

RECOGNIZING THE ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Orange County Veterans and Military Families Collaborative for its outstanding service to the veterans and military families of Orange County, California. This organization, a commendable group of dedicated professionals and volunteers, embodies the spirit of collaboration and demonstrates the power of our community to come together and solve our toughest challenges.

Established in 2012 by a small, passionate group of Vietnam War Veterans, who answered yet another call of duty, the Collaborative helps to connect veterans, active duty and reserve service members, and military families across Orange County to quality benefits, services, and community-based opportunities.

Today, the Collaborative consists of nearly 120 member organizations, including businesses, government offices at the federal, state and local levels, non-profits, and officials from the Veterans Administration. The Collaborative serves the Orange County veteran community through eleven focus groups—dealing with critical topics like homelessness, education, and employment—and other efforts, such as a task force that works with older veterans.

The Collaborative works to ensure all veterans have a place to call home by helping veterans to secure HUD-VASH benefits and by filling the gaps for veterans where federal resources are unable to compensate. Their Housing Working Group monitors the by-name list of homeless veteran populations in Orange County and deploys rapid responses to veterans facing homelessness. Their Housing Group has also worked to house over 100 veterans and their families over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the Collaborative has made meaningful progress towards addressing the tragedy of suicide among our veterans. In 2019, the Collaborative partnered with America's Warrior Partnership to conduct Operation Deep Dive, a forensic study on the causes of veteran suicides and self-harm. Their commitment to finding solutions to these issues reminds us of Congress' own duty and the urgent need to support veteran groups working on this issue.

In 2018, the Collaborative was recognized as the Community Veteran Engagement Board for Orange County by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, deepening their role as an integral part of the Orange County community.

I ask all Members join me in honoring the Orange County Veterans and Military Families Collaborative for their work on behalf of over 130,000 Orange County veterans and their families.

HONORING JOSÉ ROLANDO VILLAREAL, J.D.

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. José Rolando Villareal, J.D. whose story of success and achievement is a true testament to all that is possible here in America. Throughout his life, Mr. Villareal has been a shining example of the immigrant experience in our country through his perseverance, tenacious spirit, and service to others.

Mr. Villareal and his three sisters were born to Jose Maria and Elisa Villarreal in the border city of Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico and immigrated with his family to the United States as a young child. The family originally arrived in Eagle Pass, Texas then, like so many other migrant farmworker families, lived in various states following the harvest until eventually settling in San Jose, California. There in Silicon Valley, Mr. Villareal was able to become the first in his family to attend college. He earned his bachelor's degree from San Jose State University and then earned his Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Mr. Villareal then began his professional career in the Central Valley, where he served in various capacities focused on improving the lives of vulnerable, underserved communities in the region. He served as chief public defender in Fresno County for eight years and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the California Rural Legal Assistance, an organization that has transformed the lives of thousands of working families and immigrant communities. Mr. Villareal has also served his community as Mayor of Sanger, California, where he led efforts to spur economic development and strengthen public safety.

Our history as a nation of immigrants is rich with countless stories of struggle and success. Like many child immigrants, Mr. Villareal spent much of his life striving to secure a foothold in our country and achieve the American Dream. Though his experiences as an immigrant were never easy, he persevered and achieved his ultimate goal of successfully gaining U.S. citizenship. Throughout his career, Mr. Villareal endeavored to encourage other immigrants to strive for this goal and has become a role model for his community.

Mr. Villareal has become a source of pride for his wife Enriqueta and their four children Rolando, Adrian, Alejandro, and Meliza, who have all supported him in sharing the story of his life via a published memoir. His lifetime of accomplishments has been rooted in his deep commitment to service. His dedication to the Central Valley's immigrant community and personal mission to improve the lives of others perfectly exemplifies the virtues of American society.

Madam Speaker it is my privilege to recognize Mr. Villareal and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his exemplary commitment to achieving the American Dream.

RECOGNIZING JULIE OLSON FOR BEING AWARDED THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDUCATORS FOUNDATION AND ARKANSAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION COVID-19 GRANT

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Julie Olson, an educator from Woodrow Cummins Elementary in Conway, AR. Julie has been awarded the Association of American Educators Foundation and Arkansas State Teachers Association COVID-19 grant.

Ms. Olson will use this special grant to buy robotic kits for her kindergarten through second grade students. Julie's had great success with these kits in the past and receiving more will enable every student to have their own kit in a socially distanced classroom.

Incorporating technology with traditional learning keeps her students engaged and eager to learn. Her proactive curriculum adaptation allows students to benefit from hands-on, experimental learning despite an unprecedented classroom setting.

I congratulate Julie for receiving this grant, and I know she is making her community proud. I thank Julie for her innovative methods in educating Arkansas' students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, for personal reasons, I was unable to vote on Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 213; NAY on Roll Call No. 212; YEA on Roll Call No. 211; NAY on Roll Call No. 210; and YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL FEINSTEIN

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of CEO & President of The Bender JCC of Greater Washington, who is stepping down this month.

For nearly 15 years, Michael Feinstein has served as the CEO & President of the Bender JCC of Greater Washington. On Oct 30, 2020, Michael is stepping down as the CEO & President of the Bender JCC of Greater Washington.

Michael's success was grounded in his unwavering dedication and exceptional skill. Prior to becoming the CEO, he served as the Chief Operating Officer of the Center for three years.

However, Michael's life of service did not begin with the Bender JCC. Michael has over