ark-La-Tex region, the recipient of the Urban Counties Leadership Award in 2010, and awarded the USDA Rural Development Distinguished Service Award.

Upon retiring, Mr. Valentin plans to spend his time in the company of his wife, Angie, and their two daughters, Jordan and Taylor.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have shared with you the legacy of Mr. Paco Valentin, who has had the support and confidence of the Texas Delegation and was honored with the privilege of serving as a presidential appointee under the Obama administration.