

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JOSEPH I. CASTRO BEING NAMED CHANCELLOR OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Joseph I. Castro on being named the eighth Chancellor of the California State University system. Dr. Castro will be the first California native and the first Mexican American to hold the chancellorship. In his role as Chancellor, he will oversee 23 campuses and 486,000 students throughout our nation's largest four-year higher education system.

Dr. Castro was born and raised in the small city of Hanford, in the heart of California's Central Valley. The grandson of Mexican immigrants and the son of a single mother, Dr. Castro knows well the challenges so many young men and women face in their pursuit of higher education. Like many of his students, Dr. Castro is a first-generation college graduate. He earned a B.A. in political science, a M.P.P. from the University of California, Berkeley, and later a Ph.D. in higher-education policy and leadership from Stanford University.

Since 2013, Dr. Castro has served as President of California State University, Fresno. Under his leadership, Fresno State attained a national ranking as one of the top universities in the country. The school was also recognized for its commitment and achievements to diversity. More than 60 percent of Fresno State's recent graduating class are the first in their families to attend a four-year institution. As President, Dr. Castro has led by example, encouraging Fresno State students, faculty, and staff to "Be Bold" in order to meet and overcome any challenge that would limit academic, personal or professional growth.

As an advocate for Fresno State and the California State University system, Dr. Castro serves on numerous boards, including the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' Governing Board, WASC Senior College and University Commission, Mountain West Athletic Conference Board, and the Stanford University Graduate School of Education Advisory Council. Before becoming President of Fresno State, he served for 23 years in the University of California system. From 2006 to 2013, he was Vice Chancellor of Student Academic Affairs and Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.

Earlier in his career, he held faculty and administrative leadership positions at four other University of California campuses including Berkeley, Davis, Merced and Santa Barbara. Dr. Castro has received five Excellence and Innovation Award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities for his accomplishments at Fresno State. In 2018, he was named as CSU President of the Year by the California State Student Association. In 2016, he received the Alumni Excellence in Education Award from the Stanford University Graduate School of Education. Dr. Castro has also been honored with the Ohtli Award, which is highest honor granted by the Government of Mexico to recognize leaders who have em-

powered the lives of Mexican natives in the United States.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Castro for all of his achievements. On behalf of a grateful Central Valley and State of California, we look forward to his future accomplishments and what he will do for California State University students everywhere.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH "JACK" MEEHAN

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Joseph "Jack" Meehan, who passed away recently at the age of 88.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Jack graduated from the University of San Francisco (USF) in 1954. Following service in the United States Army, Jack went to USF for law school; he earned his law degree in 1959.

In 1960, Jack joined the Alameda County District Attorney's (ACDA) Office. While there he created Point of View, a monthly publication, and Points and Authorities, a weekly video series, to help teach California prosecutors. He was recognized for his accomplishments by being presented with the 1978 Prosecutor of the Year award by the California District Attorneys Association (CDA).

In 1981 Jack was appointed Alameda County District Attorney. He was reelected unopposed in 1982, 1986, and 1990. He did not run for reelection in 1994.

Jack was affectionately known as the "Big Guy" at the ACDA Office, beloved by all of his colleagues. His leadership, respect for our system of justice, and concern for victims of crime will be long-remembered.

It also should be noted that as district attorney Jack hired a young KAMALA HARRIS, now a United States senator from California and the Democratic Party's nominee to be vice president of the United States, to be a deputy district attorney. Clearly he could spot talent when he saw it.

Jack was well-recognized for his lifetime of career success and community service. USF awarded him its alumnus of the year award in 1994, and four years later it created the John J. Meehan Alumni Fellowship to honor USF alumni who help develop young lawyers. CDAA created the John J. Meehan Career Prosecutor Award, to recognize lawyers for career achievement in criminal prosecution. And, in 2003, the Saint Thomas More Society of San Francisco present him with its Saint Thomas Moore award.

While Jack had many professional successes, it was his family that mattered most. He and his wife, Janet, were married for 59 years, before she died in 2017. They had four children—sons John Matthew ("Matt"), James Patrick ("Jim"), and Mark Emmitt, and a daughter, Anne Marie (who passed away in 1968).

