

University of Missouri-Kansas City in the fall where he is interested in studying neurology.

On April 1, Frank was notified that he was the sole recipient of the National Eagle Scout Association's \$25,000 United Health Foundation college scholarship. This scholarship, which receives more than 5,000 applications each year, is awarded to a student who plans to pursue a career in healthcare and is willing to reinvest their skills in an under-served community. Frank has also received scholarships from the Hagan Foundation and the Elks National Foundation. It comes as no surprise that his hard work, both in the community and the classroom, have paid off.

Frank is a role model for all Missouri students and it is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and accomplishments before the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MASTER SERGEANT
TAUTALAGIA "TUNI" SOTOA
NUMERA

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Master Sergeant Tantalagia Sotoa Numera, or known to his family and friends simply as "Tuni", who passed away on June 1 at the age of 86.

Tuni was born on February 27, 1929, in Pago Pago, American Samoa to parents, Taua and Siao Numera. Following his childhood on the islands, and at the young age of 23, Tuni enthusiastically fulfilled his childhood dream of serving in our nations armed forces and joined the U.S. Marine Corps.

During Tuni's 27 years of service in the Marine Corps, he would fight in two wars and serve 8 total combat tours. Tuni saw his first action in Korea, but it wouldn't be his last . . . not by a long shot.

Master Sergeant Numera served 7 combat tours in the jungles of Vietnam. During his first tour in Vietnam, Tuni was wounded in combat for which he received the Purple Heart. While this would be more than enough sacrifice to one's nation for even the toughest and most patriotic of soldiers, it wasn't for Tuni. He would return to those jungles where he was initially wounded, 6 more times. When once asked by a friend "why did you serve 7 tours in Vietnam?" he replied . . . "I was looking for the guy that shot me during my first tour." This is a perfect example of just how much of a true Leatherneck he was.

Master Sergeant Numera was awarded numerous decorations during his career in the Marines, including: the Navy & Marine Corps Medal, the Bronze Star, and of course the Purple Heart, with a Gold Star, which is the equivalent of two Purple Hearts.

Known for his irresistible smile and grand sense of humor, Tuni was always at the center of whatever was going on and always had a kind word or helping hand to those who needed it.

Tuni also enjoyed a number of recreational activities, including fishing, bowling, playing poker, watching westerns, and TV shows like Walker Texas Ranger.

Perhaps the only things that Tuni loved more than his country were his faith in God and his beautiful family. Tuni is survived by his wife, Eleanor; children, Zina, Trinidad, Cynthia, Anthony, Jeffrey, Michael, Elena, and Christina; "adopted sons," Vincent, and Mike; 26 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. This man was obviously very loved by all who knew him and we all mourn their loss.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me recognizing the lifelong service and dedication to our nation that was exemplified by Master Sergeant Numera and honor him by continuing to uphold those values that we cherish as Americans and for which Tuni dedicated his life.

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Immigrant Heritage Month and salute the contributions of immigrants to the never ending glory and story of America.

I stand in solidarity with our immigrant soldiers who have fought to defend and extend our freedoms from the shores of the Atlantic to the Pacific, in the deserts of Africa and the jungles of Asia, to the seas of the Persian Gulf.

I stand in solidarity with our immigrant innovators and entrepreneurs who make up over 40 percent of the CEO of the Fortune 500 companies, which employ over 3 million of our fellow citizens.

And I stand in solidarity with the children of our immigrants who will be an integral part of our nation's future achievements.

This is why I have consistently introduced legislation such as H.R. 1525, "Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act of 2013," which sets forth a comprehensive and humane solution to immigrant reform.

This legislation works to secure our borders and brings close to 12 million illegal immigrants out of the shadows of society through earned access to legalization.

Our country has made progress because of the work and determination of immigrants and we owe it to them and ourselves to maintain a system that allows immigrants to prosper within our borders through approved legal processes.

In 1884 a Serbian immigrant name Nikola Tesla worked with American innovator Thomas Edison and would later contribute to the development of the alternating-current electrical system.

A son of an immigrant slave, Benjamin Banneker would grow up to be a scientist, surveyor, and author; these pioneers of their fields have helped advance the American economy through innovation.

