

North Country Community College opened its doors to students and faculty for its first classes in September of 1968. The College's first graduating class had only 17 people, with certificates in practical nursing and secretarial studies. Since then, North Country Community College has taught over 50,000 students from all over the world and offers more than 25 academic disciplines. The College also has an exceptional athletic history with multiple championship winning hockey and basketball teams, as well as over 130 outstanding athletes in the North Country Community College Athletic Hall of Fame.

North Country Community College's impact on the North Country over the past 50 years cannot go unrecognized. As the only public college in the Adirondack Park, North Country Community College prioritizes extending opportunities to students in the area and providing them with skills to foster prosperity in the local communities.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to congratulate North Country Community College on its 50th anniversary and commend the College on its commitment to education in the North Country.

CONGRATULATING DR. PAUL
OLSEN ON RETIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Paul Olsen, who is retiring from Augustana College. Dr. Olsen has become a pillar in the Rock Island community, and he will be greatly missed.

Dr. Olsen has spent 50 plus years coaching cross country and track and field at Augustana College. He has coached a total of 234 NCAA Division III All-American runners and, 26 times, these athletes have been crowned national champions. Dr. Olsen was inducted into the Illinois Track and Field Coaches Association "Hall of Fame" in 2004 and went into the Augustana "Tribe of Vikings Hall of Fame" in 2006. Dr. Olsen is a professor in the English Department at Augustana, and is one of the most popular teachers in the entire school.

It is because of dedicated and selfless leaders such as Dr. Paul Olsen that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Dr. Paul Olsen on his well-earned retirement and thank him for all of his contributions and service to our community.

HONORING BRAD BREITHAUPT

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brad Breithaupt of Marin County, California, on the occasion of his retirement, for 42 years of dedication to local journalism.

Brad Breithaupt was raised in Marin County, where he attended Redwood High School and College of Marin. He then graduated with a

bachelor's degree in English from U.C. Berkeley in 1976 and began his career in local journalism that same year.

For the next three years, Brad Breithaupt served a variety of roles at The Ark newspaper in Tiburon, ranging from reporter, to editor, to publisher. By 1979, he started working for the Marin Suburban Newspaper, now known as Marinscope, and would go on to serve as a reporter there for the next 4 years.

He became the managing editor for the Ross Valley Reporter, San Rafael News Pointer, and Ignacio News.

After seven years of quality local reporting in a variety of newspaper roles, Brad Breithaupt was recruited by the Marin Independent Journal in 1983. For the next 35 years, Mr. Breithaupt remained at the Marin Independent Journal, where he served as a reporter, columnist, city editor, editorial writer, and editorial editor, among other roles.

During his time at the Marin Independent Journal, Brad Breithaupt stayed committed to balanced reporting and shining a light on causes in need of the public's attention. His work put a spotlight on local and regional topics including crime, community politics, and infrastructure hazards, driving the region's agenda and helping set priorities for the public and decision-makers.

Mr. Speaker, Brad Breithaupt's career represents more than a collection of articles, but rather a laudable example of the role that local journalism can play in informing and supporting our communities. Given the adverse conditions that local news sources increasingly face across the country, it seems fitting and appropriate to celebrate the culmination of this momentous career. Therefore, please join me in congratulating him on his retirement and expressing our deep appreciation for his long and exceptional career in local journalism.

LUPE FRAGA: A HOUSTON LEGEND

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lupe Fraga is a living Houston legend. Lupe and his family are well-known in Houston. Lupe is the owner of one of the most successful businesses in Texas, Tejas Office Products located in the Houston Heights. When reflecting on his incredible career, Lupe says he was simply in the right place at the right time, but had the guiding hand of God. Mr. Speaker, he always made the most of his incredible God-given opportunities.

Lupe was born in Second Ward on the east side of Houston, the youngest of six. As a child, another Houston legend, "Mama" Ninfa Rodriguez Lorenzo, the namesake of the world famous Ninfa's Restaurant, was like a second mother to him. This immigrant community with a warm family atmosphere, deep rooted values, and cherished relationships, shaped Lupe's life and career.

He says when he was a kid, he was a "little athletic" so he got a chance to play baseball at St. Thomas High School. Lupe took that chance and turned it into a baseball scholarship to Texas A&M University where he was a member of A Athletics and the Corps of Cadets. He excelled at school and graduated

with a degree in accounting. Upon graduation, he joined the Army, spent three years in France, earned the rank of First Lieutenant, and was honorably discharged. When he returned to Houston in the 1960s, Lupe befriended the office supply representative at his new job and at age 26 he decided to take him up on an offer to buy the office supply company. Tejas Office Products was born. Supplier diversity and Houston's inclusiveness helped Tejas grow. In the 1970's Lupe was given one account with Shell Oil Company. Never to pass on an extraordinary opportunity, Lupe grew to all nine Houston Shell locations and set the course for Tejas to become the largest independent office products company in the Houston area.

Lupe never lets anyone forget that Tejas Office Products is a family-run business. His three children have roles in the company. Lupe's son Stephen describes him as not only a loving father, but a trusted mentor who loves people and believes in giving back. He never forgot his east end roots. "Dad always told us the community raises the child, he inspired me and my siblings to serve, he wanted all of us to help the community."

Lupe took people under his wing and made sure to offer them opportunities like he had. He gladly introduced people into the community and helped them make connections. Because he believed so strongly in education, he took pride in helping Father T.J. Martinez make the connections he needed to start Cristo Rey Jesuit School. A quiet leader, Lupe would say, "My mother always taught me, be nice to people, not expecting anything in return. Just be a good person and do it for the right reasons."

Mr. Speaker, Stephen also told me, "Dad taught me about relationships. He liked to get to know people and be good to people. He knew about the value of relationships and client satisfaction before there were any books on the subject." He was a pioneer in customer relationship building and believed that even with technology, people want to buy from people. Even with the emergence of big box retailers, Lupe found a way to innovate but stay independent, creating a partnership with a national office supply retailer to serve Fortune 50 and Fortune 500 clients.

Lupe has earned many accolades and achievements in his life including serving on the Texas A&M Board of Regents, Chairman of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank Houston, Director and Executive Committee Member at the Greater Houston Partnership, and Chairman Emeritus of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He has been honored with many awards including Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M, 2015 Texas A&M Athletics Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award, Mays Business School Outstanding Alumnus, Fathers of the Year award presented by Community Partners in Greater Houston, and the 2012 State of Texas Small Business Award.

Lupe and his wife Irene have three children and five grandchildren. He loves his Aggies and his Astros and spending time with his grandkids. Looking back on his success, Lupe has said, "It's been an experience of people, it's not me, I've got to say that. It's about the people that have helped, the people who have encouraged, the people that have been there for you. That's what's done it. I take no credit."