

Impeachment must not become weaponized. It cannot simply be another election tool.

The question before this body is not whether a Member is comfortable with the rhetoric of the President, his political tactics, his use of Twitter, his policy choices, or his political rallies. The question is: Have high crimes and misdemeanors been committed? And if so, they must be prepared to demonstrate that specifically.

I urge the Speaker of the House to ensure that each Member, should they desire, be afforded time, 5 minutes per Member, during debate on impeachment to explain his or her view and impending vote. It is critical the American people, who will be watching closely, be afforded an opportunity to see and hear those views.

Impeachment must not be based upon polling data, election advantages, or social media commentary. It must be based upon clear and compelling facts. To do anything else threatens our Republic.

I intend to approach this matter in just that way. I will uphold my oath and vote as the circumstances require.

But this judgment also must not be preordained based on political party or political maneuvering by anyone serving in this Chamber.

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#### NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week, we celebrate the fifth year of National Apprenticeship Week, a week dedicated to showcasing the impact that apprenticeship programs have on preparing Americans for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Our Nation has 7 million unfilled jobs. A 2018 survey of U.S. employers showed that nearly half of all job creators struggle to hire employees with the right skills for the job.

Apprenticeships offer one of the strongest solutions to closing the skills gap and strengthening the American workforce. That is why Republicans on the Committee on Education and Labor are committed to expanding apprenticeship opportunities nationwide.

According to the Department of Labor, 94 percent of apprentices retain employment after completing an apprenticeship program, and the average starting salary after completion is \$70,000.

Apprenticeships help integrate the education system with the workforce development system, which allows all students to be better prepared to compete successfully in the 21st century economy.

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#### ALABAMA A&M 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University.

The school was originally established not long after the Civil War, in 1873, by the legislature of the State of Alabama. Through the tireless efforts of the first principal and president, William Hooper Council, the Huntsville Normal School opened on May 1, 1875, with an appropriation of \$1,000 per year. It had 61 students and two instructors.

In 1885, because of its success with industrial education, the Alabama Legislature changed its name to the State Normal and Industrial School in Huntsville.

In 1891, the name was again changed to the State Agricultural and Industrial Institute for Negroes, and a new location was provided at Normal, Alabama.

In 1969, the school became a fully accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and its name was changed to Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, the name that it has today.

In the 50 years since its university designation and establishment of the foundation, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University has grown to encompass widely respected programs in engineering, computer science, business, food sciences, agricultural and animal sciences, and education, as well as Ph.D. programs in plant and soil science, food science, physics, and reading.

Today, Alabama A&M University is comprised of over 70 buildings and more than 1,000 acres, is home to more than 6,000 students, is a designated Gold Military Friendly institution, and serves as a regional State, national, and international resource, while maintaining its mission of educating the underserved and uplifting the people of Alabama, the Nation, and the world through its excellence in education.

On a more personal note, my mother, Betty Brooks, is a proud graduate of Alabama A&M University, having received her master's degree there. I thank Alabama A&M for helping her to successfully serve for a quarter of a century as a Lee High School government and economics teacher.

In sum, I am, and all of the State of Alabama is, proud of Alabama A&M University's accomplishments and wish Alabama A&M a happy 50th anniversary as a fully accredited university.

Go Bulldogs.

May their future success in helping prepare, train, and educate our youth be as great and productive as their past.

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#### CONGRATULATING COLONEL ANTHONY POLASHEK ON 32 YEARS IN THE AIR FORCE

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Anthony Polashek on his retirement from the U.S. Air Force after 32 years of service.

Colonel Polashek graduated from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, an officer training school, before commissioning into the Air Force.

During his long career, Colonel Polashek's deployments included Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. By the end of his distinguished career, he logged more than 5,800 flight hours as a command pilot, more than 500 of which were in combat.

Since 2016, Colonel Polashek has served as commander of the 934th Airlift Wing, located at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, overseeing 12 squadrons with more than 1,400 airmen.

Minnesota has been fortunate to have such an accomplished member of our Nation's Armed Forces lead the charge and train our airmen and -women of tomorrow.

Again, we congratulate Colonel Polashek on his retirement, and we wish him the best as he moves to his next chapter.

#### RECOGNIZING NANCY LIBERSKY'S LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Small Business Administration's Minnesota district director, Nancy Libersky, on her retirement.

District Director Libersky has served our great State of Minnesota for 28 years. She will be missed.

Nancy's time at the SBA in Minnesota began in 1994 as the regional manager for SBA's Twin City's international trade programs. In this capacity, Nancy helped hundreds of Minnesota businesses compete in the global marketplace.

At the same time, Nancy also served as an adjunct instructor at Saint Paul College and was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to sit on the Minnesota District Export Council.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Nancy for almost three decades of service to Small Business Minnesota, and we wish her the best in her retirement.

#### THE WALL FAMILY, MINNESOTA FAMILY BUSINESS AWARD OF 2019 RECIPIENT

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wall family of Highland Bank in St. Michael, Minnesota, for receiving the 2019 Minnesota Family Business Award.

The Walls have proudly owned and operated the bank for more than four decades, serving as a lifeline for their customers and their community.

As a small financial institution, the financial crisis took its toll on Highland and families in and around St. Michael. Nevertheless, the Wall family persevered and led their bank and their community during a very difficult economic time.

The resiliency and community-focused nature of banks like Highland are essential to helping Minnesotans

and Americans pursue and achieve their American Dream. Family-owned institutions like the Highland Bank understand the needs of their neighbors and business owners and, in turn, empower families and local economies on Main Streets across our country.

