

friends. A man pulled up next to them and complained about the loud music that they were playing.

He pulled out a gun and he fired 10 shots into that car hitting Jordan three times, killing my only son.

I lost my son. But I am still his mother and I am on a mission to help protect the lives of children like him all over America.

I made a promise to my community that I would act in Washington.

I promised that I would take that sense of protection, that love a mother has for her only son, and use it for my community, use it for the American people.

I promised I would dedicate my life to families like mine in Marietta, Georgia, who are terrified that they will send their kids to school and never see them come home. They are terrified they will be me.

I pray that on the 1-year anniversary of H.R. 8, that we remember that this is in our hands. We remember families like Mary's. We remember children graduating from high school. We remember Florida. We remember communities all across this country. Their lives are in our hands.

I want to thank my colleagues, survivors, and volunteers, and advocates across America that are here with us today for your tireless work to pass this landmark legislation and protect our families.

I pray that God bless us all in this fight to save American lives.

#### HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the battle for Iwo Jima. I had the privilege of joining Senator YOUNG at a ceremony last week in Indianapolis to commemorate this fateful battle that led to the allied victory in World War II.

With us at the Indiana War Memorial was Wayne Saucerman, a World War II marine veteran of Iwo Jima and a true American hero.

Seventy-five years ago Wayne found himself thousands of miles away from home in the midst of a fierce 5-week battle that would help change the course of the war and history itself.

To Wayne and to other patriots who fight for the freedom and liberty we hold so dear, thank you for your service.

Next month I will have the honor of returning to the island as part of a congressional delegation invited to participate in the 75th Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima. We will be joined by the commandant of the Marine Corps and dignitaries from Japan to renew this commitment by remembering and honoring those who fought 75 years ago.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PUTS FARMERS FIRST

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Trump's leader-

ship on the Waters of the United States issue and support his repeal of the burdensome Obama-era regulation.

As a result of this decision, our farmers can worry less about government overreach on their own property and instead focus on building and growing their farms and small businesses. We finally have an administration that puts our farmers first, and for Hoosiers in my district, that is a big deal.

I pledge my commitment to farmers and families in my district to continue working with the Trump administration on this very critical issue.

#### RECOGNIZING AHAUS TOOL AND ENGINEERING

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ahaus Tool and Engineering in Richmond, Indiana for their effective apprenticeship program.

While recently visiting Ahaus, their leadership told me about their nationally accredited apprenticeship program, which has been helping Hoosiers for over 30 years.

Ahaus offers a full-time job while their employees attend school to gain hands-on learning experience with peers in the company.

I wish Ahaus continued success and I thank them for their investment in the community of Richmond.

#### RECOGNIZING THE GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD PANTRY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Good Samaritan Food Pantry of North Vernon and its wonderful manager, Ginger Miller.

The Good Samaritan Food Pantry served over 29,000 Jennings County residents last year, including 1,000 veterans. The Good Samaritan Food Pantry is run by an all-volunteer staff and runs completely on donations.

Not only does this organization help feed those in need, but it also provides clothing and household items for families in need.

God bless those that help the Good Samaritan Food Pantry run, and God bless all the volunteers involved.

#### CONGRATULATING SILAS ALLRED

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Silas Allred of Shenandoah High School for winning the 195-pound weight class Indiana Wrestling State Title.

This is Silas' second straight wrestling State title, and he joined an elite group of only one of five Indiana high school wrestlers in history to win the title by pin.

Silas is ranked fourth in the Nation for his weight class and qualified for Team U.S.A. to compete at the Pan Am Cadet Games.

I congratulate Silas and wish him the best of luck in his future.

#### TAKING STRONG ACTION TO STOP THE EPIDEMIC OF YOUTH TOBACCO USE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, this week the House is taking strong action

to stop the epidemic of youth tobacco use.

We have watched as the use of tobacco and vape products by kids has exploded in our community over the past months. It has become a full-blown public health crisis affecting more than 5 million kids.

More than 200 Illinoisans have suffered respiratory illness from dangerous vape products since last year. Eight of them have died. This shouldn't be happening.

