

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in memory of Chauncey Lee Veatch III.

Chauncey was a natural leader with an incredible passion for life, education, and helping others. He was a tremendous educator, a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army, National Teacher of the Year, and a mentor to so many in the Coachella Valley.

It was a high privilege to call him my friend.

Chauncey personally inspired me, encouraged me, and guided me as well as my friend and current assembly member, Eduardo Garcia, and Riverside County Supervisor Manny Perez and many students and teachers from the Coachella Valley.

Chauncey was exceptionally brilliant. His brother, Gregory, said, even in middle school, his teachers knew he was smarter than they were.

He paired his unique intelligence and gifts with an extraordinary work ethic. He studied history at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, where he was inspired by the civil rights work of Cesar Chavez, and helped register voters as a United Farm Workers volunteer.

After college, he went on to the University of Notre Dame, where he obtained his juris doctor degree. Chauncey then served in the U.S. Army Infantry and the Medical Service Corps for over 20 years, retiring in 1995 as a lieutenant colonel.

After retiring from the Army, Chauncey began his service as an educator at John Kelley Elementary School in Thermal, California, later becoming a teacher at my alma mater, Coachella Valley High School. Coachella Valley Unified School District was fortunate to have such a devoted and fine man.

As a teacher, he was renowned for his ability to present complex material to his students in simple, understandable ways and to mentor each of them on an individual basis, helping them to achieve their fullest potential.

Later in life, Chauncey served on The Desert Sun newspaper's editorial board for more than 7 years. In 2010, he co-led the Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative with me, bringing together the community to address the healthcare access crisis in our disadvantaged and underserved communities.

In each of his endeavors, he gave everything he had. In a word, Chauncey's life was full: full of joy, full of generosity, and full of love. He saw the best in people.

Not only that, he drew out the best in people. He saw in others what they did not see in themselves, and he would not rest until he helped them achieve what he knew they were capable of. In fact, a lot of people are where they are today because their paths crossed with Chauncey's.

He helped many of his students achieve their dreams of becoming a teacher. Serving disadvantaged students, he also helped many become the

first in their generation to go to college, even helping them get into good schools and elite schools like Notre Dame and Harvard.

His leadership was in his acts, his words, and his presence. He showed people the way. His brother called him a builder of dreams. I call him an architect of goodness whose deep commitment and mentorship to his students turned barriers into opportunities, disadvantages into strengths, and transformed our communities for generations to come.

Our world has lost a light, our community has lost a leader, and I have lost a mentor and a close friend. Today I mourn with his family and celebrate his full life, knowing that he was a good man, an outstanding citizen, and a veteran whose impact will live on in our communities. My wife, Monica, and I will miss him very much.

THANK YOU TO PA-15 CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight several of my constituents who have gone out of their way to make a positive impact during the coronavirus pandemic.

Over the past few months, it has been easy to feel surrounded by nothing but negative news. In an effort to highlight the good news that we weren't seeing enough of, I started a social media campaign called PA-15 Cares. PA-15 Cares highlights all of the volunteers who have gone above and beyond during this pandemic to lend a helping hand, to help their neighbors in need, and to brighten the spirits of all those impacted by COVID-19. Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a few examples of those who rose to the occasion during this pandemic.

Many chose to make masks for frontline workers, including high school student Morgan McConnell of Cambria County. While her school was closed, Morgan made good use of her time and made more than 500 masks in just the first week. It is her way of helping others, and she has given many of the masks to local hospital employees free of charge.

Selfless small business owners, even those who may be struggling financially as a result of the pandemic, have stopped to ask: How can I help?

Rick Ardini, owner of Rik-N-Nik's restaurant in Ebensburg, has provided countless meals for those out of work, children, the elderly, and anyone else who needed them. He also gave great advice: "Talk to each other, learn about each other, spend some time, and play some games. Be a family. Slow life down."

Another small business which also happens to be in Ebensburg has been providing a critical service for the first

responders. SERVPRO partnered with the Dauntless Volunteer Fire Department to provide free cleaning and sanitation services for emergency response vehicles.

The Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania have also stepped up to give back to their community. They have started a Hometown Heroes program to give free cookies to frontline workers, including medical professionals, first responders, nursing home staff, the Army National Guard, and more.

Lastly, I would like to highlight Samantha Schrecengost of Punxsutawney. Samantha, a Senior Corps volunteer, and the folks at Community Action started a Phone-A-Friend program for seniors. Due to COVID-19, many elderly Americans have been cut off from loved ones, and isolation can take a mental and emotional toll. Volunteers of the Phone-A-Friend program call seniors two to three times a week to check in, see how they can be helpful, and just share a few minutes of friendly conversation with our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged to see how the communities in my district have come together in such an unprecedented time of crisis to find a way to support one another.

SALUTING EARLY EDUCATORS AND CHILDCARE WORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the early educators and childcare workers who have sacrificed so much for our children and their parents across the Nation throughout this pandemic.

As a working mom, I know how critical they are to our families and to our economy. The fact is, had our childcare workers not done their part, many other essential workers like our nurses, firefighters, police officers, postal workers, food service and sanitation employees, and grocery workers could not have done theirs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated what we have known to be true all along, that our childcare workforce is essential. That is why I was proud to cast my vote yesterday for the Child Care Is Essential Act. The House advanced bold legislation to ensure that our childcare workforce has the support it needs to operate childcare centers safely.

I would like to commend my colleagues, Representatives ROSA DELAUNO, BOBBY SCOTT, and KATHERINE CLARK, for their leadership on this critical issue.

The fact is, even before the pandemic, enrolling an infant or toddler in a quality childcare program could be enormously expensive. Frankly, there was inadequate support to make those programs fit in the household budgets for many families.