

becoming the brain power behind the next iPhone.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following outstanding young people: Omeka Bhatia, John Bradley, Justin Mayo, Tyrese McIntosh, Andrew O'Brian, Thinh Pham-Hoang, David Tran, and Ana Woodside for attending the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. Additionally, Briana Bishop, Keah Gruduah, Andres Meza, Garrett Raxter, Angela Rivera, Lorenza Rojas-Gonzalez, Helen Vieg, and Amber York have made northeast Georgia proud by attending the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

These talented students are carving out a future for STEM fields and will help lead the next generation of innovation in our country. I am honored to represent them in Congress, and I wish them the best as they run after their dreams.

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CELEBRATING TONY ZAPATA

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Tony Zapata, who recently concluded his service as Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4696 in East Los Angeles. As a representative of East LA in Congress, I have had the honor of getting to know Tony over the years, especially in his capacity as the organizer of the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day events at the Cinco Puntos intersection.

Tony, a Vietnam veteran, comes from a family with deep military roots. His grandfather served in World War I, his father and two brothers served in WWII, two of his uncles served in Korea, and his son went to Kuwait. It should come as no surprise, then, that Tony has shown an unstinting dedication to those who serve and have served in our nation's armed forces.

Tony was born in Del Rio, Texas, and graduated from high school in 1963. In January 1965, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After boot camp in San Diego, California, in April 1965, he went aboard the U.S.S. Evans (DE-1023) in Bremerton, Washington, as a Machinist's Mate Fireman Apprentice. In August 1967, he was assigned to North Island Naval Air Station in Coronado, California, as an Airman Aviation Ordnance man. He was trained in Search and Rescue operations on NHU1 Helicopters, also known as Hueys.

In November 1967, Tony was sent to Okinawa, where he joined a Search and Rescue Unit with the 3rd Marine Division Temporary Attached Duty (TAD). From Okinawa, he went to Cubi Point in the Philippine Islands. At Cubi Point, he qualified with an M-60 Machine Gun(mounted). In January 1968, he went on to Da Nang, South Vietnam. After one year in Vietnam, he returned to North Island Naval Air Station, where he was Honorably Discharged in February 1969. He was awarded the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, Expeditionary Medal, and Meritorious Service Ribbon.

In May 1969, Tony went to work for Travelers Insurance Company as a Workman's Compensation Investigator. After Travelers, he

worked as an inspector at U.S. Can in Commerce, California, until his retirement in 2006.

In 1992, Tony began to become involved with the VFW, and began full-time VFW involvement following his retirement. In 2010, he was appointed Commander of VFW Post 4696.

Tony has shown an inspiring commitment to assisting veterans and their families with their benefits. He has also been involved with helping homeless Veterans get into VA programs, including help with housing, education, and medical benefits. He has also enjoyed working with local elementary school students. In his talks with students, he has described the importance of patriotism, spoken about Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and reminded his young listeners that freedom is not free. He has also described how they can support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan by writing letters and sending care packages to our servicemen and women overseas.

On May 29, 2017, Tony stepped down as Commander for Post 4696, but I am pleased to hear that he will still be involved with the VFW as an at large member. I hope my colleagues will join me in sending Tony Zapata our deepest gratitude for his record of service overseas and here at home. His defense of our country, and his faithful support of our veterans and current servicemembers, is an inspiration to us all.

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HONORING FIRE CHIEF DAVID SKORYI

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief David Skoryi who is retiring after serving the Lockport Township community for over 25 years.

Chief Skoryi was raised in Lockport and attended Taft Grade School and Lockport Township High School. He joined the Lockport Township Fire Protection District in 1980 as a firefighter and quickly rose through the ranks. He became a Lieutenant in 1993, Battalion Chief in 1998, and Assistant Chief in 2001. In 2010, Skoryi was named Lockport Township Fire District Chief.

During his time with the fire district, Chief Skoryi reached a number of milestones. He was the first Battalion Chief in the department's history and the first full time Training Officer. He also served as the Operations Chief, the Technical Rescue Team Leader, and the Swift Water Rescue Technician. Chief Skoryi has also overseen five fire station construction projects in the district.

Chief David Skoryi is married to Deb Skoryi and has three grown children, two of whom still live in the area. He plans to spend his retirement with his wife, tending to a small farm the couple purchased and traveling in their motor home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief David Skoryi for his public service and congratulate him on his achievements. He has spent many years protecting the people of Lockport and the surrounding areas. His dedication is greatly appreciated by the residents of the Third District of Illinois. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING BENTON POLICE CHIEF KIRK LANE

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Benton Police Chief Kirk Lane's appointment as the new Arkansas Drug Officer. His experience and activism truly embody what all states need in the fight against illegal narcotics.