Thanks to decades of public health work and education, youth tobacco use was actually going down until the introduction of sophisticated vape products.

Let's be clear, these products are targeted at kids. They are made with flavors like cotton candy and gummy bears. They are marketed directly to children, and they are designed to keep children hooked.

This is a crisis that we will be dealing with for decades because 95 percent of adult tobacco users started when they were kids, and there is still so much that we don't know about how the high doses of nicotine and other chemicals in these products affect kids' bodies and their minds.

Given the FDA's failure to effectively regulate these products, Congress needs to act now before it is too late. It is time to stand up and refuse to let our kids be hurt. It is time to pass the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019.

#### RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bucks County Community College, which recently received a \$200,000 grant to raise awareness and promote its metal working apprenticeship program.

This 12-week program provides entry-level training, forklift certification, and other skills necessary to begin a career in manufacturing. The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development grant will be used to promote Bucks County Community College's manufacturing preapprenticeship training programs.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I partnered with Bucks County native, Congressman RO KHANNA, to introduce the Student Apprenticeship Act, a bill that would close the gap between higher education and labor by modernizing workforce training and catalyzing the growth of registered apprenticeships nationwide.

Apprenticeship programs provide skills and education for high-paying jobs and vital careers, and we need to be sure we give them the attention that they deserve.

#### RECOGNIZING AILEEN TORRENTE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Aileen

Torrente of the Middletown Township Police Department.

Sergeant Torrente was the first woman in the history of the police department to be promoted from patrol officer to detective in 2014. Recently Aileen was promoted again; this time from detective to her current rank of sergeant.

Sergeant Torrente's success will set a great example for current and future officers at my hometown township police department in Middletown. Aileen's hard work, determination, and diligence led to her promotion. She is a great role model for our community, and I look forward to seeing more promotions in the future as she works her way up to her dream job of chief of police. Mr. Speaker, I wish her well.

#### RECOGNIZING BENSLEM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bensalem Township Council, who took a huge step to ensure the safety and well-being of their residents by prohibiting vaping in public township facilities, including parks and other recreational areas.

The health and safety of our children should be our top priority, and the recent youth vaping epidemic has been a huge health issue in our community and across our Nation.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with students from New Hope Solebury Cares who expressed their concerns with how prevalent vaping has become in their schools, and they talked about solutions that we can work on to bring attention to this issue.

Part of the rise in youth vaping has been attributed to flavored nicotine. Flavors such as mango, cucumber, and other types of flavors undoubtedly target our children.

Tomorrow the House will vote on final passage of H.R. 2339, the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act. This legislation would ban all flavored vaping products, e-cigarette ads targeting youth, and remote cigarette sales. As a cosponsor of this bill, I look forward to voting in favor of this bill and taking a much-needed step to mitigate tobacco use among our children.

#### COMMEMORATING JAZZ AND FRIENDS NATIONAL DAY OF SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY READINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of transgender and non-binary youth. Today is Jazz and Friends National Day of School and Community Readings.

I would like to read the book "I Am Jazz" by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings.

I Am Jazz!

For as long as I can remember, my favorite color has been pink. (My second-favorite

color is silver and my third-favorite color is green.)

Here are some of my other favorite things: dancing, singing, back flips, drawing, soccer, swimming, makeup, and pretending I'm a pop star.

Most of all, I love mermaids. Sometimes I even wear a mermaid tail in the pool!

My best friends are Samantha and Casey. We always have fun together. We like high heels and princess gowns, or cartwheels and trampolines.

But I'm not exactly like Samantha and Casey.

I have a girl brain but a boy body. This is called transgender.

I was born this way!

When I was very little, and my mom would say, "You're such a good boy," I would say, "No, Mama. Good GIRL!"

At first my family was confused. They'd always thought of me as a boy.

As I got older, I hardly ever played with trucks or tools or superheroes. Only princesses and mermaid costumes.

My brothers told me this was girl stuff. I kept right on playing.

