

ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate April as National Arab American Heritage Month to recognize the tremendous contributions Arab Americans have made to our great nation. Arab Americans have been, and continue to be, an invaluable part of our American life.

Arab American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of people in the United States with Middle Eastern roots as well as for the public to become informed about the history of Arab Americans in the U.S.

Arab Americans are among the most loyal and patriotic Americans and have positively impacted communities throughout America with contributions to the medical field, agriculture sector, law, business, education, the entertainment industry, politics and beyond.

While celebrating their rich cultural heritage and embracing resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed, Arab Americans have added strength to our democracy.

While many unfairly perceive Arab Americans as unknown or unfamiliar, Arab Americans first began to arrive on American shores in the late 1800s. About half of the estimated 3,700,000 Arab Americans living in the United States were born in the U.S., according to the 2000 U.S. Census and the Arab American Institute.

Arab Americans join all citizens in the desire to see a peaceful and diverse society, where every individual is treated equally and feels safe. Celebrating Arab American Heritage Month allows us to promote public education, awareness, and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being Arab American in all aspects of American society.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to represent the Arab American constituents in my district, many of whom I call friends, and to recognize the incredible contributions and heritage of Arab Americans who have helped us build a better nation.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
CONCERNED MEN COOK**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Concerned Men Cook on their 25th Anniversary. Since its founding by former Merced County Assistant Superintendent Denard Davis, Concerned Men Cook has provided an opportunity for members of the community to break bread while raising money for scholarship funds for local schools in Merced.

As an educator deeply involved in multiple community organizations, Mr. Davis started Concerned Men Cook after participating in the Men's Cook competition in Los Angeles. Using his connections from the multiple organiza-

tions he was involved with, Mr. Davis brought together educators, businesses, and community organizations to host a competition to fundraise money for scholarships for Merced County students.

Mr. Davis was also a founding member of the Black Businessmen and Black Educators of Merced County and president of an African-American investment group that provided affordable housing to the residents of South Merced. Though he passed away in 2015, the Concerned Men Cook competition is one of many ways his legacy continues to positively impact Merced County.

Since its founding 25 years ago, Concerned Men Cook has expanded to consist of five avenues in the competition, all of which are aligned with local men from throughout the community. It is now held on every fourth Sunday of April at the Merced Civic Center and continues to be a successful fundraiser for local scholarship funds.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Concerned Men Cook. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor them as they celebrate their 25th year. I wish them the best as they continue to bring together members of the community to raise money for our students.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEVIN THIEL
ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT
TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE ACADEMY**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Devin Thiel of Edgerton, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Devin's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Devin brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Edgerton High School in Edgerton, Ohio, Devin was a member of the National Honor Society, Scholar Athlete Award recipient, and All-A Honor Roll, while ranking second in his class.

Throughout high school, Devin was involved with wrestling, cross country, football and track among other extracurricular activities. I am confident that Devin will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Devin Thiel on his offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Devin will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my

colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ALFONSO MATANANE
PANGELINAN**HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Alfonso Matanane Pangelinan. Alfonso was a proud son of Guam and faithful public servant who served honorably in the United States Army. Alfonso was born on October 22, 1927 and passed away on April 17, 2019 at the age of 91.

His legacy is highlighted through the various positions he held in public office. Alfonso served as Assistant Commissioner of the village of Sinajana from 1965 to 1967 and then as Commissioner of the Village from 1968 to 1973. Alfonso was a member of the Sinajana Civic Improvement Club in the 1960s and later served as Director of the Passport Office from 1983 to 1986.

After his retirement from public office, Alfonso remained active in the community. He was an early advocate for the return of Chamorro lands and federal excess lands to their original landowners. He remained a devoted son, father, and grandfather, passing down knowledge and traditions to the generations after him. He was the son of Vicente Santos and Ana Matanane Pangelinan of Machanao and Ritidian.

Alfonso was fondly known to play the bass guitar with other notable Guam musicians, playing at weddings, fiestas, and family gatherings across the island. He had since shared his talent and love of music by teaching several of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren the art of playing the instrument.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Alfonso Matanane Pangelinan. I join the people of Guam in celebrating his life and the legacy he leaves behind. He was a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in his village of Sinajana and the broader island community during and after his time in office. My prayers are with his family, loved ones, and friends as they remember their lives with Alfonso and the memories they individually shared.

I extend my condolences to his children, Evangeline P. Flores, Janet P. Leon Guerrero, Michael C. Pangelinan, Donald C. Pangelinan, and Rosalyn P. Ochoco, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be deeply missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF SUZANNE GIRARD BURNETTE**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the retirement of Suzanne Girard Burnette.