

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.

□ 1015

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 accountant services 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

America, we have, instead, the majority party conducting baseless impeachment hearings.

I conclude again by calling on NANCY PELOSI and the majority party to do the things the American people actually want Congress to do.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

FUND THE MILITARY

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, there are 8 days until our military funding runs out. Instead of funding the military, the House is kicking the can down the road. Instead of bringing stability to our servicemembers, House Democratic leadership is focused on a partisan impeachment process.

Our men and women in uniform deserve better than this. They deserve to have their mission, training, weapons, and equipment properly funded.

However, next week, when we reach the funding deadline, we will likely vote on a continuing resolution, a CR. A CR is not a thoughtful approach to support our servicemembers. A CR maintains current spending levels for the military and continues this cycle of uncertainty for our servicemembers.

While better than a shutdown, there are real-world consequences to simply passing a CR:

The Air Force is short 2,100 pilots. A CR does not provide the Air Force with new funding to train new pilots to fill these positions.

A CR prevents the Army from building 4,000 housing units for its members.

A CR forces the Navy to cancel ship maintenance periods and undermines critical training programs.

This is a dangerous funding cycle that jeopardizes our servicemembers' safety and their ability to protect our country.

Once again, our Federal spending process is broken, and it has gotten us into this mess. Let's stop the partisan politics. Let's focus on supporting our military. And let's work to fix the broken spending process here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, we must never allow our servicemembers and their mission to be put at risk again.

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF THE WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 100 years of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau. For a century, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau has supported farmers in Wisconsin.

Agriculture is a Wisconsin tradition. Generations of Wisconsinites have dedicated their life to farming and feeding our State and the world. From milk to cheese, from sweet corn to soybeans, from cranberries to whey, our proud, hardworking Wisconsin farmers are there.

I thank the Wisconsin Farm Bureau for helping Wisconsin become and remain America's dairyland.

Happy 100 years.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM ON FIFTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Wisconsin women's hockey team on winning their fifth national championship in program history.

They beat the Minnesota Gophers 2-0 to win their first national championship in 8 years. Kristen Campbell did not give up a goal, and it was her 11th shutout of the season. To make the victory better, we beat our rival, Minnesota.

The Badgers' women's hockey team is visiting my office and the White House to celebrate this success.

Congrats to the University of Wisconsin women's hockey team for their hard-earned victory. The Badger State is proud of them. On, Wisconsin.

HONORING CHIEF OF STAFF RYAN THOMPSON

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

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, what are the best things an American can do for his or her country?

Public service, military service, community service.

What does a true public servant look like?

Someone who possesses exemplary character, integrity, and inspires confidence. Someone who has the network of relationships on both sides to be both respected and effective.

How do you honor a man who gave 20 years to the United States Government and the House of Representatives, the United States Marine Corps Infantry, and dedicated his free time to bringing Democrats and Republicans together in the name of charity?

Ryan Thompson, my trusted chief of staff and dear friend, who sits here with me, joins us on the House floor for the final time today.

He has accompanied me and our former boss to the floor countless times and always helped us look and do our best. Today is different, though, because this is his moment.

Mr. Speaker, there are proud members of the United States Marine Corps and there are proud graduates of Texas A&M University—Texas Aggies.

Occasionally, God blesses the world by combining both of those things in one person. Such is the case with Ryan Thompson.

Ryan is a proud, sixth-generation Texan of the Aggie variety, who serves

as a past president of the Texas State Society. A true philanthropist, Ryan has dedicated thousands of hours over the past decade to organizing the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Baseball Game, which raises millions of dollars for local charities each year.

Furthermore, Ryan founded and leads the Congressional Sports for Charity Foundation, which was created to ensure that the Congressional Baseball Game and other congressional charity events live on for decades to come.

Ryan wisely understands that the game is not only essential to the many charities it helps but serves another cause in need, the Congress itself.

Today, on behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Washington, D.C.; the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation; and the Washington Literacy Council, which honored him with the Champion for Literacy Award—not to mention a grateful institution and Nation—thank you and happy trails to Ryan Scott Thompson.

Like a Texas live oak, he is strong from the roots up.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Apprenticeship Week. This year is the fifth anniversary for the celebration that aims to connect job seekers with businesses and educators in our communities to highlight the wealth of apprenticeship opportunities that are available.

For too long, it has been implied that the only respectable or worthwhile option available to achieve a successful career is spending 4 or more years on a campus to earn a college degree. Yet, the more than 7 million unfilled jobs in America today suggest workers don't have the necessary skills to fill these jobs.

We need to defy this misconception, invest in skills-based education, and fix our Nation's growing skills gap by providing students and job seekers with the skills and hands-on experience they need to improve their own lives.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am proud to push for accessible career and technical education alongside my good friend and colleague, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN.

Career and technical education, or CTE, goes hand in hand with apprenticeships. Equipping learners of all ages with real-world experience in fields like STEM, nursing, information technology, cyber technology, agriculture, and more can bring us one step closer to closing our Nation's skills gap. In the past several years, we have