

ready to put the interests of others before his own.

Supervisor Ashley grew up in Riverside County, and like me, has had the privilege of returning home to serve the community that helped raise him. To see his positive impact on towns like Banning, Beaumont, and Calimesa, you only need to look around. You'll see medical centers, public parks, wildlife conservation areas, and fire stations that exist thanks to his advocacy.

During his decades of public service, Supervisor Ashley has demonstrated his strong commitment to positioning Riverside County as a leader in environmental conservation and renewable energy. He has helped Riverside County protect our Desert habitats and wildlife and become a national leader in wind and solar energy. He has personally donated hundreds of acres of land in pursuit of those goals.

Throughout his tenure, Supervisor Ashley has shown a willingness to work on a bipartisan basis. He has welcomed innovative ideas and treated opponents and allies with respect.

In retirement, I hope Supervisor Ashley will enjoy spending more time with Mary, his wife of more than sixty years, and their six children, 19 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. On behalf of communities across Riverside County, it is my honor to congratulate Supervisor Ashley on a well-earned retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Mr. LaMALFA. Madam Speaker, due to flight issues, I was not able to get back to Washington DC in time for votes on January 8, 2019.

Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 013 (H.R. 269), Yea on Roll Call No. 014 (H.R. 251), and Nay on Roll Call No. 15.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VICENTE "BEN" GUMATAOTAO

HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Vicente "Ben" Diaz Gumataotao. "Mayor Ben," as he was widely known as, was steadfast in his dedication to serving the people of Guam and his country. In his 91 years of life, Mayor Ben achieved significant milestones that not only inspired generations but opened doors for those who came after him.

Mayor Ben was born on November 30, 1927 to the late Josefina Diaz and the late Leon Diaz Gumataotao. The third child of twelve children, Mayor Ben and his family resided in the pre-World War II village of Sumay. Mayor Ben and his family lived through the traumatic events during the Japanese Occupation of Guam during World War II. In one instance, his family was forced to march to the

Manenggon Hills concentration camp where he witnessed the atrocities executed by the Japanese soldiers.

Grateful for the United States military's return to the island and overthrow of the Japanese Imperial government's control over Guam, Mayor Ben served over twenty-eight years in the United States Navy where he completed Mess Management School and instructed fellow stewards. He retired at the highest enlisted rank in the United States Navy, the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer (E-9).

After his service to his country, Mayor Ben began his service to the people of Guam working for various senators in the Guam Legislature and later for former Congressman Vicente C. Blaz during the 101st and 102nd United States Congress.

He answered the call of his fellow residents and successfully was elected Mayor of the village of Piti. Significant improvements throughout the village continue to be seen and felt due to Mayor Ben's unwavering leadership during his tenure as Mayor. In his lifetime, his advocacy and dedication to public service was appreciated through the various civic and religious organizations he was actively engaged in throughout the island of Guam.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Mayor Vicente "Ben" Diaz Gumataotao, and I join the people of Guam in celebrating his life and the legacy he left. A dedicated public servant, he worked to improve the quality of life in his village of Piti and in the wider community in Guam during his lifetime. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, loved ones, and friends. Mayor Ben will be deeply missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

HONORING JESSE HERNANDEZ

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Jesse Hernandez, a close member of our Phoenix community, devoted to his family and spiritual fellowship, and a long-time political activist in Arizona. Jesse not only served as a member of my district staff, serving as Director of Outreach, but he also devoted himself to the Arizona Latino Republican Association, where he served as Chairman and Executive Director. His hard work and commitment to his community truly helped make a difference in the lives of his fellow Arizonans. He served his country proudly in the United States Marine Corps, and we are forever grateful for his sacrifice and service to our nation.

Jesse had great love for his family and always supported everyone in their personal journeys to grow and learn. He was a role model and inspiration to his family: Margaret, James, Jessica, and Elvia, as well as his grandchildren. To all who knew Jesse, we shall continue to cherish the memories of his wit, laughter, love of family, friends and faith, and his commitment to the Republican Party.

Jesse served unselfishly for the betterment of others. May we continue to honor his memory through our passion and service to our communities.

HONORING L&F DISTRIBUTORS

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize L&F Distributors and all of its diligent employees. This year, L&F Distributors celebrates 40 years of successfully serving South Texans premium beverages, and I could not be happier to have such talented entrepreneurs in my district.

Purchased in 1978 by Joe LaMantia Jr., this family business started with only a handful of employees and one location in McAllen, Texas. Over four decades later, this third-generation family owned company has taken Texas by storm with locations across 35 counties in Texas and now Southern New Mexico. It is truly an honor to represent such a prestigious example of how impactful local businesses are in our economies. I look forward to watching them continue to grow in Texas and beyond.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to represent the hard-working individuals of L&F Distributors. Their success is a shining example of what the 15th District of Texas has to offer.

THE PASSING OF LORETTA JONES

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the life and memory of a pioneer in the field of health policy, my long-time friend, colleague and fellow organizer, Dr. Loretta Jones, who passed away on November 22.

She was a founding member of the Community Coalition for substance abuse Prevention and Treatment. In fact, she was the first staff person hired and developed the Coalition's Prevention Network. That network brought together social service providers from South LA to address substance abuse in the community.

Loretta had a towering passion for justice and a caregiver's attention to detail. She founded Healthy African American Families (HAAF) in the wake of the 1992 Los Angeles uprising to engage universities, think tanks, and community members together to seek solutions to longstanding health problems, including the scourge of pre-term births in the African American community. For this work she received two honorary doctorates and, last year, she received the UCLA Medal, the university's highest honor, for her career of working to address inequalities in health and health outcomes.

She is best known for co-developing methods that give underserved communities a greater role in planning and implementing academic research. Community-Partnered Participatory Research (CPPR) calls for transparency, accountability and equal power-sharing between academics and communities. In 2007, with UCLA professor Kenneth Wells, she published the CCPR model in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

In doing so, she demonstrated another tenet of CPPR—that community members co-author research publications alongside academics.