

In 75 years of service, Riviera Presbyterian has shown inspiration and love to whoever walks into the church, regardless of culture and background. Riviera Presbyterian was the first Anglo Presbyterian congregation to welcome a black man into pastoral leadership and ordained the first woman of the Presbyterian Church in South Florida. May the church continue to break barriers while assisting our beautiful community.

I'm deeply grateful to Riviera Presbyterian Church for its hard work and dedication to the Miami community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2020

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on January 29 and January 30 due to joining U.S. Surgeon General VADM Jerome Adams while touring healthcare facilities across the First District. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 29; YEA on Roll Call No. 30; NAY on Roll Call No. 31; YEA on Roll Call No. 32; NAY on Roll Call No. 33; and NAY on Roll Call No. 34.

HONORING MR. RONALD EDWARDS

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2020

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a prominent Civil Rights activist, leader and advocate Ronald Edwards. He truly loved Minneapolis and is deeply appreciated and treasured by the people of Minneapolis.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, during the Jim Crow segregation era, Mr. Edwards had early experiences of racial inequality growing up in the south. Mr. Edwards moved to the Twin Cities with his father, who worked on the railroad. Mr. Edwards always fought against racial inequality and injustices not only for the Black community but for everyone. During his lifetime, Mr. Edwards was the longest-serving chair of the Minneapolis Urban League, was prominent leader for the Minneapolis NAACP, led the Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission, and also sat on numerous civic boards and panels. For the past ten years, Mr. Edwards co-hosted a radio program where he used his platform to hold people in power and in the community accountable.

Mr. Edwards was deeply dedicated to his family, friends, and community. He fought passionately for the Minneapolis community and used his tight connections within our neighborhoods to help those in need. I ask that we remember the spirit and passion for equality and justice that Ronald Edwards helped shape in the city of Minneapolis.

HONORING THE CAREER OF TOM NASSIF UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Tom Nassif, as his service as President and CEO of Western Growers comes to an end.

The career of Tom Nassif has been defined by strong consistent advocacy for growers of produce in the western United States. The national discourse on immigration, trade, and water policy has been distinctly shaped by his work for more than four decades.

Tom Nassif received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from California State University, Los Angeles and his Juris Doctorate from California Western University, School of Law in San Diego, California.

Nassif has set himself apart by serving in a multitude of prestigious positions. He was a labor attorney for the agricultural industry, and most notably, one of the first attorneys to try a case before the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. In President Ronald Reagan's administration, he was appointed Deputy and Acting Chief of Protocol for the White House. In 1983, he was promoted to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian affairs. After two years, President Reagan appointed him to be his ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco. After his term, he moved on to work as chairman of Gulf Interstate Engineering in Houston. Next, he became managing partner of Aequitas International Consulting, an international business and political consulting company.

In February of 2002, Nassif became President and CEO of Western Growers. In 2013, he utilized his legal skills to help produce an immigration bill that passed in the Senate. Not only that, under his leadership, he assisted with the first time specialty crops received recognition in federal policy, with the passage of Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act as part of an agriculture appropriations bill. He also was a huge contributor for the specialty crop provisions in the Farm Bill. Nassif was named the Western Growers' 2019 Award of Honor in recognition of his unique approach and impact on the produce industry. This is the highest recognition of achievement in the industry.

Tom Nassif has left his mark by advocating for transparency and quality service. Nassif's affinity for protecting farms has directly resulted in laws and programs that will carry on his legacy in the industry. He has commitment to creating programs to address areas like food safety and technology that are state of the art.

Now, Nassif serves on the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C. and is one of the three national co-chairs for the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of Mr. Tom Nassif and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote January 29 due to National Guard obligations. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 28; YEA on Roll Call No. 29; YEA on Roll Call No. 30; NAY on Roll Call No. 31, and YEA on Roll Call No. 32.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2020

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the tireless work of school counselors across the country and in the 38th district of California that I am honored to represent. These public servants help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, social-emotional, and career development.

Humberto Solorio, a counselor at California High School in Whittier, California, is exactly the type of champion students need. Humberto has been a counselor at the school for eighteen years and has been instrumental in the lives of the students he works with in the school and its Business Academy.

He is also a Program Lead for the school's Fresh Air Mentoring program, which is a new creative and strategic intervention program at California High School. The program provides support to at-promise male students. Humberto, along with a team of counselors and teachers, help these students by teaching healthy coping strategies, planning for life after high school, and building authentic and genuine relationships.

Counselors, like Humberto, provide so much for our students. Not only do they help with career and college choices, but they are often the ones who help students cope with serious and common challenges of growing up, including peer pressure, bullying, mental health issues, trauma, disciplinary problems, and more. Unfortunately, the average student-counselor-ratio is 442-to-1 nationally which is almost double the American School Counselor Association recommended ratio of 250-to-1. Our students deserve to have the support of school counselors, and school counselors deserve our support.

That is why I am proud to introduce a resolution to designate the week of February 3, 2020, through February 7, 2020, as National School Counseling Week. I ask that all Members join me in recognizing the extraordinary work and dedication our school counselors have done to better the lives of young students.