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RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) JAVIER ANTONIO VILLANUEVA

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Army Specialist (SPC) Javier Antonio Villanueva who gave his life while in service to our nation on November 24, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC Villanueva died from injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol during combat operations in Hit, Iraq. SPC Villanueva was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California, while serving with the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team from Mississippi.

According to the Associated Press, SPC Villanueva, a Waco, Texas native, graduated in 1998 from La Vega High School. He then attended Texas State Technical College for two years. In 2003, SPC Villanueva married his wife, Felicia Owens, in Temple, Texas. Later that year, he joined the U.S. Army. SPC Villanueva received advanced individual training as a 91W (healthcare specialist) at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. His first duty station was Fort Irwin, California. SPC Villanueva was assigned to Iraq in January 2005 as a combat medic.

Taliyah Villanueva, SPC Villanueva's daughter, posted a tribute to her dad on a memorial website. "I love you with all my heart," Taliyah said. "I wish you were here right now because I would get to see you every day of my life. Even if you are in heaven, I still can see you, me and my mommy together as a family. We love you." Felicia Villanueva, SPC Villanueva's wife, also posted a tribute on the memorial website. "I can't put into words the pain I feel," Mrs. Villanueva said. "I hurt every day I look at your daughter's face and I see you. I find myself in a daze at times because I daydream of the past and I wonder what we would have been like in the future. I miss you so much, and I will always love you. Until we meet again, continue to guide me in the path of success."

When former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger learned of SPC Villanueva's death in Iraq, he ordered all state capitol flags to be flown at half-staff. In 2007, President George W. Bush paid tribute to SPC Villanueva's sacrifice during the Fallen Soldier Memorial Ceremony at the American Legion Post and Unit 121 in Waco, Texas.

SPC Villanueva is survived by his parents, Wilfredo Rivera and Christine Lebron; his wife, Felicia Villanueva; and his daughter, Taliyah Ann Villanueva.

SPC Villanueva proudly served America and gave his life so others could be free.

AUGUST "GUS" SCHUMACHER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a biography and list of accomplishments of August "Gus" Schumacher. Additionally, I include a copy of the Washington Post obituary article of Mr. Schumacher.

AUGUST "GUS" SCHUMACHER—BIOGRAPHY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: (DEC. 4, 1939–SEPT. 24, 2017)

BIOGRAPHICAL

August Schumacher Jr. was born in Lincoln, Mass., on Dec. 4, 1939.

—Fourth-generation farmer.

—His father was one of the largest parsnip growers in Massachusetts.

—Gus grew up on a farm in Lexington, Massachusetts.

—His grandfather and great-grandfather were farmers in New York City.

—They grew winter vegetables in glass-enclosed hothouses.

Schumacher graduated from Harvard University in 1961 and attended the London School of Economics.

ACCORDING TO JOEL BERG, CEO OF HUNGER FREE AMERICA

"I had the high honor of working with, and learning from, Gus at USDA during the Clinton Administration. He was a giant who always pushed the envelope to get better programs and more social justice, across America and the globe. He was a driving force in creating the first federal program to enable seniors to obtain extra produce at farmers' markets. He was also the spark for the Dole-McGovern program, through which the U.S. enabled developing countries to start school meals program. When the stakes were high for people in need, Gus didn't take 'no'—even repeatedly—for an answer. He kept pushing for new ways to get bureaucracies to aid people in need. Perhaps his most important legacy was pioneering ways to reduce hunger and aid community food systems and, at the same time, transcending the stale debate over whether we should focus on just one of those goals. After leaving government service, he could have taken a well-earned retirement. Instead he upped his work to make fresh, healthy food affordable and available for everyone. As a person, he will be deeply missed. But his legacy has improved the world forever."

WORLD BANK

Took a job in the mid-1960s as a food project manager and agriculture development officer for the World Bank.

He spent the next two decades concentrating on technical appraisals for agricultural-related loans in countries including China, Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Developed livestock operations in western Brazil, lent assistance to herders in Kenya and projects in the Kosovo Province of what was then Yugoslavia.

After more than five years as agriculture commissioner, he returned to the World Bank to help restructure the farm sector in Central Europe after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FOR MASSACHUSETTS

Between 1984 and 1990 when Mr. Schumacher was agriculture chief for Massachusetts, he created market coupon programs for seniors and low-income families with children.

Also served as the Massachusetts commissioner of food and agriculture; he was ap-

pointed agriculture commissioner in Massachusetts by Governor Michael Dukakis.

In 1992, Sen. John Kerry and Rep. Chet Atkins, of Massachusetts, authorized the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program into the federal budget, and today it is a almost a \$6 billion program that allows every WIC mother and child to get vouchers for fresh produce at farmers markets and supermarkets.

Gus raised \$17,000 from the state and the Chiles Foundation to create a Massachusetts pilot program that gave \$10 worth of produce coupons to WIC recipients to use at area farmers markets.

USDA UNDERSECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

USDA undersecretary of agriculture for farm and foreign agricultural services from 1997 to 2001.

Gus found that the commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act of 1935's (CCC) stated purpose was the "promotion and marketing of American agricultural products," not just large commodity crops. Gus told the USDA lawyers that he wanted to create a market nutrition program for seniors using the authority of the CCC. "They looked at me like I just jumped off the fifth floor," he recalled. "They said, no, that's not normal. I said, guys, it doesn't say wheat, corn, and cotton. 'Just write me a memo so I don't get indicted'."

In 2000, the program began with \$10 million in funding, and is now funded at \$22 million annually.

In 1997 he became U.S. Undersecretary for Farm, Foreign, and Agricultural Services in the Clinton Administration, and he wanted to try to install a program for low-income seniors at the federal level like the WIC Market Nutrition Program.

On his watch the state Agriculture Department launched "The Fresh Connection," a newsletter and free service that listed the sources and seasonal availability of foods.

SENIOR ADVISOR—WORLD BANK

Schumacher directed World Bank teams involved in major agricultural and forest sector re-structuring of post-Communist Poland. Project funding of \$450 million was disbursed under Poland Agricultural Sector Adjustment Loan (\$300 million) and Forest Development Project (\$150 million). He also led teams that developed the first Global Environment Fund (GEF). Which also produced four other successful GEF biodiversity protection projects in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Belarus and Ukraine.

WHOLESOME WAVE (WW)

Since 2008 he had served as founding board chairman of Wholesome Wave in Bridgeport, Conn., which seeks to increase access to affordable, locally grown fruits and vegetables.

In 2012, Wholesome Wave funding jumped to \$2.38 million for 306 markets and 54 partners in 24 states and D.C.—money WW uses to match the SNAP benefits that farmers markets would receive were they able to register themselves for EBT card use. Unlike now-defunct paper vouchers, EBT cards cannot be used at many farmers markets; most lack the equipment to process EBT purchases. Due to this, by 2004, SNAP spending at farmers markets had plummeted to \$2 million annually, from \$82 million in 1990. In order to accept electronic benefits, a retailer—whether it was a grocery store or a farmers market—needed authorization from the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), which authorization is hard for small businesses like farmers markets to receive. However, this authorization is recognized for its success in preventing EBT voucher fraud. WW circumvents this bureaucracy by using the aforementioned funds to create a match program for farmers markets similar to that used by the government through the SNAP program.