

hard to meet the challenges that our labor force is facing today by offering more STEM-based curricula.

Northwest Kansas Technical College offers programs and certification courses in computer science and coding, while Hutchinson Community College's Business and Industry Institute, also in my district, incorporates computer and science technology into their training programs.

Emporia State University recognizes our future by offering STEM-concentration classes for kindergarten through sixth-grade teachers. This program for teachers ensures that our youth will get a greater understanding of these technical skills at a younger age and ultimately be better equipped for future jobs in the STEM industry.

It is important that we recognize these colleges' efforts and their computer science initiatives that will prepare students for success in these growing career fields.

As a Member of Congress, I always strive to create opportunities for my constituents back home, but we must also take advantage of the opportunities at our doorstep. It is imperative that we continue to place a focus on STEM education. As computer science becomes a skill utilized in almost every industry, we must ensure our children are well prepared to meet these demands.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ALWYN CASHE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I am filing legislation to honor an American hero. My bill would name the U.S. Post Office at 567 East Franklin Street in Oviedo, Florida, in honor of one of its native sons, Sergeant First Class Alwyn Cashe.

Scripture teaches us that there is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends. On October 17, 2005, in an Iraqi province north of Baghdad, Sergeant First Class Cashe made the ultimate expression of love, disregarding his personal safety and enduring unimaginable pain in order to save multiple soldiers under his command from their burning vehicle after it hit an improvised explosive device.

His actions that fateful day were so remarkable that they almost defy description. Words like "courage" and "bravery" do not seem adequate to fully capture the deeds this soldier performed.

The actions that Sergeant First Class Cashe took resulted in his death, as he must have known they would. After his passing, Sergeant First Class Cashe received the Silver Star, the third-highest combat award that the Army confers.

Over the past years, there has been a passionate, painstaking, and patient effort to have Sergeant First Class

Cashe's Silver Star upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Notably, this effort has been led by the battalion commander who nominated him for the Silver Star. This individual, now a two-star general, came to believe he deserves the award. I strongly agree with this conclusion.

But right now, I want to talk not about medals but about the man himself, because that is what matters the most.

Alwyn was born in 1970 in Sanford, Florida, and was raised in Oviedo, attending Oviedo High School. He was the youngest of nine children—five girls and four boys. The family didn't have much money, but they had plenty of pride. When Alwyn was just 6, his father passed away. Alwyn's mother, Ruby Mae, worked long hours at demanding jobs, working on an assembly line and, later, as a custodian at Florida Tech, since renamed the University of Central Florida.

One of Alwyn's sisters, Kasinal, who is now an ICU nurse, describes her brother as the baby of the family, rambunctious, a little spoiled by his siblings, and, of course, deeply loved. She remembers buying him a 10-speed bike so he wouldn't be different from the other kids in the neighborhood and how happy he was.

Alwyn enlisted in the military after high school. Kasinal told us it had a transformational effect, turning this aimless boy into a resolute man, the civilian into a soldier—and not just any soldier, but a soldier's soldier, a tough-as-nails infantryman, and an old-school leader in the best sense of the term.

As Kasinal put it, Alwyn bled Army green right from the start. The Army gave him a second family with even more brothers and sisters, bound together by the American flag on their uniform and the events they experienced and endured together, from boot camp to combat.

On October 17, 2005, Alwyn, now Sergeant First Class Cashe, was on his second deployment to Iraq. The Bradley Fighting Vehicle carrying him, six other American soldiers, and the squad's interpreter struck an IED. The blast instantly killed the interpreter and ruptured the vehicle's fuel cell.

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Flames engulfed the vehicle. Initially, only lightly injured, but covered in fuel, he descended into the hull, extracted the driver, who was on fire, and extinguished the flames. At this point, multiple soldiers remained in the vehicle, one of whom managed to open the rear hatch.

