

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.