

Following this discovery, the German Consulate sought to contact Staff Sergeant Prokop's surviving family to inform them of the true cause of his death and extend an offer to honor him in his hometown as well as in Hanau.

On February 17, 2020—the seventy-fifth anniversary of the killings—Staff Sergeant Prokop was honored with a remembrance service organized by the General Theodore J. Wint Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 25 at his gravesite at the Scranton Cathedral Cemetery. His sister, Ann Spearmint, was in attendance. That same day, the city of Hanau, Germany memorialized Prokop and his fellow airmen by erecting a plaque at the site of their execution.

It is an honor to recognize Staff Sergeant Prokop, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation at a perilous time in our world's history. May his commitment to defending the United States and the democratic world order never be forgotten.

HONORING DR. GUSTAVO
BALDERAS OF EUGENE, NA-
TIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF
THE YEAR

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to announce my constituent, Dr. Gustavo Balderas, superintendent of Eugene School District 4J, was named Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. Dr. Balderas now makes three Oregon superintendents that have won the prestigious award, two of which hail from Oregon's Fourth Congressional District.

Education has long been a passion for Dr. Balderas. He is the proud son of migrant parents from Piedras Negras, Coahuila Mexico—who, like many migrants, sought a better life for their family in the United States. His parents saw getting an education as a path forward for their son and pushed him to follow this track.

Dr. Balderas is an Oregonian through and through—beginning his education in the Nyssa School District and Treasure Valley Community College in Eastern Oregon, earning a bachelor's degree from Western Oregon University and then a master's degree from Portland State University, and, finally, receiving his doctorate from the University of Oregon. He has spent nearly all his 30-year career in Oregon.

I am not surprised the American Association of School Administrators bestowed their distinguished award to Dr. Balderas. He is well-known and well-respected throughout the state for his leadership in education equity. Dr. Balderas is committed to mentoring and providing counsel and direction to the future leaders of our state's school districts.

He has made great strides in increasing the diversity of Eugene 4J's educator workforce. Under his leadership, 30 percent of all district administrators, including 39 percent of school principals, are people of color, more accurately reflecting the district's 31 percent enrollment among students of color.

He has also partnered with community organizations to combat youth and family homelessness in our district.

In accepting his award, Dr. Balderas said: "This is a 'we' award, not a 'me' award"—accepting the award on behalf of his community rather than himself. I am thrilled that Eugene 4J has such a dedicated, yet modest, leader who recognizes the important work educators contribute towards making our public schools exceptional. In fact, it was the educators in his life that inspired him to follow this path. They made him a better student and the role model he is today.

Dr. Balderas' talents were cultivated in Oregon's public schools, and today our community is reaping the rewards from his capacity, capability, and commitment. I am honored to have an educator of Dr. Balderas' caliber serve our community, and I thank him for the outstanding work he has done and will continue to do on behalf of the students of Eugene 4J and all of public education.

IN RECOGNITION OF RILEY
DOLENCE FOR HER REMARK-
ABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN CREW

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Riley Dolenca for her accomplishments in crew. As a four-time world record holder, Riley's impressive achievements are worthy of commendation.

Riley Dolenca is a student at Trenton High School in Michigan. Beyond academics, Riley is an accomplished athlete who has recently earned a host of awards and accolades for her involvement in crew. Since last November, Riley has set four world records in her age group including the records for most meters on the erg in sixty minutes, most meters on the erg in four minutes, fastest time to complete a half marathon, and fastest time to complete a full marathon. Despite her overwhelming success, Riley hopes to earn even more world records in the coming months.

Riley Dolenca's success in crew is a testament to her unrelenting hard work and dedication to the sport. As a genuine and enthusiastic team-player, Riley is regarded by her teammates and coaches as a humble and passionate leader who motivates others to do their best. Even as a junior, Riley already understands the importance of commitment and discipline. She will carry these values throughout all her future endeavors, and we are confident she will continue to achieve greatness.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Riley Dolenca for her remarkable achievements in crew. It is clear Riley's future is bright, and we all wish her continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND GEORGE
WALKER SMITH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with admiration and respect to honor and remember the tremendous legacy of Reverend

(Rev.) George Walker Smith, who passed away in San Diego on February 15, 2020 at the age of 91.