Chief Lane is a graduate of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy and the FBI National Academy.

After graduation, Chief Lane spent 20 years with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, where he served as the Captain of Criminal Investigations.

Chief Lane has gone above and beyond his duty in the fight against illegal narcotics by participating in many organizations, including the Arkansas Drug and Alcohol Coordinating Council, the Arkansas Prescription Drug Advisory Board, and the Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Board.

As a recipient of the 2010 Benton Citizen of the Year Award and the 2012 Marie Interfaith Award, Chief Lane is recognized for his exceptional character and devotion to community.

I'm proud of my friend Chief Lane, who has proven his devotion to law and order, and he will be a great addition to Arkansas's Drug Enforcement Agency to fight against narcotics and reduce the crime rate.

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RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF STEPHEN THOMAS ZAMORA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Stephen Thomas Zamora, who proudly served the people of Houston, Texas, as a professor at the University of Houston Law Center for nearly thirty-six years.

Stephen Zamora was born on June 26, 1944, in Los Angeles, California. Steve graduated from Servite High School in 1962, and earned a B.A. from Stanford University four years later. It was there where he met and married his wife, Lois. Together, they worked for the Peace Corps for two years. Afterwards, Steve graduated first in his class with a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1972.

After law school, in 1973, Stephen served as a Postgraduate Fellow at the University Consortium for World Order Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. He would then practice international law at the World Bank in Washington D.C. from 1974 to 1978 before settling in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Zamora joined the University of Houston Law Center's faculty and served as the first dean of Hispanic origin from 1995 to 2000. He also dedicated his independent research at the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law to Mexican law and relations. For his work, he was awarded the highest distinction by the Mexican government to a foreign national, the

Order of the Aztec Eagle, in 2006. He continued to devote his time to his professional interests until 2015.

Mr. Zamora lived a long and service filled life. He was an accomplished educator, a role model to his students, and loving father and husband to his wife, Lois Zamora; his daughter, Camille Zamora, and her husband Thomas; grandsons Landon and Nate; and siblings Carol, Anita, John, Mary, Paula, and Tony; and his many nephews, nieces, aunts, cousins, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize and honor Stephen Zamora for his many years of service.

#### TRIBUTE TO WALTER HARRISON

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Walter Harrison, who retired as the president of the University of Hartford on June 30, 2017 after serving in that position for 19 years. In his time as president, the University of Hartford has truly flourished. Under his leadership, UHart has grown by leaps and bounds through increased enrollment, continued academic success, new academic programs and centers, and major renovations to campus facilities. He leaves the university as a place with a national reputation as a renowned academic institution.

Walt is first and foremost an educator and a scholar of American literature and culture. A native of Pittsburgh, he first came to Connecticut to study at Trinity College in Hartford where he received his bachelor's degree. He then went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Michigan and his doctorate from the University of California—Davis. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force where he served as an officer.

During his time as chair of the NCAA's Committee on Academic Performance, he became one of the nation's most influential voices on higher education and collegiate athletics. He has always been a champion on behalf of student-athletes and ensuring that collegiate athletics are always a part of an enriching academic experience. This culminated with Walt's receipt of the NCAA's Gerald R. Ford Award.

Walt has not only been an extraordinary leader of the university, but has been a pillar of the Greater Hartford community. That can be seen in the two magnet schools opened by the university under his tenure and through his service on the boards of the Hartford Stage, St. Francis Hospital, MetroHartford Alliance, Suffield Academy, Hartford Consortium for Higher Education, the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, and the Connecticut Science Center. Walt has contributed immensely to the fabric of our civic culture.

I am proud to call Walt a friend. Anyone who knows Walt knows that he is a passionate baseball fan, particularly of his Pittsburgh Pirates. His doctoral dissertation was on baseball's influence on the nation's culture and he is the most knowledgeable baseball fan that one will ever meet. I wish him the best in retirement and I hope he takes his newfound free time to enjoy his family and to finally visit every big league ballpark.

I would like to submit for the RECORD the undergraduate and graduate commencement addresses delivered on Walter's last graduation ceremonies as president by my colleagues, Congresswoman MIA LOVE of Utah and Congressman RICHARD NEAL of Massachusetts, two proud UHart alumni.

#### THE HONORABLE MIA LOVE

It is wonderful to be with you all today. It is great to be back to a place filled with so many memories. My mind has been racing back to places and spaces on this campus; to so many lessons learned, and to so many people who made a difference in my life. My time here as a student stretched me, strengthened me, and positioned me to recognize opportunities so I can rise to my full potential.

One of those amazing faculty members who challenged me to rise was Peter Flint. He was our teacher and sadly, he passed away far too soon—but he is forever a part of my life and the lives of those who were blessed by his vision and direction. Peter had a motto for those of us in musical theater. He had us memorize it—but more importantly he challenged us to live it.