My sister says I was always talking to her about my girl thoughts, and my girl dreams, and how one day I would be a beautiful lady. She would giggle and say, "You're a funny kid."

Sometimes my parents let me wear my sister's dresses around the house. But whenever we went out, I had to put on my boy clothes again. This made me mad!

Still, I never gave up trying to convince them. Pretending I was a boy felt like telling a lie.

Then one amazing day, everything changed. Mom and Dad took me to meet a new doctor who asked me lots and lots of questions. Afterward, the doctor spoke to my parents and I heard the word "transgender" for the very first time.

That night at bedtime, my parents both hugged me and said, "We understand now. Be who you are. We love you no matter what."

This made me smile and smile and smile.

□ 1030

Mom and Dad told me I could start wearing girl clothes to school, and growing my hair long. They even let me change my name to Jazz.

Being JAZZ felt much more like being ME!

Mom said that being Jazz would make me different from the other kids at school, but that being different is okay. What's important, she said, is that I'm happy with who I am.

Being Jazz caused some other people to be confused too, like the teachers at school.

At the beginning of the year they wanted me to use the boys' bathroom, and play on the boys' team in gym class, but that didn't feel normal to me at ALL.

I was so happy when the teachers changed their minds. I can't imagine not playing on the same team as Casey and Samantha.

Even today, there are kids who tease me, or call me by a boy name, or ignore me altogether. This makes me feel crummy.

Then I remember that the kids who get to know me usually want to be my friend. They say I'm one of the nicest girls at school.

I don't mind being different. Different is special! I think what matters most is what a person is like inside.

And inside, I am happy. I am having fun. I am proud!

I am Jazz!

Thank you, Jazz Jennings, for your courage.

#### CHILDREN NEED OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE GENDER IDENTITY WITHOUT CRITICISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to speak about a book, a book much like "I Am Jazz" that I have had the privilege of reading before on the House floor for a number of years. It is an opportunity for children to explore their gender identity without being criticized. This book is titled "They, She, He easy as ABC."

They! they! They! they! New friends are everywhere waiting to play!

Out on the dance floor we love to sing they. They is a way to let everyone be. No one left out and everyone free. Then when we're friends, we sing they, she, he, ze. Making it easy as a-b-c-d.

Let's dance!

A. Ari loves to arabesque. They hold their pose with ease.

B. Brody is a break dancer. Brody loves to freeze.

C. Cory leaps high like a cat. She springs and leaps and bounds.

D. Diego drums and dances. Tree has all the sounds.

E. Ebony flies everywhere. They spread their arms like wings.

F. Fawn is free as a flower. Fawn can bring the spring.

G. Gia's going fast and strong. She's dancing on the go.

H. Harvey's heart beats happily. Hip hop makes her flow.

I. Indigo's into insects. Ze loves the buzz-vibe.

J. Jorge jams to jazzy tunes. He or they can jive.

K. Kelly can kick super high. His heart lives in the sky.

L. Lourdes sings of lofty heights. Their songs let them fly.

M. Marley is a star mermaid. He or she flows with the sea.

N. Nathan is a nesting bird. He just wants to be.

O. Ocean's arms are open wide. Tree swings and sways about.

P. Paul pretends to be a plant. Paul grows up and OUT.

Q. Quetzal is so, so quiet. He rests just like a queen.

R. Rene is into rainbows. He creates the scene.

S. Sky is like a star so bright. All the pronouns are right.

T. Tai is tiger in the night. He claims his own might.

U. Una is a unicorn. They prance to their own sound.

V. Viola's a volcano. Her power's in her ground.

W. Wren whistles when she dances. She knows just what to do.

X. Xander exaggerates moves. They're extremely cool.

Y. Yoli yells YES! joyously. Their voice becomes the song.

Z. Zahara zooms in and out. Ze knows that ze belongs.

Now's your chance. We need your moves.

Join the dance. There's always room.

Maya makes the art and words. She sings the song to life. Matthew dreams and tinkers. He makes the work tight.

Together they make books for the kids they used to be. And for their own two kids so all kids can grow free!