Rev. Smith was a champion for racial equality and one of the most impactful educators and civic leaders in San Diego's history.

Rev. Smith was born on a plantation in Haynesville, Alabama in 1928. As the son of sharecroppers, he faced adversity early on in his life, as the local school he attended was segregated, substandard, and only offered schooling through the ninth grade. After noticing Smith's intellectual capacity, the plantation owner decided to send Smith to a nearby church-run school. Capitalizing on his educational momentum, Smith attended Knoxville College in Tennessee and later matriculated on to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary School.

After completing Seminary School, Rev. Smith moved to San Diego with his wife, Elizabeth Irene, in 1956. Once in San Diego, Smith founded a Presbyterian church in Golden Hill. Smith's congregation, Christ United Presbyterian Church, later moved to 30th and Fir Street in South Park, which he led for decades.

While in San Diego, Rev. Smith did not limit his talents to the pulpit. In 1963, Smith became San Diego's first elected black official, after winning a seat on the San Diego School Board. Smith went on to serve on the school board for 16 years and acted as the board's president a total of four times. Rev. Smith left an indelible impact on the school board in his leadership and successful efforts to recruit a diverse faculty, at a time when educators of color were few and far between.

In 1970, Rev. Smith founded the "Catfish Club," a weekly lunch meeting that would become a mainstay for discussions on civic issues, local politics, and social justice. The "Catfish Club" created a safe environment for multiple views and approaches, at a time when the country and city needed it the most.

In 1976, he was elected president of the National School Boards Association. He also served on the National Advisory Commission on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the White House Committee on Education and the Arts, the California School Boards Association, the San Diego Community College District, and the San Diego Crime Commission. He was the first president of the Citizens Advisory Review Board, which monitored police practices in the city in the mid-1980s.

As a Member and President of San Diego Unified School District, as well as President of the National School Board Association, Rev. Smith was the strongest voice for the achievement of all children. He was always probing the performance of students who would be first in their family to attend college. He believed strongly in accountability for all adults responsible for a path to opportunity for all young people. Although Rev. Smith retired from his church in 2000, he remained active and served as a mentor in the community.

Rev. Smith is survived by his daughter, son, four grandchildren, and a great grandson.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to personally witness and appreciate his drive to bring people together in order to create a better community. I always admired Rev. Smith's ability to keep education at the center of all he did; a wise and thoughtful approach.

I valued our relationship as I looked to him as a mentor on becoming a member of the

school board in 1983. It was always a personal pleasure to be in his company over the years. He always inspired me to go beyond expectations and do everything possible to make this world a better place. Engaging and demanding, Rev. Smith was a noble champion for justice.

While San Diego has lost a giant, I believe that his life's work will serve as a legacy and example for future generations to come. Madam Speaker, I ask that you please join me in remembering and commemorating the great life of Rev. George Walker Smith.

**JOEL LEWIS RECEIVES THE
ALUMNI HALL OF FAME AWARD**

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Joel Lewis, who received the 2020 Alumni Hall of Fame Award from the Victor Valley College Foundation on February 22, 2020.

A dedicated educational advocate, Joel Lewis has made constant efforts to give back and mentor various students from Victor Valley College (VVC). As an educator at Apple Valley High School, Joel distinguishes himself with unrivaled dedication and energy for his job. His passion for teaching and coaching is constantly on display as he often goes above and beyond for under-served and developmentally challenged students. He has coached for seven seasons at Apple Valley High School (AVHS) and three seasons at VVC. As a coach to economically disadvantaged students, he has personally managed numerous booster events and donation drives for AVHS Basketball. He credits much of his success to his wife and children, his life-long friends, and his students. In 2010, Joel and his family adopted their son, after seeing his struggles and that he had nowhere else to go. Through mentorship, patience, and love, he became the valedictorian of Apple Valley High School and went on to study at Georgetown University.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate Joel Lewis on this award. Joel has led an incredible life filled with service and dedication to his students and community, and he is most deserving of this award.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF RONALD EDWARD KNOTT**

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life of Ronald Edward Knott, who passed away at the age of 73 after a lifetime of service to his fellow Americans. Through his extreme courage and selflessness, Ronald became an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

Ronald was born on September 24, 1946. Upon graduating from Walled Lake High School, Ronald joined the United States

