

Greek War of Independence became adoptees and were brought to America, ultimately becoming prominent American citizens, scholars, and members of the armed services.

And James Williams, an African American slave from Baltimore, joined the Greek revolutionaries and fought for Greece's freedom during the Battle of Navarino and was buried there in honor of his efforts.

Trailblazers like Bouboulina, Willard, and Miller—who toppled their oppressors, demanded equality, and fought to enact changes to benefit future generations of women—inspire my work in Congress every day.

The example set by Hellenic and American Philhellenic women during the Greek War of Independence exemplifies the U.S.-Greece relationship that thrives to this day. It is because of our historic friendship, and shared commitment to liberal democratic values, that the U.S. and Greece continue to work on so many issues that have a profound effect on the world.

After generations of oppression, Greece's freedom was hard-fought, and the Republic of Greece has become a shining example of democracy to the world. Greece and the Greek people are such critical allies and dear friends of the United States and I'm very proud to rise today in honor of the brave Hellenic and American Philhellenic women who played a pivotal role in securing the independence that Greece and her people celebrate to this day.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FAIV
NTAJ MUAS (DANG MOUA)

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 28, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Faiv Ntaj Muas (Dang Moua), who passed away on October 13, 2020 at the age of 71. Dang was a longtime Merced County business owner and an active member of the Hmong community.

Dang was born on April 12, 1949 in the war-torn country of Laos to Muas Paj Cai and Ntxhais Lauj. Dang was the second of three sons, and had an elder half-brother, five sisters, four half-brothers, and two half-sisters. Although Dang faced a difficult childhood, he always had a heart for service and helping others. After completing grade school, he attended college near a hospital that treated injured soldiers. Over time, Dang's soft-spoken demeanor was recognized by his peers and he was hand-picked as a leader by the Hmong community to provide guidance to fellow students.

As the war continued, Dang and his fellow students were no longer safe at their school. His quick thinking allowed opportunity for him to save nine people out of Samthong, where the enemy soldiers were approaching. Their journey led them through the mountains, and numerous towns to seek shelter until they were finally safe.

In 1971, Dang married the love of his life, Paj Lis and began training with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and was recruited by the United States Embassy to work in USAID until 1975. In April of 1975, part of Dang's family moved to a refugee camp in Thailand for safety, after

it became clear the situation was unsafe for anyone aiding the United States. Eventually, Dang and part of his family, were sponsored by Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church and moved to Richmond, Virginia in 1977, before settling in Merced, California. Once they settled in Merced, Dang attended college, and worked at Del Monte Farms.

Dang and his wife opened their first business, the first Hmong grocery store in Merced, Moua Oriental Market, followed by the first Hmong farm and slaughterhouse, Moua's Hog Slaughter Farm and Moua's Cattle Farm in Livingston, California. His success and influence in the community reached political figures, Hmong community, and many individuals.

Dang will be remembered in the community for helping others, his work in establishing the nonprofit organization Merced Lao Family Inc., filling a void for Hmong businesses in Merced County, and being a role model to so many. He was a leader and a caring individual that will be remembered by all who had the pleasure to work with him.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dang Moua. His commitment to the community of Merced County has left a lasting impact on many. I join his family and friends in honoring his great life.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF BERNARD "BERNIE" MCKINNON

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 28, 2020

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and labor leader, Bernard "Bernie" McKinnon, who we recently lost unexpectedly. Bernie was a wonderful friend, colleague, and mentor to many, and he will be deeply missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known him.

Bernie grew up in Caribou, Maine, along with his five siblings, before the family moved to Connecticut. Upon his graduation from high school, he joined his parents, as well as the United Autoworkers of America, when he began working at Fafnir Bearing. From the very beginning, Bernie was a dedicated member of UAW, and it was his passion for fairness and justice that led to his eventual career with the labor organization. He worked his way through the ranks of his local union, eventually becoming a long-time Local 133 President. He was later elected UAW Region 9A CAP President and then CAP Director, where he took on the responsibility of ensuring that the voices of UAW members were heard throughout the hall of state legislatures throughout New England.

Bernie was also a mentor to many in Connecticut's labor movement, often sought after for advice and guidance in navigating the nuances of the state's General Assembly and the best ways in which to ensure that their legislative agendas were heard. He was also at the forefront of mobilizing UAW political activity in local, state, and federal elections, organizing volunteers and the activities in which they would participate.

It was in 1991 that Bernie was recruited to work as a legislative activist for the UAW in

Washington, D.C. and that was where I had the opportunity to really get to know Bernie. I can distinctly remember the first part of our exchange when he visited the office. I would say "how are you doing Bernie" and his reply, without fail, was "terrible, Rosa . . . just terrible"—but his slight smile gave him away every time. In the near decade that he spent on the Hill, Bernie earned the respect of Members from both sides of the aisle, because he was straight-forward and genuine—when he spoke, he just gave you the plain truth about how an issue would impact working people.

Bernie's contributions also extended far beyond his work on behalf of the UAW and its members. In his lifetime, he was a cub scout master, a Southington Band Backer, a trustee for the Southington Elks, a member of the Southington Democratic Town Committee, and a board member of several organizations including Catholic Family Services, the United Labor Agency, and the New Britain United Way. In his retirement, he served as President of the UAW Local 133 retiree chapter as well as an active member of the Connecticut Alliance of Retired Americans. He helped to establish the Connecticut Citizens Action Group and served on its Board of Directors for many years. His good work and compassion touched countless lives and his commitment to community and service should serve as a model for us all.

I, like so many others, consider myself fortunate to not only have known Bernard "Bernie" McKinnon, but to have called him my friend. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Judie; his children, Ken, Lisa, and Jill; his grandchildren, and great-granddaughter as well as his many family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time. Though he was taken suddenly and much too soon, his is a life and legacy that will most certainly serve as an inspiration to many.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GERARD
LOZANO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 28, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of longtime Fresno Gerard Lozano, who passed away on October 1, 2020. He was a proud husband, community leader and friend.

Gerard was born on May 11, 1970 in Fresno, California. He grew up with four brothers, his father Michael, and mother Dolores. He attended Our Lady of Victory Elementary School and graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School. Gerard was known for being kind, always happy and caring. He had a strong faith and was a genuine leader by example.

These qualities continued throughout his life and during his career. Gerard began his career as the Governmental Affairs Director for the Fresno Association of REALTORS interacting with many people in the community and legislative representatives in the Central Valley.

My office and myself, had the pleasure of working alongside Gerard for many years. He was always a knowledgeable and professional individual, willing to help for the community in