

and has impacted faculty and staff in constructive ways. The steady increase in the number of employees and full-time faculty and has been paired with substantial investments made in future construction sites within the Hartnell College system. Dr. Lewallen has helped to secure funding for the construction of new Hartnell education outreach centers in Soledad and Castroville, a state-of-the-art nursing and health sciences building on the Main Campus in Salinas. He has also overseen efforts to refurbish classroom buildings on the Main Campus and the transformation of the Central Plaza.

As Dr. Lewallen celebrates his retirement, I am proud to commend him on his invaluable work as a higher education leader. On behalf of residents across the Central Coast, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Willard Lewallen for his service and wishing him a long and healthy retirement.

HONORING FLOYD "SKIP" BRANCH,
JR.

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in great sadness to share the passing of Floyd "Skip" Branch, Jr. and honor his life and legacy.

For generations of children, Skip, as he was known to the community, was a fixture of their daily lives.

In 1995, Skip founded the NYC Bombsquad Basketball Classic, where he worked each summer with nearly 300 young boys and girls. But his impact was not merely honing basketball skills, although he certainly did. On the court and off the court, his lessons transcended basketball and made better the lives he touched and the community he loved.

Skip displayed an unyielding love for his community and inimitable belief that basketball was a constructive tool for the development and enrichment of children and adolescents. Responsibility. Teamwork. Academic achievement. Community engagement. Fraternity. Sorority. These are the tenets that Skip inculcated in every one of his students and will remain a part of his indelible legacy.

His program grew and had such an impact on young people's lives that many of them returned to teach and coach new participants. Skip believed that basketball and the fundamental lessons he taught should not only be shared with his students at Rice High School, Cardinal Hayes, or Hostos Community College. He also used the playground at East 100th Street and Third Avenue as a haven for youth in East Harlem where he instilled the fundamentals of teamwork, sportsmanship and respect in his students. Anyone who knew Skip knows he loved every moment spent doing this important work.

Floyd "Skip" Branch, Jr. was a beloved husband, brother, father, and grandfather. To his wife Carole, son Floyd III, brother Dr. Kent Branch, and all those close to Skip, I share my sincerest condolences in this time of grief and hope they find solace in knowing his legacy lives on in the many young lives he impacted.

HONORING THE MARTINEZ ARTS
ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Martinez Arts Association for its dedication to promoting the arts in our community and to celebrate its 50th annual Arts in the Park Festival, an event to support local art teachers and Martinez students who study art in college. The Martinez Arts Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides opportunities to local artists and fosters arts education in Martinez schools.

Founded in 1968, the Martinez Arts Association has a long history of supporting local artists and creativity in our community. The organization is led by a volunteer board of directors who are dedicated to increasing accessibility to the arts. The Martinez Arts Association is backed financially by Association members and generous local sponsors who are invested in cultivating the arts in Martinez.

The Arts in the Park festival draws a larger crowd with each passing year. This year there are over sixty vendors, live music, activities, and a silent auction to spark people's imaginations and enable them to give back to our community. The Martinez Arts Association puts on other incredible events including the SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Day Celebration, participates in local parades, and contributes rotating art exhibits at the library.

Every year, the Martinez Arts Association awards \$3,000 grants to Martinez elementary and high school teachers to help offset budget cuts to arts education. In addition, the organization runs a scholarship program that awards over \$3,000 each year to local high school seniors who intend to study visual arts in college.

Madam Speaker, the Martinez Arts Association has been an ardent advocate of the arts in our community since 1968. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Martinez Arts Association here today.

HONORING SANTA ANA VALLEY
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Santa Ana Valley High School in Santa Ana, California for their 60 years of dedicated service to high school students in our local community.

Founded in 1959, amid Orange County's population boom, Santa Ana Valley High School was the second high school opened in the City of Santa Ana. In its first year of operation, it served only grades 10 and 11. Now, Santa Ana Valley High School prepares students in grades 9–12 with the skills necessary to meet the career and academic challenges of our 21st century global society.

Graduates of Santa Ana Valley High School over the past several decades have gone on to successful careers in a variety of careers,

including professional sports, music, entrepreneurship, medicine, and more.

Today, Santa Ana Valley High School educates over 2,200 students and boasts a 90 percent 4-year graduation rate, which is above the California state average. Students from this year's graduating class will be attending elite institutions such as Stanford University, Georgetown University, UC Berkeley, among many others, which is a testament to Santa Ana Valley High School's growth and advancement over the past 60 years.

Santa Ana Valley High School always seeks to innovate student service and preparation for college and the workforce. One notable example of this is High School Inc., a non-profit organization housed at Santa Ana Valley High School that has helped their students secure hundreds of internships, earn over 400 certifications, and attend dozens of industry relevant competitions. This unique college and career readiness that started at Santa Ana Valley High School has now become an emerging mode for schools nationwide.

Santa Ana Valley High School has also developed successful extracurricular programs to support a variety of student interests in becoming more well-rounded individuals. Additionally, Santa Ana Valley High School has numerous incredibly successful athletics programs, winning several CIF championships of various sports over the years.

Santa Ana Valley High School has made countless achievements over the past 60 years, and they are on track for even more success in the future. For this reason, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing the accomplishments and service of Santa Ana Valley High School.

CONGRATULATING KYLE
KRUHTOFF ON HIS CLASS 1A WIN
AT STATE FINAL FOR BOYS
TRACK AND FIELD IN POLE
VAULTING

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kyle Kruhtoff, a senior from Erie-Prophetstown High School, who won the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A State Finals Boys Track and Field Tournament in Pole Vaulting. Kyle set the Class 1A record at 16 feet, 8 inches, beating the previous mark of 16 feet 3 inches held by two others.

Kyle is a record-setter with the talent to go even further in the athletic world. He broke records after overcoming a serious injury. As a former athlete, I appreciate the fortitude Kyle displayed to achieve his dream of being a state champion and commend him for his determination and passion. Kyle is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am delighted to see such young talent in our community and to see him represent Erie-Prophetstown so well throughout the state.

It is because of student leaders such as Kyle that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Kyle Kruhtoff on his Class 1A State Finals title in Boys Track and Field.