

Rob Lares, Joe Cantafio, Neil Raddu, and Rich Sanders, and Athletic Director Vincent Dell'Oso.

The team's perfect record in 2017 is one that will be remembered and celebrated for years to come. Let me echo the words of Coach Mike Vastola who proclaimed it "a great moment for fans, a great moment for the community and a great moment for all the guys that he was proud to coach." A moment every football player dreams of, winning the state championship after a hard-fought couple of years, is an accomplishment that this team should be very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize the champion West Seneca West varsity football team. Their success reinforces timeless lessons learned by student athletes of the virtues of preparation, teamwork, and diligence. Congratulations to the West Seneca West varsity football players, coaches, staff and fans on this well-deserved, historic victory.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT PETER EWANICK

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of Staff Sergeant Peter Ewanick. He was born May 23, 1919 to Ukrainian immigrants in Forestville, Pennsylvania. They were fleeing oppression and seeking a better life in America.

Peter grew up in Evanston, Illinois, playing football and baseball in high school. In September of 1941 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, three months before the United States would enter World War II. He was part of an USMC special weapons platoon in two of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific, Tarawa and Okinawa. He was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant in December 1945.

Peter Ewanick got a job in Los Angeles as a lineman for the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, helping to build the microwave infrastructure across California's deserts and to install overhead and underground cables for the postwar population boom in LA. He married wife Joyce in 1958, and together they raised her children and their son together, Joel, in both Huntington Park and the San Fernando Valley.

Peter Ewanick retired in 1981 as a splicing and construction foreman, having been responsible for the Wilshire District of Los Angeles. The couple moved to Santa Barbara in 2008. Peter was a lifetime member of the Elks Lodge and the Telephone Pioneers, and generally regarded as a good husband, a great role model, and a proud American veteran.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with the nation and the Ewanick family in celebrating this special life, which ended peacefully on July 25, 2017.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for Roll Call vote No. 1 on the evening of January 8, 2018.

Had I been present, I would have voted Present on Roll Call No. 1.

REMEMBERING STEVE PHELPS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Steve Phelps, a life-long educator and administrator who dedicated his career to improving opportunities for students of all backgrounds throughout the Bay Area. Dr. Phelps died on December 26th following complications from heart surgery.

Steve Phelps was born on June 9th, 1944 in Los Angeles, but grew up in Oakland. He graduated from San Francisco State University and the University of San Francisco, and received his doctorate in educational leadership—a subject which he would put to great use throughout his career.

Dr. Phelps began his teaching career in San Francisco. In 1972 he started as a social sciences teacher and coach at St. Ignatius, a private Catholic high school in the Sunset District. He quickly made his mark by working to ensure that students from throughout San Francisco could take advantage of the benefits of St. Ignatius' high quality education.

In 1973, Dr. Phelps started SI Uplift, a program aimed at improving the diversity of the student body at St. Ignatius. His efforts to improve diversity including outreach to other elementary schools to encourage minority students to consider St. Ignatius, and he also served as the moderators of the Black Student Union and the Asian Students Coalition.

While at St. Ignatius, Dr. Phelps also served as the head of the school's professional development department; ensuring that teachers were able to attain credentials and advanced degrees in order to provide better outcomes for their students.

In 2005, Dr. Phelps returned home to Oakland when he took the helm as President of Bishop O'Dowd High School. As president, Dr. Phelps helped improve the school's fundraising record, which enabled O'Dowd to fund the renovation of classrooms, the construction of the Center for Environmental Studies, and to initiate a program to provide all students with laptops—the first of its kind at the time in the Bay Area.

Dr. Phelps' leadership also expanded much needed financial aid for students, helping to ensure that cost was not a barrier for families who wanted their children to receive the benefits of a Bishop O'Dowd education.

Throughout his life, Dr. Phelps demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the thousands of students in the Bay Area. His work helped strengthen two schools, but his legacy will be the impact that he had on the lives of his students, and

all that they are able to achieve through the support that he provided them.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I'd like to thank Dr. Phelps for his exceptional and distinguished career, and honor his life of service to our district. I send my sincere condolences to his wife, Susan, his children Amy and Chris, and his entire extended family.

LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Thank you to all who put their lives at risk every day and night to keep our families safe. Our law enforcement and first responders run into danger so that others can escape it.

Last year, we passed the Thin Blue Line Act to ensure that those who commit crimes against our law enforcement will be held accountable and seek justice for those murdered in the line of duty. I am committed to continuing to fight for the officers of the thin blue line.

Every day, despite great personal risks, law enforcement officers across the country put on their uniforms and carry out their duties to protect and serve. They have our backs, let's have theirs.

APPRECIATING THE BIRTH OF WILLIAM BRUNSON DePASS IV

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to W. Brunson DePass, III, and Emily Barnhill DePass on the birth of their son William Brunson DePass, IV, born at 4:47 p.m., Saturday, January 6, 2018, at Baptist Medical Center of Columbia, South Carolina, weighing six pounds and fourteen ounces.

He is welcomed by his grateful grandparents William (Rusty) B. DePass, Jr. and Susan Parker DePass along with Jane Arnold Barnhill and Edward (Butch) D. Barnhill, Jr., Esq.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JEFFREY STAMPER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Sergeant Jeffrey Stamper for twenty-six years of dedicated service to the public safety of the citizens of Kings County, California.

Sergeant Stamper is a lifelong Kings County resident. Born in 1967, Jeffrey grew up in the small farm town of Corcoran, California. He attended local schools and graduated Corcoran High School in 1985 before attending California State University, Long Beach.