

case, and in January 1992, the civil war ended with peace accords signed between the Salvadoran government and FMLN guerrillas. In November 1992, the U.N. Truth Commission on El Salvador supervised exhumations of El Mozote remains by Argentine forensics experts, confirming that the stories told by survivors were indeed true. Then, everything was cut short when the Salvadoran congress passed a sweeping amnesty law in 1993.

However, last year, in July 2016, the Salvadoran Supreme Court overturned the amnesty law as unconstitutional. And in October 2016, a judge reopened the El Mozote case and began taking testimony, which continues today.

There are many reasons why we in Congress should be engaged in the search for justice in the El Mozote case.

First, in the post-war period, the U.S. has supported a strong and independent judiciary in El Salvador, capable of prosecuting corruption and human rights abuses. El Mozote is viewed as an exemplar case on whether this is possible to achieve.

Second, in the 1980s, the United States armed, trained and equipped the Salvadoran armed forces, in particular, the Army. At El Mozote, U.S. guns and bullets were used to massacre infants, children, women and men.

Third, the U.S. established and trained the Atlacatl Battalion. Ostensibly an elite rapid reaction counter-insurgency force, it was a major actor in the mass murder at El Mozote; nine years later, the unit also murdered six Jesuit priests and two women at the University of Central America in San Salvador.

Finally, at the time of the massacre, the Salvadoran High Command denied that it had happened. The U.S. embassy and State Department echoed those denials and denigrated the Washington Post and New York Times reporters who traveled to El Mozote and published detailed stories about the massacre.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. should support the Salvadoran judge presiding over the El Mozote case and the Attorney General's Office, including releasing all information in our military and intelligence files relevant to that period of the civil war. It would be a significant contribution to ending the culture of impunity in El Salvador.

REMEMBERING EDWIN M. LEE

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with my colleague, the senior Senator from California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, Californians and San Franciscans have lost a tireless champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Mayor Edwin M. Lee was the son of Chinese immigrants and the city's first Asian-American mayor. Mayor Lee grew up in public housing and moved from Seattle to the Bay Area to attend law school at UC Berkeley in the mid-1970s. As a former civil rights attorney, Mayor Lee began his career in public service fighting for fair housing and went on to serve in five different city departments under four mayors before becoming mayor himself. As mayor of one of America's largest cities, Mayor Lee worked hard to transform San Francisco into a hub for innovation and technology while still upholding the city's longstanding values of equity and justice.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Throughout his career, Mayor Lee broke down barriers while approaching public service with tremendous skill, efficiency, and purpose. On behalf of the city of San Francisco, Mayor Lee led the fight to protect our immigrant communities, build and rehabilitate affordable housing, and expand investment in public transportation and critical infrastructure projects, among countless other fights on behalf of his city.

Ms. HARRIS. For 65 remarkable years, Mayor Lee demonstrated to all those he worked with, knew, and came to serve that through humble and steadfast leadership each one of us can create a more inclusive and just community for future generations.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. He was our friend, and we will miss his wise counsel and fearless leadership. The thoughts of San Franciscans and Californians are with Mayor Lee's wife, Anita, his daughters, Brianna and Tania, his family, city leaders, and the people of San Francisco at this difficult time.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE ALSTON FAMILY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Luke and Deedee Alston of Polk County. The Alstons were recently named the 2017 Arkansas Farm Family of the Year.

The owners of Holly Springs Homestead—a cattle, poultry and agritourism farm near Mena, AR—Luke and Deedee, along with their sons Ryan and Drey, are fifth-generation farmers who are working the land as their parents and grandparents did before them. Holly Springs Homestead is an Arkansas Century Farm that was established in 1897 and has been in operation for 120 years.

The Alstons took a leap of faith a few years ago, leaving corporate jobs to return to the family farm full-time. Luke proudly says that he was born to farm, and it is a lifelong dream to look over the hood of a tractor every day. Through hard work and determination, the Alstons are enjoying tremendous success not only commercially but also in their efforts to educate visitors to the homestead about agriculture and the many reasons it is so important to our State's past and future.

As 2017 Arkansas Farm Family of the Year, Luke and Deedee will represent Arkansas well and use this award as a platform to promote farming and agriculture and foster respect for all the farmers, ranchers, and producers who contribute so much to our economy and food supply. They will also compete for the honor of being named the 2018 Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year in Moultrie, GA.

I wish the Alstons good luck in that competition and once again congratulate them on all their hard work that

has culminated in this well-deserved honor.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB BURNISON

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing Bob Burnison of Richland County for many years of volunteer service and leadership in his local community. Bob has a long history of supporting charitable activities in north-eastern Montana. His efforts have inspired others to volunteer their time and strengthened the spirit of giving. When folks like Bob come together to help others, it brightens the holiday season for everyone.

This Christmas is the 39th year that Bob has been involved with collecting donations for the Salvation Army. Over the years, Bob has organized scores of volunteers to help make each giving season a success. This commitment to helping others is commendable considering Bob's professional obligations as the undersheriff of Richland County. He has given over four decades of service in law enforcement. The vast majority of the donations Bob has helped generate have remained in the local community to help offset essential living costs for those in need. Neighbors helping neighbors is a cornerstone for sustaining healthy communities, and local leaders like Bob are often a catalyst for this type of activity.

With nearly four decades of volunteer service and over four decades of public service, Bob has done a good job leading by example. Organizations across Richland County have pitched in to make sure the spirit of giving remains strong, and the next generation of volunteers are finding the joy that comes with helping others. Merry Christmas, Bob, and thank you for preserving the charitable traditions in your community.●

“MEMOIRS OF A STATE INTERN”

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I submit for the RECORD a poem written by one of my Georgia interns, Mr. Dalton Kane of Suwanee, GA, a student at the University of Georgia.

“Memoirs of a Senate Intern” by Dalton Kane, a.k.a. “Dolvin”:

The sound of footsteps echoes throughout the halls of the Russell Building as senators hurry to and fro before a salient vote. Chiefs of staff fervently address the concerns of elite constituents while legislative staff assistants frantically seek out last-minute details of the bill. Meanwhile, back home in the district, case workers tirelessly assist constituents with their government agency-based woes and field reps travel all across the state to ensure every voice is heard. Behind the scenes, an IT guy (who's probably a die-hard liberal) labors ceaselessly to make it all happen. This is democracy in action—the realization of a three-hundred-year-old experiment that connects the government to its people. Yet, there is one important link to this Constitutional dream that has been forgotten. That link is the Senate intern.