HONORING JOHN DAHL

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the former Mayor of Eagle Nest, New Mexico and my dear friend, John Dahl. John represented the best of our great state of New Mexico: he was a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather, a loyal friend to many, a brilliant, hard-working and talented United States Army officer, businessman, and public servant.

John was born in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on July 30, 1933, to John and Ellen Dahl. While at Okmulgee High School, he won the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Track Title at Okmulgee High School, he won the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Track Title.

After college, John served for 22 years in the military and received over a dozen medals. In 1972, while a lieutenant colonel, the pentagon handpicked John to oversee a notorious Vietnamese prisoner of war camp located on the island of Phu Quoc. The camp held 33,000 POW’s and was infamous for human rights abuses. John was tasked to end these inhumane practices and ensure the proper treatment of the POW’s. His improvement of the camp’s conditions and practices was instrumental in the passage of the Paris Peace Treaty and saved countless human lives. For his accomplishment he was awarded the Peace Treaty and saved countless human lives. For his accomplishment he was awarded the Peace Treaty.

For his dedication to human rights, John was instrumental in the passage of the Paris Peace Treaty. The camp held 33,000 POW’s and was infamous for human rights abuses. John was tasked to end these inhumane practices and ensure the proper treatment of the POW’s. His improvements of the camp’s conditions and practices were instrumental in the passage of the Paris Peace Treaty and the saving of countless human lives. For his accomplishments he was awarded the Peace Treaty.

After retiring from the army he moved to Eagle Nest, New Mexico. There, he built multiple local businesses and garnered a reputation as one of the best sole proprietors in the region.

In 1990, the Governor of Oklahoma asked John to serve as the state’s Director of Civil Emergency Management. Just as in Vietnam, John demonstrated a deep respect for human life by improving and distributing new disaster plans to all 77 Oklahoma counties. By ensuring the implementation of the disaster plan and visiting each county personally, John and his team managed to avoid tornado fatalities that year.

After returning to Eagle Nest, John lost his eyesight after years of exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam. However, his determination never faltered and he was elected twice as the town’s mayor. I met John during his tenure as mayor, and I had the privilege to work with him when I was Secretary of Aging and Long Term Services. John was a determined advocate for improving health care access and quality of care in his community and across our state.

On May 14, 2016 John Dahl passed away at the age of 83. Surviving him is his wife Kay, two sons, daughter, six grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. John was a true friend and inspiring colleague who contributed to the betterment of our community, country, and world. His memory and legacy is a blessing to us all.
HONORING MS. SUZANNE MORGAN
HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Suzanne Morgan, who is being honored today by the Napa County Office of Education as a 2017 Napa County Teacher of the Year.

A native of Napa, California, Ms. Morgan always knew she wanted to be a teacher. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies at Chico State University before beginning her career in teaching, throughout which she has always looked for opportunities to work with children living in poverty.

Ms. Morgan has spent three decades teaching elementary school students, and currently teaches 4th grade at Shearer Elementary School in Napa, California. Her teaching style encourages students to build relationships and creates a sense of community in her classroom. Ms. Morgan spends time with each of her students listening to their concerns and making sure they know that someone believes in their potential.

In addition to her work in the classroom, Ms. Morgan is Chair of the Napa County PTA, serving on its executive committee. She brings her passion for supporting learning abroad to her own classroom by organizing fundraisers with her students for school uniforms for students abroad.

Ms. Morgan has dedicated three decades of her teaching career to educating and empowering young children, and her kindness and enthusiasm have had a tremendous impact in many students’ lives. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VICENTE D. “BEN” ADA
HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Flag in Honor of District of Columbia Mayors Act.

Congress already understands that the District of Columbia deserves a place among the states for certain honors, and this minor addition is not as great as others Congress has already recognized. We have already won congressional recognition of the District of Columbia in situations where the city was overlooked while honoring the states. For example, our legislation ensured that the District of Columbia War Memorial honored only District residents who served in World War I and that D.C.’s Frederick Douglass statue sits in the Capitol alongside statues from the 50 states. I also successfully worked with the U.S. Postal Service to create a D.C. stamp, like the stamps for the 50 states, and worked with the National Park Service to add the D.C. flag alongside the state flags across from Union Station.

Legislation was also enacted to give D.C. a coin after it was omitted from legislation creating coins for the 50 states. Additionally, the flag of the District is displayed among the flags of the fifty states in the tunnel connecting the House office buildings to the Capitol, and legislation was needed to require the armed services to display the District flag whenever the flags of the states are displayed. My bill to add the mayor to the list of principals is a continuation of my efforts to ensure that the District of Columbia receives fair treatment, even when we have no vote on the House floor and no representation in the Senate.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VICENTE D. “BEN” ADA
OF GUAM
Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Guam Senator and businessman, Vicente D. “Ben” Ada. Ben Ada was a proud son of Guam, a faithful public servant and successful businessman. Ben was born on January 24, 1932 and passed away on Sunday, August 28, 2016 at the age of 84.

Ben was the son of the late Vicente Cepeda Ada and Dolores de LeonGuerrero Diaz Ada and married to the late Teresita Gutierrez Borja Ada for 57 years. He was a member of our island’s greatest generation and served in the U.S. Air Force as a B52 Bomber mechanic 1957 until 1964. Ben was also a Veteran of the Korean War Era. After serving in the Air Force, Ben became the General Manager of the Pioneer Shop and was an Insurance Underwriter from 1964 until 1967. In 1966, Ben and his wife Teresita opened Ada’s Insurance and also became the distributor of Daihatsu vehicles in Guam.

In 1971, Ben was elected as a senator to the Guam Legislature. He served the people for Guam faithfully for four terms in the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Guam Legislatures. Ben was dedicated to improving our island community for all by expanding infrastructure coverage and providing funding for resources throughout Guam’s villages.

In 1972, Ben opened a family business, Pacific Funeral Home which became Ada’s Funeral Home in 1992. The family business has served the people of Guam for 45 years. Ben and Ada’s Funeral Home was awarded the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration’s Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business Award.

In addition to his life in business and public service, Ben also found time to volunteer in the community. He served as a Master for Boy Scouts of America Troop 17 during which he composed the official Troop 17 song, “We are the Boys of 17.” He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Pale San Vitores Council 05666. Ben was also a generous benefactor of many religious orders, such as the Carmelite Monastery of Guam and the St. Fidelis Capuchin Friary. Ben gave his time and talents freely to many causes. He played an instrumental role in preparing for the historic visit of Pope John Paul II to Guam in 1981.

I will always remember Ben for helping countless families on Guam as a public servant in the Guam Legislature and as the owner of Ada’s Funeral Home. His work ethic was