The motto said, "I am an artist. These are my emotions and I own them. And I like them. My talent comes from something other than myself, but I alone am responsible for it. I will dare to be bad, so that I may be good. I am an artist. I am that I am."

Peter continually challenged us to rise. He gave us the courage to know it was ok to be bad in the beginning and that working through the bad was the only way to rise to the good and ultimately to the best we had within us. Above all, Peter expected us to take responsibility and ownership for our talents and gifts.

Winston Churchill said it this way, "To each there comes . . . a special moment when we are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do something very special, unique to our talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds us unwilling, unprepared or unqualified for that which could have been their finest hour." The great question you will face in the days and years ahead is this, "Am I prepared to rise in such moments?" I hope you consider today, graduation day, the first step to accepting taps on the shoulder that will lead you to a lifetime of fine hours as you rise to the full measure of your potential.

Two things for you to keep in mind as you get ready to rise.

First your ability to rise will be bolstered or shackled by your ability to engage in elevated dialogue. It may seem crazy for a member of Congress to be talking about elevated dialogue—but I believe it is the key to all of our finest hours. As a nation, as individuals, and as communities we must get comfortable having uncomfortable conversations. We cannot rise if we are constantly spewing divisive and demonizing rhetoric. It is so tempting to melt-down someone's twitter feed or blow up their Facebook page with anger-filled words of frustration. Someone wisely said, "Speak in anger and you will give the best speech you ever live to regret." Even if it's sharing a virtual speech on social media—the result is the same. Remember this, moments captured are forever and friends keep friends off YouTube. The solution to any problem begins when someone says, "Let's talk about it." We have a long way to go as country—but it starts with each of us individually being willing to have an elevated conversation about the challenges of our day. It is impossible to rise without being comfortable and confident in higher dialogue.

Second, remember that your goal is to rise with, not over, others. There is an old Scot-

tish saying, "Thee lift me and I'll lift thee and together we'll ascend." Sadly our society tells us more and more that we should just look out for number one and not worry about anyone else.

My dad came to this country with \$10 in his pocket in an attempt to rise above the poverty and strife of his native Haiti. Through grit and determination he and my mom provided me, and my siblings, the opportunity to rise in pursuit of our own version of the American dream.

I will always remember the day my dad dropped me off here on campus on orientation day. He was so excited and giddy as if he were the one ready to start the adventure on campus, away from home. At one point he became serious as he looked me in the eye and said, "Mia, your mom and I have worked hard to get us to this point today. You will not be a burden to society, You will give back. You will contribute. You will make a difference for others." What he was telling me is that it was part of my responsibility not only to rise myself, but to bring others along with me. Just as he had done with me.

I will confess that stepping onto this campus that day the thought of being a mayor, a mother or a member of congress were not remotely in my mind. But when I stepped off of this campus, as each of you will today, I was ready to rise to new roles, responsibilities and opportunities. Each of those roles has given me an opportunity to learn, to engage in elevated dialogue and help others rise to their potential.

You are the rising generation. You are the leaders, not just for tomorrow, but for today.

Today I challenge you to raise your sight, not just your status, as you enter the workforce and a world desperately in need of your energy, talent and commitment.

Remember the second half of Churchill's statement about those taps on the shoulder and those opportunities to rise. There is one more quote I'd like to share, by a man named John Greenleaf Whittier. He wrote, "Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: 'It might have been.'"

Guys, we cannot accept "what might have been." It is a haunting horrible phrase. Fifty years from now you will have far more regrets about the opportunities you didn't take, the mountains you did not climb and the adventures you did not pursue than you will ever have for opportunities you took—even when you tried and failed.

When we fail to continuously learn—we will be left to live with what might have been.

When we fail to engage in elevated dialogue in our homes, communities, and places of employment—we will be left to live with what might have been.

When we fail to lift others as we ourselves rise—we will be left to live with what might have been.

A few years ago my family and I were at an event in our community. There was a large hot-air balloon there as part of the fun. An opportunity arose for me to go up in the balloon. As I approached they told me to bring one of my children along for the ride. I called to my son Peyton, who was 7 years old, to come jump in the basket with me. He hesitated and resisted. The balloon was ready to launch and we couldn't wait for Peyton to decide so I called to my daughter Abi who jumped in and off we went. After rising in the crisp, cool air and enjoying the amazing view of my district in Utah we started our return to the ground. As we began to descend the winds picked up and let's just say the landing was a bit of an adventure. Peyton had watched all the fun from the ground. As we got out of the basket he came running over shouting that he was ready for his turn. Unfortunately with the now windy conditions, the balloon had to stay on the ground.