Sergeant First Class Cashe rushed to the back of the vehicle, reached into the hot flames, and started pulling out soldiers. His fuel-soaked uniform caught fire and the flames spread quickly over his body. Despite what must have been terrible pain, he returned to the vehicle twice more to extract his soldiers, all while he was still on fire and exposed to enemy gunfire.

By the time all the soldiers were saved from the vehicle, his injuries were the most severe. Second- and third-degree burns covered 72 percent of his body. Nevertheless, he refused to be evacuated until all his soldiers were medevacked out before him.

When he arrived at the U.S. military hospital at Balad Air Base in Iraq, he was still fully conscious. What remained of his uniform had melted to his skin, yet he tried to fight off the nurses, insisting that they treat everyone else first. Despite determined efforts to save his life at various hospitals abroad and in the States, he eventually succumbed to his wounds on November 8, 2005, surrounded by members of his biological family and his Army family.

Sergeant First Class Cashe's actions reflect the highest standards of servant leadership, devotion to duty, and sheer bravery.

We cannot bring Sergeant First Class Cashe back or erase the pain felt by those who loved him and those who served alongside him, but we can pay tribute to his life and his legacy. We can engrave his name on a plaque and designate a Federal building in his memory so the public never forgets this American soldier, this son of Oviedo, who laid down his life for his friends in service to our country.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TAYLOR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, January is National Mentoring Month. Never underestimate the big impact that you can make with a little contribution of your time, wisdom, and attention.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America organization. The Big Brothers Big Sisters of America movement began in 1904. Big Brothers Big Sisters of America currently operates throughout the U.S. and in 12 countries across the world.

Children joining Big Brothers Big Sisters of America are carefully placed in a one-on-one relationship with an older volunteer in a key stage in their development. These children are less likely to engage in such behaviors, such as drug use, other illegal activities, or social dysfunction.

One such big brother, Andrew Jones, signed up for the program. Years ago, he met a young 12-year-old. This boy was from a low-income, single-parent household. His mother worked a lot of overtime at a local hospital. Misguided, the boy was already on probation at 12 years old, hanging around the wrong crowd, and headed in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew would take the boy to the English Grill restaurant for a weekly \$2.22 breakfast: two eggs, two

pancakes, and two sausages. He would teach the boy everything from having a napkin on his lap at the dinner table to stock options.

For years to come, Andrew would attend hundreds of sporting events for the boy, show him the value of reading, reinforce manners, and build his self-confidence.

Andrew would be the only person the boy would talk to if he lost a wrestling match. He would be the first person the boy would call for advice. Mr. Speaker, he would be the first person the boy would call from a tent hospital after being injured as a soldier in the deserts of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, that little boy is me.

We can all seek out mentors in our own lives and we can all be mentors for others. We are all in this together. Never underestimate the big impact that you can make with a little contribution of your time, wisdom, and attention.

AMERICA IS JUDGED BY THEIR ACTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, I have the superlative pleasure of speaking from the well of the Congress of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a liberated Democrat.

I rise today to speak truth to power.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to remind us that, although we are the leaders of the free world, we will not be received as the leaders of the free world if we are perceived as the leader of worldwide bigotry.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to remind us that we won't be received as the leaders of the free world if we are perceived as being anti-immigration when it comes to Muslims and, as a result, xenophobic.

We won't be received as leaders of the free world if we are perceived as homophobic because we are anti-transgender.

We won't be received as leaders of the free world if we are perceived as anti-Africa because it is a continent of s---hole countries. We will be perceived, quite frankly, and received as racist if we do so.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to maintain our preeminence in the world, we must not be perceived as the bigots of the world.

Mr. Speaker, the solution can be an election in 2020, or it can be impeachment tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I will bring impeachment before the Congress of the United States of America again tomorrow sometime after 9 a.m. and before we leave for our break.

Mr. Speaker, history is watching. We will be judged by our actions. Time will tell. I will be on the right side of history.

