

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, perhaps now more than ever, we need to recognize the critical role a free press plays in our democracy and those who play that role so well.

Today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of an award-winning journalist and dedicated public servant, Elizabeth Brackett, who died on June 17, following a tragic accident. Her death is already being felt by her colleagues at WTTW, the entire Chicago journalism community, and all of the Illinois residents who have relied on her reporting for unparalleled insight into the pressing challenges that confront our Nation and our world.

Working at four television stations spanning five decades, Elizabeth was an accomplished journalist and news program host who asked public officials questions that really matter.

In the past, people have asked if I am afraid of a journalist who raises tough questions. The answer is no. I'm afraid of a journalist who asks the wrong questions, who doesn't know what questions to ask.

Elizabeth was a journalist's journalist who knew not only what to ask, but how and why. Her thoughtful, smart, and incredibly well-researched approach made us all better at our jobs.

After retiring from her full-time position at "Chicago Tonight" in 2014, Elizabeth continued to contribute to the network primarily on environmental topics, such as the health of the lakes in which she frequently swam.

In particular, I remember one of the most recent interviews in 2017 when she asked me about efforts to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. It was Elizabeth who asked me about the environmental impacts in such detail and accuracy, providing viewers, listeners, and readers alike with an in-depth understanding of the invasive species, a critical issue for our Great Lakes.

"Resourceful" and "passionate" were two words often used to describe her. Carol Marin, Elizabeth's colleague at "Chicago Tonight," said it best: "Elizabeth was always going to be your competitor. She was out there to get the story, get it first, and get the story best. That is what made her so good at what she did."

In addition to journalism, her ambition was, front and center, in her unmistakable athleticism. She began competing in triathlons at the age of 50 and became a national champion in her age group.

From beginning her broadcast career in 1977 as a researcher at WBBM-TV to becoming a weekend anchor and going on to win national Emmy and Peabody awards, Elizabeth was an institution.

I extend my thoughts to her husband, Peter Martinez, and her entire family, including 10 grandchildren.

She was a role model and a force for truth. We will all miss her expertise and energy both in and out of the news studio.

CONGRATULATING DR. BILL LAWRENCE

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to congratulate Dr. Bill Lawrence on his retirement after over 30 years as a principal in southwest Alabama.

For the last 21 years, Dr. Lawrence worked as principal of Foley Elementary School in Baldwin County. Prior to that, he served for 10 years at W. H. Council Traditional School in Mobile County.

Being a principal is a tough job, but Dr. Lawrence thrived in the role throughout his career. He overcame many obstacles and always provided steady leadership for his students, teachers, faculty, and parents. I know that personally because I am one of those parents.

Dr. Lawrence would always go above and beyond the job description. He said that one of his proudest accomplishments was starting the Turkey Take-out program to help provide families in poverty with a free Thanksgiving meal.

On behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District and the countless students positively impacted by Dr. Lawrence over his career, including my daughter, Laura, I want to wish him all the best upon his retirement.

Foley Elementary School and public education in Alabama will not be the same without him.

CONGRATULATING VICTOR HELMSING

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Victor Helmsing on his retirement after 35 years serving as a teacher at St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile.

Throughout his time at St. Paul's, he held a range of teaching positions, including everything from senior government and economics to AP U.S. Government and politics, to Western civilization.

He also helped lead various extra-curricular programs, including the Key Club for 28 years, and serving as senior class sponsor for 35 straight years. He has also been a leader among his peers, serving as chair of various administrative committees.

During various time periods, Victor served as associate headmaster, assistant headmaster, and director of the upper school, but his true passion has always rested in the classroom. I know every former student has their own story about something Victor Helmsing taught them or a way he had a lasting impact on their lives. That is just the type of teacher and leader he has always been.

So on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to wish Victor and his wife, Vaughan, all the best upon his retirement. His impact on St. Paul's and his former students will be felt for years to come.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR. JOSHUA FELDSTEIN

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Dr. Joshua Feldstein, president emeritus of Delaware Valley University, who passed away on June 19 at the age of 97.

Born in Lithuania and raised in Belarus, Dr. Feldstein was the very embodiment of the American Dream. After fleeing Nazi persecution, Dr. Feldstein arrived in Bucks County, where he eventually received degrees in horticulture and agricultural mechanics before earning a doctorate at Rutgers University.

Dr. Feldstein's legacy is one of diversity and expanding civil rights. In the 1960s, he played a significant role in the university's admission of women, and upon taking the helm as president in 1975, he oversaw the expansion of women faculty members.

More than anything, Dr. Feldstein was a man of kindness and good faith who relentlessly sought to open doors and brighten futures for the students who attended the school he cared so deeply about.

I send my condolences to Dr. Feldstein's sons, Ted and Dan, along with the rest of his family and the entire DelVal community. May they take comfort in knowing his life was one extraordinarily well lived.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2018 GRADUATES OF BUCKS COUNTY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2018 graduates of Bucks County Technical High School, who graduated last week.

Watched by over 1,000 family members and friends, the nearly 300 graduates walked across the aisle at the CURE Insurance Arena to receive their diplomas.

I am proud to report that this impressive class earned approximately \$1.2 million in scholarships, and 72 percent of the class is moving on to continue their education.

I would especially like to recognize the students who have decided to join the Armed Services, and I speak on behalf of all of us in Bucks County when I say we appreciate your dedication to service and passion for keeping America safe.

I also applaud Principal Robert Azar and Administrative Director Dr. Leon Poeske for their work in molding the minds of the next generation.

I wish the 2018 graduates of Bucks County Technical High School and all of those who are graduating this year the best of luck in their next chapters. I encourage them to use their skills to strive to make our communities a better place.