It was mostly in San Rafael where Jack and Janet raised their family. There they hosted many a family event, at which Jack showed his talents for playing piano and bartending that he honed over the years.

My deepest condolences go out to Jack's many family members and friends. He will be greatly missed.

REVEREND DR. ALFRED GORDON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Reverend Dr. Alfred Gordon, who has served the City of Mount Vernon, New York for more than 50 years in ministry. Reverend Dr. Alfred Gordon has served our nation both through his service in the United States Marine Corps and through his work in ministry improving the quality of life for the people of Mount Vernon, especially our most vulnerable populations. In honor of his 86th birthday, it is my privilege to acknowledge the work he has done to better his community and his contribution to our nation as a whole. He has set a high standard for civic engagement and service to one's community, and he is a well-respected and integral part of the City of Mount Vernon. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Reverend Dr. Alfred Gordon on this special occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ALLOW CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WITH PRIOR SERVICE UNDER THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO MAKE DEPOSITS TOWARDS ANNUITIES UNDER THE CIVIL SERVICE AND RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to correct a retirement issue for several categories of workers who used to be under the District of Columbia retirement system.

In 1997, Congress transferred several categories of workers who participated in D.C.'s defined contribution plan from 1987 to 1997 to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). However, those workers' service from 1987 to 1997 was not counted for purposes of creditable service or annuity amount in FERS. In 2009, Congress gave these employees the right to have this service counted for creditable service.

My bill would correct this last retirement issue for these public servants. It would allow these workers to buy into the FERS annuity amount for the 1987–1997 by paying 1.3 percent of their base pay plus interest, essentially the employee contribution for this time, and then allowing them the full retirement benefit to which they are entitled.

Our bill is an important step to assisting these workers to get the retirement benefits they deserve. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RITA
BERTHAY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Rita “RiRi” Lilly Berthay, who passed away on October 6 after a courageous battle with an extended illness.

Rita’s life began on November 5, 1955 in Greenville, Mississippi. She went on to graduate from the University of Mississippi with a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in social work. After her marriage to Michael Berthay in 1979, she moved to Saltillo where she raised her two sons. A devoted Christian and member of First United Methodist Church of Saltillo, Rita was known for being extraordinarily strong in her faith and an inspiration to all who know her.

Her dedication to serving others was evident in her 28 years in social work, mental health, and counseling. Rita’s career was her passion and purpose. She took great pride in helping those in need and felt she never worked a day in her life. She was instrumental in implementing Crisis Intervention Training which trained local law enforcement how to handle mental health issues. Rita also served as CEO of the Lifecore Health Group until her retirement this past July.

Above all, Rita found the greatest joy in caring for and spending time with her family, particularly spoiling her two granddaughters, Ava and Mary. She was selfless and generous, and always looking for ways to help others. Her life was one of service, grace, and love for her family and community and she will be greatly missed by all whom she encountered.

Left to cherish her memory is her husband Mike Berthay; sons, Clint and Ryan Berthay, as well as many other extended family members.

HONORING SANTA CRUZ SHERIFF
MARCO ANTONIO ESTRADA, SR.

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Santa Cruz County Sheriff Marco Antonio Estrada, Sr., for his decades of public service to Nogales, AZ. The only Hispanic and longest serving Sheriff in the State of Arizona is retiring after a combined career of over 50 years in law enforcement.

A native to Ambos Nogales, Sheriff Estrada was born in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. In December of 1944, his family immigrated to the United States and made their home in Nogales, Arizona. Sheriff Estrada grew up from humble beginnings, and his family often struggled to put food on the table. With a tremendous work ethic, drive, and self-education through avid reading, he overcame poverty.

Sheriff Estrada’s law enforcement career began in 1966, when he first joined the Nogales Police Department as a radio dispatcher. He continued to move up the ranks

with promotions to Desk Sergeant, then serving as Captain from 1978 up to his retirement in 1991.