We are a more prosperous nation because of the contributions from immigrants who helped build this country, but we have not done enough.

President Obama has used his executive powers to provide more resources for border security, modernizing the legal immigration system for workers, employers, and students, and focusing enforcement on the real threats to security.

Although more remains to be done to realize the full promise of the America dream for many immigrants, we continue to fight for those who are already contributing members of their communities to ensure there is a safe and legal path to the ultimate goal of full citizenship.

The unity of families is an essential American value and should be one of the fundamentals of immigration reform, along with increasing the diversity of immigration from parts of the world that have been historically underrepresented such as the Caribbean, Africa, and Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, my district is home to the most racially and ethnically diverse metropolitan area in the nation, and as a result I celebrate our immigrant leaders such as Texas Representative Hubert Vo, born in South Vietnam, graduate of the University of Houston, and now public servant for the people of District 149.

I celebrate Joseph Pulitzer a Hungarian immigrant soldier who served in the Civil War under the Union Army whose contributions would leave a legacy of literary excellence; Hakeem Olajuwon a Nigerian native and celebrated athlete of Houston who led the Houston Rockets to the NBA championship in 1994 and 1995, and the countless others who have made significant impacts that have advanced our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless Americans who have braved the seas and sands to build a new life in America and enrich the cultural tapestry of the greatest nation on earth.

I recognize that our nation would not enjoy the freedoms we have today without the dedication and hard work of our immigrant ancestors and we owe it to them to work on a more comprehensive immigration reform.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2015, which will help provide financial relief for federal employees who have a short-term injury or disability, become pregnant, or develop a pregnancy-related illness. This bill will offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees will be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums, and will be able to receive disability insurance benefits for up to one year that would replace a portion of their lost income due to a non-work related injury, illness, or pregnancy. These benefits will be particularly beneficial to ensure that our federal employees, who do not yet enjoy paid maternity leave, are able to utilize the 12 weeks of unpaid maternity leave permitted by federal law while continuing to pay their bills, buy groceries, and make their mortgage, car, and other loan payments without having to deplete their retirement or other savings accounts. Too many federal employees do not take advantage of federal unpaid

maternity leave because they have no way to replace the lost income.

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance for federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance as individuals in the private market at high individual rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. Moreover, while federal employees may have available sick or annual leave days, they may not have enough such days to pay the bills if they have to be out of work for an extended period. Although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify for such benefits until they have worked for the federal government for at least 18 months. My bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as their private-sector counterparts, who have access to disability insurance through an employer at group rates. This bill will not allow participating insurance companies to exclude persons based on pre-existing conditions. Because of the federal government's purchasing power, this bill will provide these benefits at a more competitive

rate than is available if an employee sought such insurance as an individual.

According to the Social Security Administration, a 20-year-old worker has a one in four chance of becoming disabled by retirement age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by conditions or illnesses, such as cancer or back injuries, according to the Council for Disability Awareness. There is every reason to allow our federal employees to take advantage of the federal government's group rates to obtain the most reasonable price if they choose to purchase short-term disability coverage on their own at no cost to the federal government.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

YUCAIPA HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN
SOFTBALL TEAM CIF SOUTHERN
SELECT DIVISION II CHAMPIONS

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the Yucaipa High School

Women's Softball team for ending their season as California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division II champions. The team has been named the 2015 Cal-Hi Sports State Team of the Year.

The Thunderbirds have had a rewarding season with an incredible 31 wins. Last Friday, the ladies scored another victory when they beat the undefeated Mission Viejo high school at the final game in Irving, California. With dedication and commitment, the team, along with their head coach David Kivett, earned the title after an entire season of hard work.

In closing, I'd like to joyously congratulate the players: Alexis Avalos, Kaitlyn Alvarado, Annie Bakenhus, Brooke Bolinger, Brooke Brady, Skyler Burke, Keely Clark, Mallorie Cross, Jordan Green, Jordan Herron, Jazzy Lopez, Kayla Martin, Megan Martin, Kelly Martinez, Madyson Marvuli, Blayne Nelson, and Kora Shoemaker.