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RECOGNIZING IRENE MOLLOY

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent,

Irene Molloy, for her artistic accomplishments both in Hollywood and in our home of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

This week, Irene will begin a new path in her illustrious career, as she will make her debut as director of the Bucks County Center for Performing Arts' rendition of "The Fantasticks." This production of the 1960s musical will take place at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown Township.

A native of Chalfont and a graduate of Archbishop Wood Catholic High School, Irene had worked both on Broadway and in Los Angeles before founding the firm Radiant Bloom Productions.

I applaud Irene for using her artistic talents to make Bucks County a more vibrant place.

I would also like to recognize Howard Perloff of Carversville, the founder and artistic director of the Bucks County Center for the Performing Arts for his contributions to our community and those where he has produced a multitude of plays over a decades-long career.

SUPPORT AMIGOS ACT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in fostering increased investment in the United States economy by one of our oldest allies, Portugal. As a co-chair of the Congressional Portuguese Caucus, I am proud to join Congressmen CICILLINE and VALADAO in leading the AMIGOS Act, which we introduced earlier this spring.

Earlier this month, Senators WHITEHOUSE and HATCH introduced the companion measure of the AMIGOS Act in the United States Senate. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation would make Portuguese citizens eligible for specific visas that allow them to enter the United States to conduct substantial trade or to invest a substantial amount of capital. We do this with other nations. This will spur investment in our economy, and it helps create jobs.

In 2015 alone, trade between Portugal and the United States reached \$4.2 billion, and it is only growing. The AMIGOS Act will strengthen this reciprocal economic relationship, one of our longest and strongest allies.

Strengthening relationships that benefit both countries is the best way to grow the economy and to increase the number of jobs in the long term, not trade tariffs.

We have extended these visas before. In 2012, Congress granted, most recently, eligibility to Israel.

Our friendship with Portugal and the contributions of hardworking Portuguese immigrants in America are an important part of our country's history and heritage. Portugal was one of the first countries to recognize the United

States after we declared our independence, and Portugal joined us in being a founding member of NATO.

The AMIGOS Act is commonsense, bipartisan, and bicameral. It is the type of trade policy we should be leading, not engaging in trade wars. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the AMIGOS Act and working together for strong and stable investment in America's economy and American jobs.

With bipartisan efforts in the House and in the Senate, these are the kinds of things that we can do, and I am hopeful that this legislation will be enacted into law before the end of the year.

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Immigrant Heritage Month.

At a time when heinous action is being taken in the name of securing our borders—and we must secure our borders—I stand here to call on every one of my colleagues in Washington, local leaders across the United States, and individual Americans and their families. I call on all of us to come together and remember we are a Nation of immigrants, immigrants past and immigrants present.

For more than 250 years, immigrants have made our country what it is today. Every generation of immigrants contributes new ideas, fresh energy, and vibrant culture to our Nation that makes up this mosaic web of an incredible place we call America.

I grew up in California's San Joaquin Valley, which I have the honor and privilege to represent. Our valley is a rich combination of people whose families have come from all over the world. It is part of this fabric, this mosaic, I talk about. They have made California and our Nation what it is today through hard work, family values, and lasting contributions in so many different ways: the agriculture economy, businesses, education, and healthcare systems.

Their story is our story. It is the story of achieving the American Dream. The American Dream lives on. It lives on in all of us.

Last week, I met with a group of students from my district on the Capitol steps, many of whom are children from immigrant families. These young people came to Washington to learn about our government and how to make a difference. They are our future leaders in the next generation who want to achieve this American Dream.

At a time, Mr. Speaker, when children and Dreamers are being leveraged to ram shortsighted and ineffective immigration reform through Congress, let us pause. Let's step back. Let's think about what our country stands for, our common bonds and our values. I call on all of us to come together to reflect that.

Let us commemorate American Heritage Month with something real. The Fourth of July is next week. We celebrate our country. We come together in

a patriotic fashion, remembering what has made America great. Part of what has made America great is generations of folks coming from all over the world, wanting to live this dream.

We must reject that immigration policy being forced through the Congress, and we must come together to fix our broken immigration system with real, bipartisan reform that provides long-term solutions while respecting the dignity and humanity of all people who are part of this American Dream.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July next week, let us never forget that our common values and our bonds are far stronger than whatever differences we may have.

LAMPETER-STRASBURG SOFTBALL

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Lampeter-Strasburg High School women's softball team located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, that recently reached the pinnacle of its sport by winning the State championship. I am especially proud, Mr. Speaker, of this win because this is the school in my home school district where my family and I reside.

The Lampeter-Strasburg Pioneers beat West Allegheny on Thursday, June 14, to claim its first-ever PIAA 5A softball State championship. After losing by a slim margin 2 years ago, the Pioneers overcame adversity and returned to the State finals this year to win 6-2. The team's 14-3 win over Donegal—which won last year's 5A State championship title—in the Lancaster-Lebanon section 3 playoff is further evidence of its success during the postseason.

I spoke to Coach Gene Charles last night by phone. He credited the victory to the team's clutch hitting and key defensive stops later in the game. Coach Charles has coached at Lampeter-Strasburg for more than 20 years, building an extensive network of active alumni who frequently travel to games with his family.

We are lucky to have leaders and mentors in our district like Coach Charles who inspire our student athletes to strive for success and to learn from failure.

Junior Brynne Baker also pitched a noteworthy game, holding the opposing team to just one earned run. In her postgame interview, Baker said this was a huge win for the team, especially the graduating seniors, and a proud moment for the Lancaster-based community.

Congratulations to all the players, coaches, their families, and all those who made this championship for Lampeter-Strasburg possible. Your community is proud of you and will continue rooting for you season after season.