In 1992, he decided to continue his public service career and ran for The Office of Santa Cruz County Sheriff. He was elected and sworn in on January 1, 1993. Since then, Sheriff Estrada has been re-elected for seven consecutive terms and is finishing his “last rodeo”, as he so famously called it, with a distinguished legacy of service to Santa Cruz County. A proud immigrant himself, he always promoted the welfare of immigrants and is an advocate for the border town. One of his most notable accomplishments was the construction of a new sheriff’s department and county jail named after him: “Tony Estrada Law Enforcement Center.” His long exemplary career in law enforcement counts mainly accolades; however, as our country currently faces tensions between communities and local law enforcement, his greatest accomplishment could arguably be the longstanding positive relationship maintained between the local law enforcement agency and its community under his leadership. As a Sheriff who made it a point not only to enforce the law with strength, but to also enforce the law with compassion, empathy, integrity, dedication, commitment and passion, it’s understandable why residents identify Marco Antonio Estrada, Sr., as a Sheriff who truly reflects the values of their small border town. Sheriff Estrada publicly defended those values and the people of Santa Cruz County against those who would demean the community.

Sheriff Estrada also understood the importance of serving and giving back to his community after hours. He actively volunteers his time to many community-based organizations that include: United Way of Santa Cruz County (serving as a spokesperson for over three decades), the Boys and Girls Club, the Nogales Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club, Way of the Heart Promotora Institute, Nogales Elks Lodge, is a lifetime member of the Fraternal Order of Police, and has always supported charitable organizations.

Congratulations on a job well done and time well served. He is a hero to his family and community and an example of good policing. There will never be another Sheriff Estrada, Sr., but the bar has been set high for The Office of Santa Cruz County Sheriff.

HONORING TOMAS T. ALEJO, JR.

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Tomas T. Alejo, Jr., a devoted pastor, educator, activist, and community leader from the central coast of California. Tomas will be remembered as a tireless advocate for social change in Watsonville and Phoenix, Arizona.

Tomas was born on March 16, 1946, in the southern Texas border region of Weslaco to a humble migrant farmworker family. Tomas and his family migrated from South Texas to California in the 1950s, where they worked in the Salinas, Santa Clara, Central, and Pajaro Valleys picking crops. They eventually settled and established roots on the Central Coast in

Watsonville. Tomas attended Gonzales High School and graduated from Gilroy High School in 1965. From 1966 through 1968, he proudly served our nation in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

Tomas earned his teaching credential from San Jose State University and taught for 24 years at the Santa Cruz County Sheriffs Rehabilitation Center in Watsonville. There, he trained inmates in the trade of auto body repair and painting to help them positively transform their lives and have employment opportunities upon release. He also taught auto body repair and painting classes for six years at Hartnell College in Salinas.

Tomas was also a longtime pastor for the Apostolic Church and served five years doing missionary work in the poorest parts of South Texas and Mexico with his family. He later co-founded Hope Ministries Church in Watsonville, where he was heavily involved in many community events and activities throughout his life. Tomas contributed to countless policy advocacy efforts and co-founded the Annual Watsonville Peace and Unity March in 1994 to end gang and domestic violence. Tomas also served as a contract negotiator for the United Farm Workers in the late 1970s and was invited to lead the opening prayer at the California State Capitol in Sacramento in 2014 for the state’s Cesar Chavez Day Ceremony.

During his retirement in Phoenix, Tomas was heavily involved in community action defending immigrants. He was especially passionate about helping the homeless and less fortunate. In biblical tradition, Tomas deeply believed in the righteousness of defending the poor and most vulnerable in our communities.

Tomas will be remembered for his lifetime of community service and virtuous spirit. We, as a community, celebrate his legacy and all he has done for the central coast of California. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life of Tomas T. Alejo, Jr.

RECOGNIZING AND THANKING MR.
ED PEREZ FOR HIS DEDICATION
TO THE EISENHOWER MEMORIAL
COMMISSION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of Mr. Ed Perez who has served as the Director of Government Relations for the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. It has been a true pleasure and honor to work with Ed many years as I have served on the Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

Ed has proven himself to be a great ambassador in interacting with Members of Congress and their staff. His passion for this project combined with his diplomatic and interpersonal skills were invaluable in helping us get to the end goal of dedicating an incredible memorial to one of our greatest American leaders. Above all, Ed is a truly kind person.

As the commission winds down after completing this enormous task, I want to personally thank Ed for his great work. He and his family can forever look at the monument and be reminded of his job well done.