I congratulate the Highland Bank and the Wall family on their recognition and thank them for all they do for St. Michael and Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District.

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RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE  
MINNESOTA FARM BUREAU

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation a very happy 100th birthday.

For 100 years, the Minnesota Farm Bureau has been an ally and advocate for growers, ranchers, and producers across the 87 counties in Minnesota. Even after a century of work, the Minnesota Farm Bureau remains the leading voice for farmers, their families, and the agriculture community at large.

I want to give a special thanks to Minnesota Farm Bureau President Kevin Paap and Vice President Dan Glessing, both of whom go above and beyond to advocate for their members.

I would also like to recognize Amber Hanson Glaeser, the bureau's director of public policy, who always keeps our office apprised of the challenges facing our agricultural families and their community.

It has been an honor to work with everyone at the Minnesota Farm Bureau throughout my time in Congress, and I am grateful for the opportunity to wish them all a happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STACY MANNING AND  
HER LEGACY OF HELPING FAMILIES

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Stacy Manning from Zimmerman, Minnesota.

Stacy tragically passed away earlier this year, leaving behind a legacy of compassion and support for Minnesota families working through the process of adoption.

Stacy and her husband, Pat, had three children of their own when they decided to adopt three more. While working to meet the challenges that adoption can bring with a family of six, Stacy realized that other adoptive parents were experiencing many of the same challenges.

Stacy wanted to help, so she established Hope Connections, a support network designed to connect with families for adoption coaching and education.

Stacy's work touched the lives of thousands of families across this country.

This week, Stacy's family is in Washington to honor her memory and receive the Angels in Adoption award that Stacy earned for the work that she believed in so deeply.

Stacy may no longer be with us, but her spirit and Hope Connections' mission lives on through her son Andrew,

who continues her legacy in assisting those experiencing the challenges that adoption can bring.

Stacy's impact on so many Minnesotans will never be forgotten.

CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
OF WOMEN IN TECHNICAL AND  
MANUFACTURING FIELDS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is National Women in Apprenticeship Day, and today I celebrate the accomplishments of all women who are working in the nontraditional technical and manufacturing fields.

During World War II, we saw women across the Nation flock to factories to fill technical and manufacturing jobs that were vacated by men leaving to fight for our country. We saw it in Fort Worth at what is now the Lockheed Martin plant—just some great pictures that capture that time period that still exist today.

But, nearly 70 years later, we are struggling to give women equal representation in these fields.

That is why my fellow co-chair of the Blue Collar Caucus, Representative BRENDAN BOYLE, and I are proud to introduce the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Amendment Act that will break employment barriers that face women of all races and backgrounds entering into technical and manufacturing occupations.

Because the best way we can celebrate National Women in Apprenticeship Day is by taking action to ensure that all Americans have a fair shot at entering our workforce and achieving the American Dream.

I also want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, for her work on the legislation that we will vote on later this week, the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019, which will honor any female individual who held employment or volunteered in support of the war efforts during the World War II time period back in the 1940s.

RECOGNIZING NECCO FOSTER  
CARE OF KENTUCKY

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Necco Foster Care of Kentucky, an organization with offices across Kentucky's First Congressional District and the Commonwealth.

Necco works tirelessly to place thousands of children with supportive and caring families. With foster parents from all walks of life and a variety of backgrounds, the organization ensures that each child is matched with a loving, stable, and comfortable home.

The organization was recently recognized as a 2019 Angels in Adoption honoree.

Necco offers supportive community living for young adults and intensive home-based treatment for families. Through programs like these, Necco shows itself to be a diligent, compassionate guiding hand to society's most vulnerable.

The staff at Necco helps children in both rural and urban settings as well as those in the juvenile justice population. By providing these services, Necco is improving the lives of those most in need while also setting the foundation for a brighter future for coming generations of Kentuckians.

On behalf of my constituents, I congratulate Necco and its staff in their efforts to make the dream of a family a reality for many children in need.

CONGRATULATING DEAN OWEN FOR BEING  
AWARDED THE HIRE VETS MEDALLION AWARD

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud my friend, Mr. Dean Owen, for being awarded and recognized last week by the Department of Labor's HIRE Vets Medallion Awards Program.

This program focuses on bringing our Nation's veterans back to the workforce and equipping them with the skills they need to excel at home after serving our country across the world.

As a resident and business owner in the First Congressional District of Kentucky, Dean Owen has gone above and beyond to invest in recruiting, employing, and retaining our Nation's finest through his professional accountants firm in Paducah, my district's largest city.

The rigorous criteria by which a HIRE Vets Medallion is earned speaks to the remarkable dedication Dean regularly displays in his mission to advance veteran careers.

I want to thank Dean once again for being a valuable, caring, and ambitious figure in my district. With constituents like Dean, there is no question as to why I am proud to stand here today and represent the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

CONDUCT THE BUSINESS OF THE PEOPLE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, this must be a proud day for many Washington Democrats: the beginning of their quest to impeach our duly-elected President of the United States, with wall-to-wall coverage from all the major media networks of this circus of an event.

But I, again, rise today to implore the Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI, to conduct the business of the people.

The people of America elected all 435 of us to do the things that they expect Congress to do—real business, not theater. And the business that the people expect us to do, of the utmost importance today, would be to ratify the USMCA and to take up the demand to try to have some type of prescription drug reform legislation passed before the end of the year.

But, instead of doing these two most essential acts that Congress should be taking up to represent the people of