

State and its people. He will be greatly missed but his memory will live on through the kindness of everyone he touched and the lasting impact of the causes for which he fought. I am honored to recognize Ken and extend my condolences to his family. May he deservedly rest in peace.

HONORING FRANCISCO MUÑOZ III

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Francisco Muñoz III on the occasion of his retirement. For more than 43 years, Mr. Muñoz served as director of the dance and Ballet Folklórico programs at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Francisco Muñoz graduated from Pan American University—now University of Texas Rio Grande Valley—in 1975, double majoring in history and health, physical education and recreation. He went on to earn multiple graduate degrees at the University. Francisco began teaching dance part-time in 1977, and in 1982 became the first full-time instructor at the school to focus on folklórico.

On August 31, 2018, Francisco retired from his positions as director of both prestigious UTRGV performing arts programs. Francisco and his wife, Mary, built the dance program and the internationally recognized Ballet Folklórico company from the ground up. His work has forever transformed the dance department at UTRGV and enabled students from all over the Rio Grande Valley to share their talents on national and international stages. Francisco's colleagues and pupils were fortunate to receive instruction and encouragement from a leader like him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent someone as hard-working as Mr. Francisco Muñoz III. The South Texas community is thankful for his work and dedication to enriching our culture. I wish him the best as he begins a new chapter of his life. May retirement suit him and his family well.

BILL HARRIS POST OFFICE BILL

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer legislation to honor a good man, a faithful public servant, a veteran, and a friend to the people of the great state of Ohio by renaming the Post Office in Ashland, Ohio after former Ohio Senate President, Bill Harris.

Bill served our nation as a United States Marine for 23 years. He completed tours of duty in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. His actions led to him being awarded the Bronze Star twice and the Vietnam Medal of Honor. He rose to the rank of Major and retired in 1977.

Shortly thereafter, Bill found himself moving to Ashland, Ohio and opening a car dealership. It is still run by the Harris family. Bill was an active member of his community, serving

as chairman of the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Board for the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University.

I got to know Bill when we served in the Ohio legislature together. While he was in the Senate, I served in the House. Bill was Ohio Senate President when he led them to enact major reforms to Ohio's tax code. He also had a passion for making Ohio's higher education system better and more affordable. But I also got to know Bill on a personal level. After Bill broke his leg slipping on ice in 2009, he was unable to drive. Since I lived the closest to him, I drove him down to Columbus while he was recovering. We spent many hours talking, sometimes about politics and state government, but mostly about family and life. He told me stories and imparted his wisdom on those drives from Ashland to Columbus and back.

Bill Harris dedicated his life to his family and friends, his community and country. I offer this legislation as a way to honor Bill's legacy and recognize his achievements. I ask for my colleagues' support of this bill to rename the Post Office in Bill's hometown of Ashland after him as thanks for his commitment to Ashland, the State of Ohio, and to America.

HONORING MICHAEL BEATTY

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hoosier artist and Congressional Art Competition judge Michael Beatty.

He has shared his passion for artistic and creative expression with many throughout his career. Michael's work has been showcased across northern Indiana, giving our community the gift of cultural enrichment and a chance to appreciate the beauty that surrounds us.

The breadth of his work, which spans various mediums, publications, and international honors, stands as a guiding light for others. Michael is a role model, a leader, and an expressive visionary who inspires us all.

Michael has always been active in our community, and for the past several years has helped celebrate the hard work and incredible talent of local high school students as a judge in Indiana's 2nd District Congressional Art Competition. His participation in our annual competition gives young artists encouragement and the opportunity to continue pursuing their dreams. I want to thank him for the time and dedication he has given to support the next generation of Hoosier artists.

I am truly grateful for his positive contributions in northern Indiana and across the country. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Michael's compassion, drive, and creative spirit. It is a privilege to represent Hoosiers like Michael Beatty, who helps make our communities vibrant and our futures bright.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, homicide is the leading cause of death

among youth, especially among people of color between the ages of 13 to 34. The Center for American Progress reported 17 young people are murdered every day in America. Imagine if 17 of our nation's best doctors, lawyers, engineers, scientists, poets, and politicians lay waste everyday due to gun violence. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, the murder rate has declined by 3.4 percent from 30 of the largest cities in America. The murder rate in Chicago also declined by 12.3 percent in 2017, but remains more than 60 percent above 2014 levels. Some cities saw their murder rates rise in 2017, such as Baltimore (7.8 percent) and Philadelphia (13.1 percent). This is the daily reality of America, particularly for urban cities like Chicago and Philadelphia. This issue should outrage us all.

Mothers In Charge, Inc. (MIC) is one organization that is here today in our nation's Capitol to inform Members of Congress of the impact of gun violence. MIC is comprised of impassioned mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and others who are committed to working towards saving lives and preventing another parent or guardian from having to experience their terrible tragedy. They advocate for families affected by violence and provide counseling and grief support services for families when a loved one has been murdered. One of the advocates is Mrs. Johnson-Speight, who is spearheading a movement to make the nation aware of homicide among young people. She works with juvenile offenders—some of whom are incarcerated for murder—using a cognitive skills development model titled, "Thinking For A Change". This program addresses the development of pro-social and proper decision making skills, violence prevention, and preparation for re-entry back into their communities.

I commend all of the organizations and institutions working hard to bring attention to homicide, and their efforts to eliminate the threat of gun violence. In honor of the many precious lives lost as a result of gun violence, Congress, in 2007, designated September 25th as the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. On this day, every year, we are reminded of the lives lost, and the need to continue the fight against violence so their deaths are not in vain.

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA AND LARRY WEST

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Gloria and Larry West of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 17, 1968 in Harlan, Iowa.

Gloria and Larry's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join