

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.

HONORING VINTON POLICE
OFFICER BRANDON ALTERIO

HON. BEN CLINE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Brandon Alterio of the Vinton Police Department, who was chosen by his peers as Officer of the Year for 2019.

A graduate of William Byrd High School and Liberty University, Alterio embodies the ideal of service above self.

Following a six-year stint in the United States Air Force, he joined the Salem Police Department, where he served four years before transferring to Vinton PD last March.

He made a quick impression on his colleagues and the community when he received notoriety for selflessly buying a nine-year-old boy a bike when he learned that the child's had been stolen.

When presenting the award to Alterio, the Chief of Police said that he was being recognized for his devotion to the town, the agency, and the profession.

The Chief continued stating that Officer Alterio had exhibited exemplary skills, a can-do attitude, and a desire to succeed in the short time he had been with the Department.

Alterio has served the people of Vinton with excellence, compassion, and fairness, and will continue to do so.

I congratulate him on this distinct honor and wish him well on his career in law enforcement.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the upcoming 75th anniversary of the United Nations and recognize the continued importance of multilateral action as we pursue a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

On October 24, 1945, less than two months after the world emerged from the deadliest conflict in human history, the United Nations Charter entered into force, formally creating the United Nations. The Charter was and continues to be a visionary document dedicated to the indispensable idea that, through diplomacy and consultation, states can work together to achieve a better world.

American leadership played a central role in the effort to establish the United Nations. Even before the United States entered the Second World War, President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued the Atlantic Charter to outline their vision for the post-war international order. In the final years of the war, individuals like Cordell Hull, Edward Stettinius Jr., Ralph Bunche and many others played crucial roles in shaping the draft United Nations Charter.

Congress was deeply involved as well, with Members on both sides of the aisle participating in the San Francisco Conference. Rep-

resentatives Sol Bloom of New York and Charles Aubrey Eaton of New Jersey and Senators Tom Connally of Texas and Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan helped make the case for the United Nations in Congress and to the American public. On July 28, 1945, the Senate voted to ratify the United Nations Charter by an overwhelming vote of 89 in favor, 2 against—a dramatic change from the rejection of the League of Nations just 26 years prior.

Yet the push for a United Nations also came from beyond the halls of Washington. In 1943, a dedicated, passionate group of Americans created the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA), bringing the discussion of a post-war order to homes and communities across the country. Thus began a rich history of advocacy for American leadership and participation in the United Nations that continues to this day, with over 20,000 UNA-USA members in over 200 chapters across the country.

In the decades since 1945, through the most turbulent years of the Cold War, through the challenges of decolonization and entering the new millennium, the United Nations has been center stage for the international community in addressing issues like conflict and peace, economic development, global health, gender equality, human rights and more. Through the United Nations and the multitude of specialized agencies that have emerged to coordinate international action, the international community has come together to eradicate smallpox and curb other infectious diseases, protect the ozone layer, lift millions out of poverty, promote maternal and child health, preserve cultural and historical sites and so much more.

Yet, in an era of renewed great power competition, we must not forget nor neglect the responsibility of the United Nations for international peace. This duty is enshrined first in the preamble of the United Nations Charter in its resolution to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.” In our world today, amidst heightened tensions, rising nationalism and a growing rejection of multilateralism, we cannot afford to forget United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld’s famous statement that “the United Nations was not created in order to bring us to heaven, but in order to save us from hell.”

No one can deny that there are limits and flaws to the United Nations, and examples abound of ways in which the organization has fallen short. Yet it is also an evolving institution, reshaping itself to face the challenges and meet the demands of an ever-changing world. To quote Hammarskjöld again, “setbacks in trying to realize the ideal do not prove the ideal is at fault.”

The United Nations was America’s answer to an uncertain global future in 1945. Since then, the United Nations has been a pillar of the liberal international order that has benefited not just the United States but the entire world as well.

It is too early to say exactly how future historians will recall 2020. The challenges ahead are many, not just this COVID-19 pandemic, but also a worldwide economic recession, a global refugee crisis, climate change, and more. America’s answer to those challenges must include the United Nations. It falls upon all of us today, as heirs to the legacy of those brave and visionary Americans who won both

the war and the peace after, to continue working with the United Nations in pursuit of the future we want.

REMEMBERING JAMES M. RYAN, JR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my cousin James M. Ryan, Jr., of Warren, Ohio, who passed away Monday, October 19, 2020, at the age of 51.

James was born November 11, 1968, in Warren, Ohio, the son of James M. Ryan, Sr. and the late Linda DeMattio. On May 11, 1990, he married Tina L. Jones, with whom he shared 30 years of marriage and many wonderful memories.

To say Jimmy was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, who deeply loved his family is an understatement. His deep affection and joy that he got from his family was always evident to anyone who knew him. He loved nothing more than to be surrounded by them at a party or family event. Jim was a man of deep faith and compiled a list on his phone for people he was faithful to pray for. I have never witnessed anyone go through a battle for their life with the level of faith in God that Jim did. It was truly inspiring to watch him let go and Let God. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and coaching his sons in sports. He loved watching the Cleveland Browns, Indians, and the Ohio State Buckeyes.

He was self-employed and the caretaker of Johnson Community Center.

Memories of James will be cherished by his loving wife, Tina L. Ryan of Warren, OH; father, James M. Ryan, Sr.; three sons, Michael Ryan, Zachary Ryan and Justin Ryan all of Warren, OH; sisters, Amy Machingo and Jaime Ryan both of Warren, OH; grandson, Aaron Ryan; mother-in-law, Dolores (Ashley) Yakubek and father-in-law, William Jones, Sr. and Jimmy had a very special relationship and bond with my dad, Allen Ryan, Sr., that they both treasured dearly.

In addition to his mother, Linda DeMattio, he was preceded in death by his stepfather, Anthony DeMattio; and maternal and paternal grandparents. Jimmy will be missed by so many. His spirit and love were a blessing to all that knew him. We are all better off for having been touched by his life. Godspeed Jimmy.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
THOMAS “TIM” MILTON SMITH

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 Thomas “Tim” Milton Smith, who passed away on October 11, 2020.

Tim was born to parents Milton and Edwina Smith on August 17, 1940 in Memphis, Tennessee. He grew up in Memphis, graduating from Central Hill School and later attended Northwest Community College.