

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF KENNETH ABRAHAMIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of Mr. Kenneth Abrahamian. Kenneth was a distinguished military veteran and community member in Fresno, California. He will be greatly missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Kenneth was born on November 21, 1923 to Abraham and Aurora Abrahamian, Armenian immigrants who came to the United States in search of the American dream. He was raised in Rolinda, California, where hard work was instilled in him from a young age. Kenneth graduated from Central Union High School in 1941 and began working at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California. He worked on building WWII submarines, before enlisting in the United States Navy at the age of 18. He served on the USS *Spangler* and USS *Ajax*.

After returning home from military service, he met and married the love of his life, Isabelle Zadurian. They were happily married for 72 years and were parents to three children. Kenneth began to farm during the day and attended night school to become a plumber. Throughout his career, he worked on numerous projects throughout the Central Valley, such as the San Louis Project, Balsam Meadows Hydroelectric Project and was a proud member of Local 246 for 70 years. However, as his farming operation expanded, he eventually returned to farming full time.

Kenneth was active in the Kearney Park community. He forged many lifelong friendships and was well-liked and respected. Kenneth was a proud member in his church, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church. Madam Speaker, I would like to note the Abrahamian family were dear friends of my parents and me. As a young boy, I have fond memories of spending time with their family and growing up with their children. It was also a pleasure to be able to be a part of what Kenneth called "a trip of a lifetime," in which he traveled to Washington, DC, for the Central Valley Honor Flight. My office also worked to secure his well-earned medals from his time in the service.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his infant son, and brothers, Gabriel, Leon, and Richard. He is survived by his wife, Isabelle, their children Jeanette, Patricia, and Kenneth, his grandchildren, great-grandson and many beloved friends and family members.

Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Kenneth Abrahamian. It is my honor to join his family and many friends in celebrating his life.

IN HONOR OF NICK BUONICONTI

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my friend Nick Buoniconti, the hu-

manitarian and football legend who contributed to two Miami Dolphins Super Bowl wins in the 1970s. He passed away on July 30, 2019, at the age of 78.

Mr. Buoniconti grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts, before enrolling in Notre Dame, where he began his football career. Small for the N.F.L., he began playing for the American Football League (A.F.L.) in 1962. An ambitious student as well as an excellent athlete, he studied at the Suffolk University School of Law in Boston during his tenure with the Patriots, graduating with his law degree in 1968.

Mr. Buoniconti was traded to the Miami Dolphins in 1969. After the A.F.L. and N.F.L. merged, he helped the Dolphins win the Super Bowl VII, capping off a season in which the team went undefeated. The Dolphins continued to dominate the next year, winning the following Super Bowl as well. Mr. Buoniconti played with the team through 1976, when he retired from professional football.

In 1985, Mr. Buoniconti's son Marc sustained a spinal cord injury in a college football game that left him paralyzed from the neck down. Mr. Buoniconti left his job at U.S. Tobacco to focus on his son's health and support the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, of which Marc Buoniconti currently serves as president. The Miami Project is a Center of Excellence at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where I have seen the groundbreaking research it has supported in the fields of spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. Mr. Buoniconti and his family also founded the Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis, which has raised over \$500 million in support of the Miami Project's research objectives.

Nick Buoniconti dedicated his life to excellence, both in his football career and in his work with the Miami Project. His influence will be felt in Miami for years to come. We will remember him with love and pride.

RECOGNIZING LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS WATER CHALLENGE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the League of Women Voters of JoDaviess County for winning the Water Quality Challenge put on by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The League of Women Voters won this challenge by showing how an edge-of-field sensor system could support farmers in reducing nitrogen loss from their fields.

The League of Women Voters worked to combat one of the most challenging water quality problems in our nation. In doing so, they identified creative ways to use low-cost tools to understand our resources and better advise nutrient management decisions. The installed sensors provide real-time data to best inform and guide farm-scale management decisions. They showed innovation, passion, and a drive to help our environment. Participation in this challenge strengthened the connections between scientists, advocates, and farmers in JoDaviess County and Northwest Illinois. The prize will be used to continue to build a model of cooperative problem-solving and improve water quality in the Driftless Area of Northwest Illinois.

It is because of community leaders such as the League of Women Voters of Illinois that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Illinois League of Women Voters on their initiative in the Water Quality Challenge put on by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNI-
VERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN
AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDU-
CATION ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill similar to one I have introduced in six previous Congresses, the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2019. My bill would establish and expand prekindergarten programs in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-old children. The District of Columbia has made considerable strides since I first introduced this bill, but today's bill is still needed for the nation to fill a gap in the "Every Student Succeeds Act," which addresses elementary and secondary education, but ignores the prekindergarten years, the most critical years for children's brain development.

My bill seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing funding for states to add prekindergarten for children at three and four years of age, like kindergarten programs for five-year-olds now routinely available in public schools. This bill would eliminate major shortcomings of unevenly available "day care" and, importantly, would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools. Unless early education becomes a necessary part of a child's education, it almost surely will continue to be unavailable to the majority of families with children.

My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent of a state's own funds; to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds, regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique money-saving aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public-school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all, saving billions of dollars for its implementation.

The success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandate the expansion of early childhood education to all children today. Early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to some low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by my bill. My bill provides a practical way to universal, public preschool education for the majority of families. The goal of the bill is to afford the benefits of early childhood education