CELEBRATING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCOTT'S DOWNTOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Scott's Downtown in Gainesville, Georgia. Recently, the restaurant celebrated its 10th anniversary, and, to mark this achievement, the staff chose to honor local law enforcement with a luncheon.

When Scott Dixon first opened Scott's Downtown in 2007, he took the first step in pursuing his long-held dream.

Scott began bussing tables at the age of 13 and worked his way up the ladder in the restaurant industry. Over the course of his career, he has developed a passion for brightening people's days with food and a friendly heart.

A decade in, Scott's Downtown is a Gainesville favorite, known for providing residents with exceptional food. Rather than highlight this success, however, Scott's Downtown points to the courage and service of our law enforcement officials who put their lives on the line each day to protect our community.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Scott's Downtown on their first 10 years of service, and I join them in thanking the brave men and women in blue who make Gainesville a safe and beautiful place to live.

CELEBRATING Z. BROWN DISTILLERY'S 500TH BARREL OF BOURBON

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the staff at Z. Brown Distillery in Dahlonega, Georgia, in celebrating their 500th barrel of northeast Georgia bourbon.

The partnership of master distiller Jeff Odem; his wife, Diane Kelly; and Dahlonega native and Grammy award-winning musician Zac Brown is great news for Lumpkin County. They are turning local crops into high-quality, small-batch spirits. In the span of a few weeks, business has already taken off with the construction of two new buildings for expansion.

My friends and neighbors in northeast Georgia can agree that it's the little things in life that mean the most. This distillery captures the warm, inviting nature of the Georgia mountains in its product.

The distillery welcomes visitors from near and far, and leaves them with a greater appreciation for the tastes of Appalachia. I congratulate Z. Brown Distillery on its success, and I wish its team the best as their young business branches out in northeast Georgia.

JOINING HANDS IN THE MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 45th annual March for Life, which takes place this Friday.

Across our country, Americans will help defend innocent lives by giving them a clear voice in Washington. We are a nation of people who strive to fight for individual freedoms, yet we

deprive the unborn of their most fundamental liberty: the right to a birthday.

As a father of three, a pastor, and an Air Force chaplain, I believe we have a sacred responsibility to protect the lives of the unborn. Every life has value and every child deserves a birthday.

This week, the House will vote to increase protections for unborn Americans through the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This legislation would ensure that a child born after a failed abortion attempt receives the same life-giving medical care that any newborn would receive. The bill would also prohibit medical providers from continuing the abortion procedure postbirth.

No one should be able to end another person's life, no matter how small, for convenience. Northeast Georgians value life, and I am thankful to join them in the fight against abortion and to promote bright futures for all Americans—the born and unborn—among us.

To the father, it is mentioned many times, that you care for your children. On these days and this week, I harken back almost 26 years ago to when my daughter, Jordan, was born. Jordan was born with spina bifida. When many said to my wife and me that we had choices to end, I am happy to say that almost every day I wake up to a text from my daughter that says: "Good morning, Daddy. I'm headed to work."

All life is precious. All life deserves a chance. Every day I am blessed with the knowledge that the choice we made, and the choice that we would have always made, was for our precious daughter, Jordan, and for all of those who are seeking a birthday.

RECOGNIZING ANDREA JUNG AND GRAMEEN BANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Grameen America for opening a new facility in Miami, and to recognize its president and CEO, Andrea Jung.

Grameen America is a nonprofit microfinance organization that, for over 10 years, has been dedicated to helping women in poverty create and expand small businesses in their communities.

Last month, Grameen opened its first branch in Miami, where it hopes to serve 7,000 women over the next 5 years and disburse more than \$21.5 million in loans. What a difference that will make.

Mr. Speaker, today, sadly, more than 20 percent of women in my county—Miami-Dade County—are living in poverty. These loans will empower them to become active players in strengthening south Florida's economy.

This organization is spearheaded by Andrea Jung, who, from a young age, understood the important value of empowering women to become financially independent.