

HONORING MR. RAFAEL BARBOZA
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT AS A GUIDANCE
COUNSELOR AT COACHELLA
VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Rafael Barboza on his retirement after more than 30 years of service as a guidance counselor for the students of Coachella Valley High School.

For more than 30 years, Mr. Barboza has spearheaded Coachella Valley High School's efforts to make attending college a reality, leading college application workshops and connecting students with financial aid and scholarship opportunities. He has influenced countless students' lives, and our entire community is grateful for his dedication and commitment to the next generation of leaders.

When I was a student at Coachella Valley High, my goal was to one day attend medical school and become a doctor. That dream often felt very far away, and at times, I wondered whether it might just be a fantasy. If it wasn't for the support and encouragement of my teachers and counselors, especially Mr. Barboza, I do not know whether I would have achieved my lifelong dream of becoming a physician.

Mr. Barboza was my guidance counselor and mentor, as he has been for thousands of Coachella students over the years. Few people have had such a positive impact on my life. Mr. Barboza drove me to become a better student and a better person. He taught me the value of hard work, integrity, and perseverance.

Like myself, many students in my congressional district aspire to pursue a higher education, but often struggle to afford the application fees, tuition, textbooks, and many other expenses. When the time came for me to apply for college, and money was tight at home, Mr. Barboza paid for my application, as I'm sure he has done for others. Without his generosity, the first step in my journey towards becoming a doctor would never have been possible.

Mr. Barboza has also lent his voice to local and national conversations about the rising cost of higher education. As someone on the front lines of our public school system, I hope he will continue to enrich this discussion with his insights.

In recognition of the positive impact he has had on my life, and the lives of countless students and alumni of Coachella Valley High School, it was my privilege to host Mr. Barboza as my guest for President Barack Obama's 2015 State of the Union Address.

Now, on the eve of his retirement, I am honored to congratulate my counselor and mentor, Mr. Rafael Barboza, on his well-earned retirement and wish him health and happiness in this new chapter of life.

THE TOTE PROJECT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, friends always bring out the best in each other. In the case of Fay Grant and Michelle Chavez, friendship yielded a business idea that would combat a social ill.

These best friends have always had a heart for helping others. Several years ago, Grant had a full-time job as a music editor for Sony. On the side, however, she made tote bags by hand from old fabrics and clothing scraps, which she then sold to raise money to help the victims of human trafficking. Chavez, a music director for a website at the time, had also taken on roles to help fight human trafficking. She became an active campaigner, attempting to broaden awareness and exposure to fair trade and human trafficking.

The two friends realized that they could do even more by combining forces, so they decided to turn Grant's bag endeavor into a full-time business, which they named the Tote Project. The main goals of this venture are to give back to others, to promote ethical manufacturing, and to spread awareness of human trafficking.

The business took off, and soon Grant and Chavez were struggling to keep up with an ever-increasing demand for their eye-catching bags, with requests pouring in from not only from America but also from Australia, Germany, Japan, Korea, and several other foreign countries.

Rather than selling these trendy, hip bags for profit, however, the two decided that they would use a portion of the proceeds to help victims of human trafficking. They found a willing partner in Two Wings, an organization that mentors human trafficking victims and helps them achieve their vocational and professional goals. Ten percent of the profits made by the Tote Project go directly to this organization.

The two have gone a step further in providing not only financial assistance to human trafficking victims but also employment and job training. All of the bags for sale on the company's website are handmade by women who were either trafficked themselves or have deemed to be at risk of being trafficked.

Human trafficking occurs in America and around the globe. Thousands of people are coerced or kidnapped to be trafficked, and thousands more are living with terrible physical and emotional scars as survivors of trafficking.

The Tote Project's logo features the blue rose, a symbol of achieving the impossible and defying the odds to fight human trafficking. Mr. Speaker, we need more individuals in the world today like Fay Grant and Michelle Chavez striving to achieve the impossible and end this scourge on humanity once and for all.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF ABERDEEN
TOWNSHIP HOSE & CHEMICAL
CO. NO. 1

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Aberdeen Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1 in Aberdeen, New Jersey on its 100th anniversary. The fire company continues to provide exemplary service to the residents of Aberdeen and is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Officially named the Aberdeen Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1 in 1977 after the change of the township's name, the fire company was organized in 1918 as the Oak Shades Fire Company, which is still used by many as the unofficial name to this day.

Prior to Oak Shades Fire Company's founding, the section of Matawan Township that is now Aberdeen had no official fire company, leaving the protection of its residents to an understanding with the Matawan Borough Fire Department. Disagreements over the arrangement spurred citizens to organize its own fire company. The company included 27 charter members, four of whom served as the charter officers. In 1920, its name was changed, and in 1932, the Matawan Township Hose & Chemical Company No. 1 was official incorporated with the State of New Jersey.

Throughout its 100 year history, Aberdeen Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1 has been supported by its members and the community. The fire company continued to expand and add equipment, ensuring the safety of its residents. Today, the fire company is housed in the Lloyd Road Firehouse, which was built in 1962 and includes five truck bays, a training room, a kitchen and a meeting room.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of Aberdeen Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1 and thanking its members for upholding the duty to serve and protect the community. This milestone and the dedication of the members of Aberdeen Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1 are to be celebrated.

TRIBUTE TO CALEB SANDERS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Caleb Sanders of Glenwood High School for winning the Class 3A, heavyweight state title at the Iowa High School State Wrestling Tournament. Caleb has a 45-3 season and this is Glenwood's first state championship since 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Caleb contributes his success to years of hard work and commitment, and the support he has received from his parents, family, coaches, and fellow teammates.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Caleb demonstrates the rewards of dedication and