

Mr. Augustus for his life and we keep his friends and loved ones near and dear to our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Franklin Augustus.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER VANG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Mr. Peter Vang. Peter passed away on Friday, May 18, 2019 in Clovis, California. He was a beloved and well-respected member of the community, and he will be missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him.

Peter was born on January 20, 1960 in Laos and immigrated to the United States with his family as a refugee after the Vietnam War. He was an embodiment of the American Dream. Peter and his family came to settle in the United States to start a new beginning. His own experiences as a refugee motivated Peter to help those in the Southeast Asian community assimilate to life in the United States. Peter loved the United States and became a naturalized citizen. He was very proud of this accomplishment.

Peter served as the Executive Director of the Lao Veterans of America, Inc., in Fresno, California where he helped the Lao and Hmong soldiers who fought in the Special Guerrilla Unit (SGU) during the Vietnam War. Peter was a driving force in assisting my office with the creation of the Hmong Burial legislation that became Public Law 115–141 on March 23, 2018.

Peter was a hard-working individual who dedicated his life to serving others. During his career, Peter worked for the Fresno County Department of Social Services for over 21 years, until his retirement in 2015. He also spent many years with the Lao Family Community of Fresno. In addition to his professional career, Peter served on numerous community boards and committees and received awards and recognitions during his lifetime. It was most fitting and appropriate that I appointed Peter to the Fresno County Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), where he served with distinction as a commissioner for 22 years. His service to the community will not be forgotten.

Peter was preceded by his mother, See Yang and by his son, Richard Vang.

Peter is survived by his son, Billy Vang who is currently serving in the U.S. Army, stationed in Okinawa, Japan, Billy's wife, Ryoko Vang and their child, Haruka Vang; his daughter, Sarah Vang; his daughter, Mindy Ruz, her husband, Anthony and their children, Valerie and Audrey Ruz; his daughter, Sylvia Phillips, her husband, Matthew and their children, Andrew and Charlotte Phillips; his father, WaCheng Vang; brother, Yeu Vang; sisters, Kaying Moua, Mee Vue and Betty Vang-Do, a long with his nephew and nieces. Peter was a wonderful son, brother, father, uncle and grandfather.

I will remember Peter's good humor, his willingness to always help, his calming demeanor and his smile. He was a great friend and advi-

sor. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life and career of Peter Vang, a hero to his family, a wonderful role model for his children and grandchildren, his siblings and friends and an exemplary member of the community.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES "JIM"
ALBERT CULLUM, JR.

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of jazz legend Jim Cullum, Jr. who passed on August 11, 2019. Mr. Cullum hails from my hometown of San Antonio. For 60 years he exemplified what it means to be an artist. He is survived by his longtime companion, Donna Cloud; sister, Mary Conoly Hester; children, Bonnie Cullum, Blanquita Sullivan, Lené Conner-Foley, Chris Cullum, James Cullum, Katie Cullum, and Catlin Cloud; and six grandchildren. Although the San Antonio and Jazz community will mourn the loss of Jim Cullum, Jr., his impact will endure for many years to come.

James "Jim" Albert Cullum, Jr. was born on September 20, 1941 to James Albert Cullum and Conoly Prendergast Cullum. At an early age he was drawn to music, listening to his father's records and who was a well-respected jazz clarinetist and saxophonist. In 1953, the family moved to San Antonio from Dallas.

In 1963, the Cullum family established the Landing Jazz Club in the basement of the Nix Hospital, becoming the first nightclub on San Antonio's historic Riverwalk. For decades, the Landing played six nights a week until the passing of Jim Cullum, Sr. Shortly after, the band renamed itself the Jim Cullum Band. Since then, the band performed over 300 jazz masses across the United States. The band and its members became ambassadors of the City of San Antonio, and played in venues like the Carnegie Hall, Austin City Limits, the White House, and the Kennedy Center.

Jim Cullum carried his performances throughout the world and taught music workshops locally. He served as the president of the San Francisco Traditional Jazz Foundation and created the Cullum Riverwalk Jazz radio program, syndicated on National Public Radio broadcasting. The weekly program reached across 200 stations for 25 years.

Cullum was a historian at heart. He dedicated much of his time advocating for the preservation of San Antonio's historic sites. He was known to live by the Golden Rule, holding strong convictions of integrity and respect. Notably, he inspired many to pursue their interest in music and would bring light into every room he occupied.

A mentor, artist, and activist are just a few words to describe such a remarkable individual. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand and recognize this brilliant bohemian who dedicated his life to music and community. He will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING ELI PANNELL ON WINNING ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION'S CLASS 1A STATE FINALS BOYS WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eli Pannell, a senior from Fulton High School, who won the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A State Finals Boys Wrestling Tournament.

Eli Pannell finished his final year at Fulton High school with 34 victories, a record single-season. He won the finals by pinning his opponent in 5 minutes 3 seconds. Due to his victory he not only won the State Finals, but holds multiple records at Fulton. As a former athlete, I appreciate the fortitude Eli displayed to achieve his dream of being a state champion and commend him for his determination and attitude. Eli is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Fulton so well throughout the state.

It is because of student leaders such as Eli that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Eli Pannell on his Class 1A State Finals title in Wrestling.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENIAL OF THE WALDORF EDUCATION SYSTEM

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Waldorf education system.

The first Waldorf school was established in 1919 in Stuttgart, Germany to reflect the principles of education outlined by Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian philosopher, artist, and scientist. These principles aim to nurture the needs of growing children from preschool through twelfth grade and enable them to fully develop their intellectual, artistic, emotional, and physical skills. A Waldorf education allows children to experience music, theater, literature, and writing in unique ways that help them cultivate their imagination and creativity and truly be confident of their place in the world.

The Waldorf Education system plays an important role in our community. Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor, one of the over 160 Waldorf schools across North America, opened its doors in 1980, beginning as a school for grades one through four. Since then, the school has significantly transformed. Today, Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor offers a complete pre-k to 12th grade program and continues to encourage students to take risks, be passionate, and strive to reach their personal goals. Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor is truly dedicated to inspiring our nation's next generation and preparing them to tackle life with confidence, self-knowledge, and a true understanding of the world.