Airforce, where he served two tours in Vietnam as a mechanic. Following his military service, Ron married his wife Dawn and began a career at General Motors. Ron retired from GM in 1987 and moved to Mio, where he and Dawn opened Knott's Dairy Barn. Throughout his professional career and into retirement, Ron's dedication to service remained stronger than ever—including service as Commander of the Wixom VFW Post 3952 and the Mio VFW Post 4126. Ron also served as Historian for Mio American Legion Post 348 and as Southeast Michigan District Commander. Ron passed away on February 5, 2020. He is missed dearly by his family and friends, and his legacy will undoubtedly live on for generations for come. Ronald's tireless devotion to the public good touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of Ronald Edward Knott. His legacy will forever live on in his family and through the countless lives he bettered through his service.

**IN CELEBRATION OF THE NAMI
WASHTENAW COUNTY'S THE AD-
VOCATE GALA: TAKING OFF THE
MASK**

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize NAMI Washtenaw County and celebrate its 2020 Advocate Gala: Taking Off the Mask. NAMI's lasting commitment to supporting mental health in our community is worthy of commendation.

NAMI Washtenaw County is a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of those living with mental health conditions. Established by a group of concerned parents of children with mental health conditions, NAMI Washtenaw County was created in 1984 to address our community's mental health needs. Since its humble beginnings, NAMI Washtenaw County has grown significantly and continues to provide critical mental health educational programs, support groups, and advocacy work that address mental health concerns and work to correct the stigmas that are so often attached. Today, NAMI Washtenaw County ensures thousands of individuals, families, and educators connect with the support and information they need.

The Taking Off the Mask Gala exemplifies NAMI Washtenaw County's continued commitment to addressing mental condition concerns. Although mental conditions impact the lives of many, people remain afraid, unwilling, or embarrassed to talk about mental health in fear of the stigma that is attached. Thanks to NAMI Washtenaw County's dedication, tonight's gala will help lift these damaging stigmas and uncover the stories of people living with mental health conditions that are often hidden behind masks. The gala will explore everyday hopes and struggles that come with caring for someone living with a mental health condition and encourage attendees to create an open future without stigma, judgement, or embarrassment.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring NAMI Washtenaw County as it

hosts its Taking Off the Mask Gala. NAMI Washtenaw County continues to be critical resource to many, and its unrelenting commitment to improving the lives of those living with mental conditions makes a real and lasting difference in our community. We are grateful for NAMI Washtenaw County's meaningful impact and wish it continued success in the years ahead.

**REFLECTIONS ON SENATE JUDG-
MENT NOT TO CONVICT AND RE-
MOVE THE IMPEACHED PRESI-
DENT FOR ABUSE OF POWER
AND OBSTRUCTION OF CON-
GRESS**

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, the United States Senate determined not to convict and remove from office Donald John Trump, President of the United States, who was impeached by the House for high crimes and misdemeanors, a decision I firmly believe will be judged harshly by history for all time.

I voted for the two articles of impeachment contained in H. Res. 755, the resolution of the House of Representatives and I rise to discuss in detail the overwhelming evidence assembled by the Committee on the Judiciary and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which clearly warranted the conclusion that the President abused the powers placed in him in trust by the Constitution and the American people by endeavoring to coerce a foreign government to announce a phony corruption investigation of his perceived chief election rival so he could remain in office and continue his misconduct.

The President clearly abused his power by putting his personal interests above the national interest and jeopardizing the national security of the United States and, making it a perfect trifecta, enlisting the aid of a foreign power to sabotage the 2020 presidential election.

When this scheme was discovered and made public, the President launched an all-out campaign to impede the ability of Congress to learn all the facts and hold the persons responsible accountable by dishonoring lawful subpoenas, refusing to provide requested information, and directing his subordinates in the Executive Branch not to testify or cooperate with Congress.

The House impeachment managers proved these actions to the country and the world beyond dispute and clearly showed how the evidence warranted the President's conviction and removal by the Senate.

Madam Speaker, it is beneficial to the public and for history to review the material facts that have led to where we are.

In February 2014, Russia annexed Crimea, a stunning display of military aggression unseen since the end of World War II when the maps of post-war Europe were drawn.

Five months later, on July 17, 2014, the Russia-backed Donbass People's Militia (DPM), an organization consisting of pro-Russian separatists who have taken up arms against the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the