

University, VA where she earned her Bachelors degree in American History. Even after completing her undergraduate education, Mrs. Rue's educational goals were not fulfilled. She continued studying and eventually earned her Doctoral degree in Educational Administration.

Mr. Speaker, it is most impressive that even with a doctorate in hand, Mrs. Rue felt that her educational goals could not be fulfilled without helping to educate others. As a high school teacher she motivated her History students to get involved in government and to appreciate our Nation's rich heritage. Later, as the Principal of Vintage High School in Napa, CA Mrs. Rue organized a dedicated staff, maintained a fiscally sound budget and spread an overall enthusiasm for education that was, quite simply, contagious.

During her time as Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Rue has supervised 21 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 2 comprehensive high schools, a technology school, one adult school and a continuation school. As Assistant Superintendent, she has also expanded services to Limited English Proficient students, incorporated a senior citizen tutoring program, secured substance abuse grants and implemented new reading programs. The improvements Mrs. Rue has made in the Napa Valley Unified School District have been enormous.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Rue is a shining example of dedication to education. The knowledge, concepts and programs that her students have benefited from during her tenure are a permanent reminder of how significant her educational contributions have been. For these reasons and countless others, it is most appropriate that we honor Mrs. Virginia Rue's educational career and extend our best wishes to her in her retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID  
ALAN POWELL

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 2003*

Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ of California. On November 30, 2002 David Alan Powell, a true hero and proud father was taken from us in the line-of-duty.

That night, an Artesia residence was fired on by armed gang members. A fleeing suspect forced his way into an occupied home. Deputy David Powell, doing one of the things he loved to do, risked his life to save the life of another. Within a matter of seconds, Deputy David Powell was taken from us. The lives, hopes and dreams of his family were changed forever.

David's heart was filled with love and his whole purpose in life was to make a difference. David entered the sheriffs academy, Class 221, on January 19, 1984. After graduating from the academy he was assigned to custody for three years where he worked both Men's Central Jail and Pitchess Detention Center. In 1987, he was assigned to Firestone Station. In 1988, he transferred to Lakewood Station, and he earned the reputation of being dedicated and hard working. In the communities where David worked, everyone knew him. Children would wave to him and call his name. He loved children and he loved helping people.

In November 2000, David was presented the Valor Award by the City of Lakewood for saving the life of an elderly male who was attempting suicide. In 2002, he was one of several law enforcement officers who tried to save the lives of three individuals that had crashed their car following a pursuit. As a result of the

crash, the car erupted into flames and for several long minutes, David fought back flames as he and others tried desperately to remove the critically injured passengers from the car. His heroic efforts resulted in his nomination for another valor award. Unfortunately, he won't be here to receive it.

David was a Christian and attended the Lawndale Christian Church his entire life. His love for his family and faith were evident everywhere. David applied his values to all that he did, and he believed in God's plan for him. David and his wife met at church and married in January 1990. Although Emma had three children from a previous marriage, David loved and cared for them as though he was their father. As their daughter Alicia shared, "He was my Daddy . . . the only dad I knew. He was the happiest man. He always had a smile on his face."

He also was a loyal man who loved his job. Just this past Thanksgiving, David shared with his family that with his seniority, he could easily ask to leave patrol and be assigned to a desk. However, he loved his car, Unit 134T1, so much so, he couldn't bear the thought of transferring inside and leaving the patrol car, and the job that brought him so much fulfillment and satisfaction in helping others.

Shortly after leaving the hospital on the day of her father's death, seven-year-old Brianna Powell wrote a note to her dad: "I love you dad. I know you will always be in my heart. I wish you were still down here with all my family. I will never forget you. I wish you were still alive."

I commend David Powell for his valor and service to his country.

Born: May 27, 1960.

Entered Department: January 18, 1994.

Killed in the Line of Duty: November 30, 2002.