

good for those in need through their crafting talents.

For several years the team has been using their crafting abilities for good by creating and donating items to different organizations in the community including chemo hats for cancer patients, blankets and pillows for patients at Arkansas Children's Hospital, and socks and scarves for the homeless just to name a few.

Recently Stitchers Mending Hearts has gone above and beyond during this public health crisis by donating more than 3,000 masks to health care workers and other organizations in their community.

This initiative has shined a light on how creativity encourages positive attitudes and can unite the public even amidst a health crisis.

I congratulate Rena Edwards and the team at Stitchers Mending Hearts for using their talents in a way that brings the community together.

#### RECOGNIZING SOURCE VERO BEACH

#### HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 2020*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges in each of our communities, but it has shown us what we have to be grateful for and who we should be grateful to. Today I would like to recognize a local homeless outreach ministry, The Source Vero Beach, whose volunteers have been working tirelessly to provide essential services to the needy in Indian River County, during this pandemic.

The Source has been a community leader since its establishment in 1995 as a homeless ministry that provided free meals and Bible Study sessions in Indian River County. They have since grown into a comprehensive assistance center that prides itself on providing essential services to people from all walks of life, no matter background or struggle. Whether it be a free dinner, clothing, counseling, showers, access to a telephone, or just a listening ear, they have welcomed anyone and everyone into their care. Now more than ever, the community relies on their assistance.

While The Source faced its fair share of hardship during the pandemic in continuing many of these essential services, they saw an opportunity to invest in and give hope to those who have been recently displaced from work, developing a new culinary training program that feeds the community. This program called "Dining with Dignity" provides these individuals with 18 weeks of hands-on kitchen training, knife skills, financial literacy, interpersonal skills, and a weekly stipend. Upon completion of the program, participants receive a State of Florida ServSafe/SafeStaff certification, a graduation bonus, and job placement within the restaurant industry.

This back-to-work program has seen major success so far, providing life-changing training to fight chronic unemployment caused by COVID-19, while delivering over 550 meals a day, 7 days a week to the needy. To thank for the development and implementation of the program, is Executive Director of The Source, Mr. Anthony Zorbaugh, along with the rest of the outreach staff who are dedicated to serv-

ing our community, no matter the challenges they face.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to please join me in recognizing the staff of The Source Vero Beach for their altruism and public servant hearts. Our community will be forever grateful for their investment and service to those who need it most.

#### HONORING REAR ADMIRAL BRAD COOPER'S SERVICE TO HIS COUN- TRY AS THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY'S CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 2020*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to both recognize and congratulate Rear Admiral Brad Cooper for his service as he concludes his tour as the Secretary of the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs. In this capacity, he oversaw and led a team of 40 Naval officers, sailors, and civilians helping set departmental priorities and advancing the shared understanding of what our Navy continues to do in support of our Nation.

I have had the distinct pleasure of getting to know Brad through my role as Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee in various CODELs and oversight hearings. Last year alone, he personally accompanied me, and many other members of Congress, to the United Kingdom, Iceland and Norway to see first-hand how the Navy was conducting anti-submarine operations in the High North and to see the awe-inspiring work that our sailors were doing on the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) off the coast of Florida. In various office calls and oversight engagements, the quality of assistance given has been unrivaled. Simply said, my office, the House Committee on Armed Services and this entire chamber is better off due to Admiral Cooper's service.

A career surface warfare officer, Admiral Cooper has served in various ships including destroyers, cruisers, and aircraft carriers culminating with command of USS *Russell* (DDG 59) and USS *Gettysburg* (CG 64). To help articulate the caliber of officer that Brad is, I will share this anecdote: Every year, the Navy awards the Battle E to the best ship in a given squadron. Brad, and the phenomenal teams he helps build, have achieved this award ten times.

During his recent tenure as Chief of Legislative Affairs, Brad has served admirably through significant change while keeping the Navy's Capitol Hill posture even-keeled through the tenures of multiple Navy leaders. His staff has flawlessly executed Congressional Delegations throughout the world, supported hearings, and negotiated the NDAA while considering military, political, and budgetary priorities. His team works flawlessly, and is my, and many of my colleagues, staff of choice when dealing with defense issues.

I believe Brad's success is built on his understanding that what makes this country great is the ability to establish and keep relationships. This fundamental approach to his craft has gained respect and admiration in

both chambers of Congress and on both sides of the aisle. He has worked with us to broaden the Navy's outreach beyond just those members of defense committees. His efforts, solidified alongside those of the Navy's senior leaders, exposed the House of Representatives to the great work our sailors are doing around the globe each and every day.

As Admiral Cooper continues his Naval service, it is my hope that he may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States Navy as Chief of Legislative Affairs. I would like to send him, his wife, Susan, and their children, Bradford and Katie, my very best wishes for continued success in Norfolk and their future endeavors.

Well done Admiral. Fair winds and following seas.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT SILVA

#### HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 2020*

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in Honor of Robert Silva who passed away on May 13th. He served as Mayor and Councilmember in Mendota, California and was a pillar of the community. Mr. Silva was a lifelong resident of Mendota and attended Tranquility High. After high school, Robert joined the Army to serve his country. He was a husband, father, grandfather, and devoted member of the Mendota community.

During his years as a city official, spent every day improving lives in the community he served. He was a champion during the recession years where the economy and numerous droughts severely impacted the agricultural industry and Mendota's farmworker community. He fought to bring back businesses and his efforts resulted in the restart of stalled construction of a federal prison and a scheduled groundbreaking of a solar-energy farm. Mr. Silva never stopped advocating for his community and in his last years as Mayor he was able to secure a donation for the Mendota Boys and Girls club that prevented it from closing. Ensuring that the children of Mendota retained a safe place where they could learn, play, and grow as well as be provided with a daily nutritious meal.

As one of the founders of the Latino Water Coalition Mr. Silva made sure that the voice of his community, and indeed the voice of all the Fresno Westside communities, was heard, and their needs brought to the attention of the media. He proudly defended his community because he knew that even though they are smaller than other communities, his was made up of hardworking people who were just as deserving as any other. The City of Mendota chose to honor Mr. Silva in 2018 for his service to the City as the longest serving mayor by dedicating a newly built plaza in his honor.

The Mendota community has experienced an immense loss, but his spirit lives on through the lives he touched. He was a man of great integrity whose dedication and contributions to the Mendota community are innumerable. He will always be remembered, and his leadership will be missed. Mr. Silva leaves behind his wife Mary, their children and grandchildren.