

and No. 625. Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 623, I would have voted 'YEA'; on Roll Call No. 624, I would have voted 'YEA'; and on Roll Call No. 625, I would have voted 'NAY'.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP
AND ACTIVISM OF LESLIE DIANE
HIATT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, as we observe American Education Week, I rise today to recognize Leslie Diane Hiatt, a remarkable teacher and social activist in my 40th Congressional District of California. As a teacher at Bell Gardens Elementary in the Montebello Unified School District, Ms. Hiatt has inspired her students to act on injustices in their community and in the world overall.

Born in Whittier, California, on December 10, 1960, to James and Jean Hiatt, Ms. Hiatt was raised in a loving family that encouraged activism and equality. From a young age, her commitment to social justice and service to her community was apparent. In high school, where she organized the first girls' track team, she often spent her lunch break at the local elementary school organizing intramural sports for the younger students. She also spent her free time writing letters to politicians about air pollution and the Vietnam War, trying to right the wrongs of the world. In 1979, Leslie graduated from Monte Vista High School in Whittier, and went on to attend the University of Southern California, from which she graduated in 1983.

Subsequently, Leslie started her teaching career at Bell Gardens Elementary School. In 1988, she pursued her Master of Arts at California State University, Fullerton. She also received a Math Authorization from Center X at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2001.

Throughout her 34-year career as an educator, Ms. Hiatt has worked with immigrant and Latino communities. This has positioned her perfectly to help inspire students to believe they cannot be bystanders, and that in order to bring change in the world, they must use their voice to speak up about injustices. To encourage these conversations, she has her students write letters to government representatives and emphasizes the importance of persistence and collaboration. These experiences have empowered her students. Here are some of their particularly important efforts over the years.

In 1989, one of Ms. Hiatt's classes refused to have grapes from the school cafeteria after learning about the United Farm Workers movement and the dangers that grape workers faced as they were being exposed to pesticides. As a result of the ongoing struggle of grape workers, her students wrote letters to their school board, and after a lengthy debate, the district honored the grape boycott. The students' actions later received attention from labor leader Cesar Chavez.

In 2015, as her students learned about the history of immigration in California and the unconstitutional "Mexican Repatriation" deportations of the 1930s, her students were dismayed at the complete absence of information on the deportations in their history textbooks. They were also astounded to know that there has never been a federal apology for those 1930s deportations, which expelled over 1.2 million United States citizens and over two million Mexican nationals who were legally living in the United States. After drafting a letter to President Obama asking for a federal apology for the Mexican Repatriation of the 1930s, the students entered State Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia's "There Ought to Be a Law" contest. Their goal was to have California recognize the history of the Mexican Repatriation and include it in California history textbooks. As winners of the contest, Ms. Hiatt's students traveled to Sacramento to testify in support of the bill, and in the fall of 2015, Governor Brown signed the bill, AB 146, into law.

Later that same year, Ms. Hiatt's students wrote to me asking for my help in obtaining a federal apology for the unconstitutional deportations. In 2016 and 2017, I introduced H.R. 6314 and H.R. 1412, respectively, which would establish a committee to officially study the Mexican Repatriation and to recommend appropriate remedies.

To this day, Ms. Hiatt's students continue to speak up and take action on pressing world events. They have focused on such subjects as the Lakota Tribe in North Dakota, Hurricane Harvey, and the earthquake in Mexico City.

When Ms. Hiatt isn't teaching her classes and working with her students to implement new legislation, she also co-teaches the STEM Club at Bell Gardens Elementary, and helps organize the school's annual science fair. She is also currently taking science education classes at California State University, Long Beach, to learn more about science content and pedagogy, and she is a member of the university's Elementary Science Learning Academy program.

Ms. Hiatt has the infinite love and support of her husband, Francisco López, and her son, Joaquin López, whose encouragement in-

spires her to continue her work as a passionate educator.

Ms. Hiatt has shown exemplary dedication to children and families in my 40th Congressional District, and I am pleased to recognize her work as an educator and leader. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her tremendous activism, her commitment to social justice, and her determination to empower and develop a new generation of conscientious and compassionate activists.

HONORING GRANT R. WARD

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituent Grant R. Ward. Grant of Gilbert, Arizona. He has been chosen to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Water Resources Association (NWRA).

This lifetime achievement award was established in 1948. According to the NWRA, this award "recognizes members and individuals who have actively served in the leadership of the Association for many years and who, by their activities and service to the goals and objective of the Association, merit Life Member status." Grant embodies the spirit of this distinguished award.

Grant has an impressive resume of service. He graduated from Brigham Young University in 1967 and received his law degree in 1969 from the University of Idaho. From there, he commenced his professional career, serving as an assistant branch manager at the Valley National Bank. He then took a job as General Manager of the Roosevelt Water Conservation District serving there for over a decade. Following this position, he continued his distinguished career as Executive Vice President of the Agri-Business Council of Arizona, Assistant General Manager of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and General Manager of the Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation & Drainage District. He currently is an independent water and power consultant.

Grant is married to Judy and their family includes seven children and 36 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Grant has a remarkable track record of service to our community. He has provided a great example for his children of the value of hard work and giving back through his conservative efforts.

I applaud Grant for his award, and I look forward to his continued service.