

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing my colleagues to join me in recognizing these extraordinary Buffalo State Bengals and in congratulating them as they obtain their undergraduate degrees. Their dedication and drive will propel them to success, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

CRUZ SARMIENTO

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to dedicate some time to honor one of my constituents, Mr. Cruz Sarmiento, for the inspirational life he led.

Mr. Sarmiento passed away on January 29, 2018 peacefully, at the age of 95, and his life should and will be remembered. Mr. Sarmiento's life embodies this country's greatest ideals—opportunity, determination, and the American dream.

Born in Juarez, Chihuahua in 1922, Mr. Sarmiento spent his early years in both Mexico and America, but it was his dedication to family that kept him in Juarez, as he cared for his grandmother. There, he met his beloved wife, Juanita, and together they returned to the U.S. He worked diligently to provide for his family of 8 children, emphasizing the importance of education to them. After moving the family to California and performing a variety of jobs, he seized opportunity through investments and was able to retire at age 65. He and his wife flourished during this long retirement.

Mr. Sarmiento's life sets an example for all; his hard work, perseverance, and sacrifice earned him the respect of all who met him. Mr. Sarmiento could always be relied on to help others, whether he was helping coworkers fill out documents when they could not read or write in English, or when he co-founded Mayas, an organization that held dances with proceeds funding the scholarships of future students. His selflessness and dedication to all communities around him was admirable. Mr. Sarmiento is survived by his family, including his children and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His family will carry on the values of his legacy. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Sarmiento for the inspiring example his life has set, and I thank him for coming to America and enriching the lives of all around him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 51 and 52 on Monday, February 5, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call vote 51 and Nay on Roll Call vote 52.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. JOHNNY JACKSON, JR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Johnny Jackson, Jr., a former New Orleans city councilman, state representative and Ninth Ward community leader, who died on January 24, 2018 at the age of 74.

A New Orleans native, Mr. Jackson was a 1961 graduate of George Washington Carver High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Southern University at New Orleans in 1965, and his master's degree in social work from Tulane University in 1980.

In 1968, Mr. Jackson became director of the Desire Community Center and was its leader during the time of the 1970 standoff between New Orleans police and members of the Black Panther Party. He used the center to offer breakfast and tutoring programs for children.

In 1971, Mr. Jackson was elected to the Louisiana state legislature, as only the body's third African-American member. He served in the state House of Representatives for 14 years from 1972 until 1986. Mr. Jackson became the New Orleans delegation's floor leader soon after his election and was a founding member of the state's Legislative Black Caucus. He also served as a delegate to the 1973 convention which rewrote the state constitution.

Mr. Jackson was recruited to run for the state legislature by members of the Ninth Ward political organization Southern Organization of United Leadership, better known as SOUL. He was a member of the group and later a founding member of another political group, DAWN, which stood for Development Association for Wards and Neighborhoods.

In 1985, Mr. Jackson and Ms. Delories P. Francois started the Desire Community Housing Corporation Staff Christmas Show and gift exchange for the neighborhood kids. Eventually, the program grew into a community event. The purpose of this program was to provide Christmas gifts for children in the Desire-Florida areas and was extended to the City of New Orleans. The program grew to provide bikes, computers, and toys to kids within the city.

From 1986 until 1994, Mr. Jackson served as the District E representative on the New Orleans City Council, representing New Orleans East and the Lower Ninth Ward.

Mr. Jackson was a former board member of Total Community Action, Inc., the New Orleans East Economic Development Foundation, Desire-Florida Area Community Council, and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation. He also chaired the "Gospel is Alive" program, and was former president of WWOZ public radio.

Mr. Jackson became a member of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, Inc., in the 1980's. He soon thereafter became an active fundraiser for the club, which earned him an appointment to the Zulu Board. After the death of former King, Mr. Fred Thomas, Mr. Jackson was appointed as captain of the Zulu Diamond Cutters, a position he held for almost 28 years.

Mr. Jackson, always having a heart for the community, with the help of the Zulu Social

Aid and Pleasure Club, Inc. revived the Desire Carver Housing Corporation's original vision and formed the Zulu Toys for Tots Christmas Talent Show, which focused on raising money and collecting toys for underprivileged youth.

Mr. Jackson loved the city and the people of New Orleans. His legacy will forever be a part of the city and his dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Mr. Jackson, but surely we can try to match his sense of service. We cannot match his courage, but we can strive to match his devotion.

Mr. Jackson's survivors include his wife, Mrs. Ara "Jean" Parker Jackson, his mother, Mrs. Josephine Jackson; two sons, Kevin Jackson of New Orleans and Johnny Jahi Jackson of Houston, Texas; four daughters, Kenyatta Jackson Morris of Dallas, Texas, Johann Jackson of Tampa, Florida, and Jeanne Jackson and Samantha Spears, both of New Orleans; two brothers, Brandon Jackson, Sr. of New Orleans and Kevin Jackson of Slidell; two sisters, Cynthia Webster of Slidell and Cheryl Robinson of New Orleans; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Johnny Jackson, Jr.

HONORING MIKE FITZSIMMONS

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Mike Fitzsimmons, Spokane's News Scope host on KXLY Newsradio 920 for his years of service to Eastern Washington. As an award-winning radio and television journalist, news director, and talk radio host, Mr. Fitzsimmons has served the people of Eastern Washington for more than 40 years. Mr. Fitzsimmons retired at the end of 2017 and I am pleased to recognize his accomplishments and contributions to our great community.

Mr. Fitzsimmons famously covered the eruption of Mount St. Helens in May of 1980 where he spent 56 continuous hours reporting about the effects of this unique event on Eastern Washington. In 1996, Mr. Fitzsimmons held another marathon broadcast during the giant regional power blackout known as Ice Storm '96. Outside of reporting, Mike served as a radio and television anchor for Unlimited Hydroplane Racing for 45 years.

In addition to his career on radio and TV, Mr. Fitzsimmons has also dedicated his time to Gonzaga University where he is a Senior Lecturer of Integrated Media. He teaches courses relating to media law, public relations, broadcast writing, and media literacy. He has aimed to provide platforms for interpretation and critical analysis of the current fast-paced media environment.

I would like to thank Mr. Fitzsimmons for his years of dedication to the people of Spokane and Eastern Washington, and wish him the best of luck in the next chapter of his life.