

I was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley, a region situated along the U.S.-Mexico border in the southernmost tip of Texas, which encompasses Willacy, Cameron, Hidalgo and Starr Counties. Rich in history and culture and built on enduring family bonds. The Rio Grande Valley is home to more than 1.3 million residents.

For nearly twenty years, I have had the honor and privilege of representing the fifteenth congressional district of Texas, a dynamic and unique district that stretches from Guadalupe County, southeast from San Antonio all the way down to Deep South Texas along the border with Mexico.

I feel extremely fortunate to call a border community my home. As the proud son of Ed Couch, Texas, I am surprised by news reports that depict the border as violent and "in crisis." Unlike the fear mongers who wish to scapegoat all our problems on immigrants, when I talk about the border, I know what I am talking about.

First, our border communities are some of the safest in our nation, providing great quality of life with the low crime rates. In fact, state and federal crime data show that border cities are safer than many larger U.S. cities, with violent crime rates remaining the same or dropping in the last five years.

Moreover, the idea that undocumented immigrants are more likely to commit crimes is simply false. A Texas Tribune analysis of incarceration and immigration records found there is little evidence that undocumented immigrants commit crime at higher rates than the general population and they appear to be underrepresented in Texas prisons. As a matter of fact, the U.S.-Mexico border has never been more secure in the history of the United States. In the past ten years, border security funding has tripled and we have doubled the size of the Border Patrol from about 10,000 agents to approximately 20,000 today.

Second, our border is not being overrun. We are seeing record low apprehensions at our southern border. Today, a majority of those apprehensions are immigrants from Central America who fear violence in their home countries and their only hope is to seek refuge in the United States. Our great nation is made up of immigrants, many of whom landed on our shores tired, poor and in huddled-masses, yearning to be free. We should not close our borders and turn back on them now. That is not who we are.

This brings to mind a quote from the first Mexican-American federal district Judge Reynaldo Garza who was appointed by President Kennedy in 1961 and sat on the bench in Brownsville, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley. When swearing in new citizens, Judge Garza used to say:

"I do not worry that people want to come to the United States, I would worry if people did not want to come because then it would mean we would no longer be the country of freedom and opportunity that we are."

As a son of immigrants and as former chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I am proud to represent my district along the U.S.-Mexico border with a large population of immigrants, who contribute to the vibrancy of our national economy, job growth and rich culture.

Indeed, the stories of our immigrant neighbors, friends, and colleagues are very real, enriching the overall narrative of what it means to be an American. They are Americans and part of our national fabric.

I invite all my fellow Americans to come down to the U.S.-Mexico border region to experience firsthand the rich culture and wonderful people who make up our border communities and my home of Deep South Texas.

HONORING CLAYTON BRESHEARS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Clayton Breshears. Clayton is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Clayton has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Clayton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Clayton led his troop as the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Clayton has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Clayton painted a precise outline of the United States on the Lewis and Clark Elementary School playground in Liberty, Missouri, giving teachers at the school another tool to teach their students basic geography.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Clayton Breshears for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING LILLIE RUTH BARLOW LINDSEY ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Lillie Ruth Barlow Lindsey. She will be celebrating her 80th Birthday on May 26, 2016.

Lillie was born in Bay Springs, Mississippi on May 26, 1936. At age 10, Lillie's family moved to Laurel, Mississippi, where she remained until she married A.C. Lindsey in August of 1951. After they married, A.C. and Lillie moved to Kansas City, Missouri. They remained in Kansas City until 2006, when they moved to Wentzville, Missouri. A.C. and Lillie had eight children. From those eight children, they have 30 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren. Lillie and A.C. were married for 63 years, until A.C.'s passing on January 14, 2014. In her retirement, Lillie focused on caring for her husband, A.C., throughout his battle with Alzheimer's disease. Lillie has always been a dedicated wife and mother. When her last child began junior high school, Lillie began working at Halls in Kansas City, Missouri where she worked until her retirement. Lillie

enjoys sewing and has been an active member of her church throughout her life, during her time in Kansas City and currently in Wentzville, Missouri.

I ask you to join me in celebrating Lillie Ruth Barlow Lindsey on her 80th Birthday.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE TANIMURA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a great American, George Tanimura, who passed away on April 15, three months short of his 101st birthday. I offer my deepest condolences to George's wife of 72 years, Masaye, and to George's close-knit family: his son Glenn and his daughter Leslie, and their spouses; his grandchildren Chris, Erin, Ryan and Kelly and their spouses, and to his great grandchildren Makenzie, Jaklyn, and Karter, and to his siblings.

George lived a remarkable life that spanned the Great Depression, WWII, and the rise of the modern information economy. In that time, George confronted prejudice, helped to rebuild a dislocated Japanese-American community in the Salinas Valley, nurtured a large extended family, and fostered the development of the modern fresh produce industry. George was a farmer's farmer. As one of the founders of the Tanimura & Antle, he helped build one of the nation's largest private lettuce producers. So while you may have never heard of George Tanimura, I can guarantee that every Member of this House has eaten something that George and his family have grown. He has planted and nurtured a legacy that will produce a crop for generations to come.

George was born in San Juan Bautista on July 2, 1915. His parents had emigrated from Japan to build a better life in the United States. While attending grammar school in Castroville, George thinned iceberg lettuce on his father's small farm. After his mother died, George, the eldest of 12 siblings, had to leave high school to farm with his father. Then when George was just 16, his father died leaving George with the responsibility for the family and their farm. In the midst of the depression, George became the patriarch of his large family. Under his leadership, the Tanimura children began their own prosperous farming operations.

However, just as they were recovering, the U.S. entry into WWII turned the Tanimuras' lives upside down. In 1942, they found themselves imprisoned by our government along with other Americans of Japanese descent in remote internment camps across the desert West. And even though the Tanimuras lost everything, two of his brothers fought with the U.S. Army in Europe. For George, his time in the camp offered him another opportunity to find fortune in the midst of adversity. He met Masaye Yamauchi and they were married on September 21, 1944.

When George, Masaye, and their family returned to the Salinas Valley, they resumed lettuce farming. In the late 1950s, the Tanimuras began to grow exclusively for Bud Antle, another legendary Salinas Valley grower. Bud, and his son Bob, had been working closely with the Tanimura family for many years. Finally, in 1982, George and Bob combined over