

Following this discovery, the German Consulate sought to contact Staff Sergeant Prokop's surviving family to inform them of the true cause of his death and extend an offer to honor him in his hometown as well as in Hanau.

On February 17, 2020—the seventy-fifth anniversary of the killings—Staff Sergeant Prokop was honored with a remembrance service organized by the General Theodore J. Wint Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 25 at his gravesite at the Scranton Cathedral Cemetery. His sister, Ann Spearmint, was in attendance. That same day, the city of Hanau, Germany memorialized Prokop and his fellow airmen by erecting a plaque at the site of their execution.

It is an honor to recognize Staff Sergeant Prokop, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation at a perilous time in our world's history. May his commitment to defending the United States and the democratic world order never be forgotten.

HONORING DR. GUSTAVO
BALDERAS OF EUGENE, NA-
TIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF
THE YEAR

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to announce my constituent, Dr. Gustavo Balderas, superintendent of Eugene School District 4J, was named Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. Dr. Balderas now makes three Oregon superintendents that have won the prestigious award, two of which hail from Oregon's Fourth Congressional District.

Education has long been a passion for Dr. Balderas. He is the proud son of migrant parents from Piedras Negras, Cohauila Mexico—who, like many migrants, sought a better life for their family in the United States. His parents saw getting an education as a path forward for their son and pushed him to follow this track.

Dr. Balderas is an Oregonian through and through—beginning his education in the Nyssa School District and Treasure Valley Community College in Eastern Oregon, earning a bachelor's degree from Western Oregon University and then a master's degree from Portland State University, and, finally, receiving his doctorate from the University of Oregon. He has spent nearly all his 30-year career in Oregon.

I am not surprised the American Association of School Administrators bestowed their distinguished award to Dr. Balderas. He is well-known and well-respected throughout the state for his leadership in education equity. Dr. Balderas is committed to mentoring and providing counsel and direction to the future leaders of our state's school districts.

He has made great strides in increasing the diversity of Eugene 4J's educator workforce. Under his leadership, 30 percent of all district administrators, including 39 percent of school principals, are people of color, more accurately reflecting the district's 31 percent enrollment among students of color.

He has also partnered with community organizations to combat youth and family homelessness in our district.

In accepting his award, Dr. Balderas said: "This is a 'we' award, not a 'me' award"—accepting the award on behalf of his community rather than himself. I am thrilled that Eugene 4J has such a dedicated, yet modest, leader who recognizes the important work educators contribute towards making our public schools exceptional. In fact, it was the educators in his life that inspired him to follow this path. They made him a better student and the role model he is today.

Dr. Balderas' talents were cultivated in Oregon's public schools, and today our community is reaping the rewards from his capacity, capability, and commitment. I am honored to have an educator of Dr. Balderas' caliber serve our community, and I thank him for the outstanding work he has done and will continue to do on behalf of the students of Eugene 4J and all of public education.

IN RECOGNITION OF RILEY
DOLENCE FOR HER REMARK-
ABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN CREW

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Riley Dolence for her accomplishments in crew. As a four-time world record holder, Riley's impressive achievements are worthy of commendation.

Riley Dolence is a student at Trenton High School in Michigan. Beyond academics, Riley is an accomplished athlete who has recently earned a host of awards and accolades for her involvement in crew. Since last November, Riley has set four world records in her age group including the records for most meters on the erg in sixty minutes, most meters on the erg in four minutes, fastest time to complete a half marathon, and fastest time to complete a full marathon. Despite her overwhelming success, Riley hopes to earn even more world records in the coming months.

Riley Dolence's success in crew is a testament to her unrelenting hard work and dedication to the sport. As a genuine and enthusiastic team-player, Riley is regarded by her teammates and coaches as a humble and passionate leader who motivates others to do their best. Even as a junior, Riley already understand the importance of commitment and discipline. She will carry these values throughout all her future endeavors, and we are confident she will continue to achieve greatness.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Riley Dolence for her remarkable achievements in crew. It is clear Riley's future is bright, and we all wish her continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND GEORGE
WALKER SMITH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with admiration and respect to honor and remember the tremendous legacy of Reverend

(Rev.) George Walker Smith, who passed away in San Diego on February 15, 2020 at the age of 91.

Rev. Smith was a champion for racial equality and one of the most impactful educators and civic leaders in San Diego's history.

Rev. Smith was born on a plantation in Haynesville, Alabama in 1928. As the son of sharecroppers, he faced adversity early on in his life, as the local school he attended was segregated, substandard, and only offered schooling through the ninth grade. After noticing Smith's intellectual capacity, the plantation owner decided to send Smith to a nearby church-run school. Capitalizing on his educational momentum, Smith attended Knoxville College in Tennessee and later matriculated on to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary School.

After completing Seminary School, Rev. Smith moved to San Diego with his wife, Elizabeth Irene, in 1956. Once in San Diego, Smith founded a Presbyterian church in Golden Hill. Smith's congregation, Christ United Presbyterian Church, later moved to 30th and Fir Street in South Park, which he led for decades.

While in San Diego, Rev. Smith did not limit his talents to the pulpit. In 1963, Smith became San Diego's first elected black official, after winning a seat on the San Diego School Board. Smith went on to serve on the school board for 16 years and acted as the board's president a total of four times. Rev. Smith left an indelible impact on the school board in his leadership and successful efforts to recruit a diverse faculty, at a time when educators of color were few and far between.

In 1970, Rev. Smith founded the "Catfish Club," a weekly lunch meeting that would become a mainstay for discussions on civic issues, local politics, and social justice. The "Catfish Club" created a safe environment for multiple views and approaches, at a time when the country and city needed it the most.

In 1976, he was elected president of the National School Boards Association. He also served on the National Advisory Commission on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the White House Committee on Education and the Arts, the California School Boards Association, the San Diego Community College District, and the San Diego Crime Commission. He was the first president of the Citizens Advisory Review Board, which monitored police practices in the city in the mid-1980s.

As a Member and President of San Diego Unified School District, as well as President of the National School Board Association, Rev. Smith was the strongest voice for the achievement of all children. He was always probing the performance of students who would be first in their family to attend college. He believed strongly in accountability for all adults responsible for a path to opportunity for all young people. Although Rev. Smith retired from his church in 2000, he remained active and served as a mentor in the community.

Rev. Smith is survived by his daughter, son, four grandchildren, and a great grandson.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to personally witness and appreciate his drive to bring people together in order to create a better community. I always admired Rev. Smith's ability to keep education at the center of all he did; a wise and thoughtful approach.

I valued our relationship as I looked to him as a mentor on becoming a member of the