

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special constituent, a legendary west Texan, and a great American and the most recent inductee into the Texas Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame, Gene Arrington.

At 6-foot-6, "Big Air," as his friends call him, is a giant of a man with a larger-than-life story.

He was raised by a single mom on the south side of Amarillo, Texas, with little more than a roof over his head. In spite of his humble beginnings, God blessed him with an abundance of athleticism and drive that helped him achieve tremendous success in the sport of basketball.

In 1956, Arrington led the Palo Duro Dons to their first State championship basketball title, averaging 20 points a game, and named to both the all-State and all-tournament teams. He was the only Texan to be invited to play in the North versus South All-Star Game in Murray, Kentucky.

After high school, Arrington joined Polk Robison's Texas Tech Red Raiders, where he started for 3 years, scored 652 points, and pulled down 409 rebounds in 71 games.

His greatest feat, Mr. Speaker, while playing ball at Texas Tech was winning the heart of a young coed from Austin, Texas, Betty Lee Cook, who is now his wife of over 50 years.

If you asked my dad about his greatest achievements, he wouldn't reference championship titles, all-star games, or all-State and all-conference teams. He wouldn't mention a single athletic achievement or accolade.

Instead, he would talk about the day he met Jesus and joined God's kingdom team and what joy and blessing and peace and purpose he experienced from that relationship.

He would talk about his most impressive score of convincing my mom to marry him and spend over 50 years doing life with him and how she has been such a faithful friend and partner and such a hardworking woman and an amazing mother.

He would talk about coaching three boys to be men and how proud he is of all three of us and how he prayed every day—every day—for our happiness in life and in the Lord.

He would talk about his all-star friends and what a blessing they have been and how sweet life has been and how they have helped him be more successful.

I am proud of my dad's induction into the Texas Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame, but, Mr. Speaker, the most important thing to my dad is not being a Hall of Fame athlete. It is being the best husband, father, and friend that he can be.

So I congratulate my dad on his Hall of Fame honor. But, more importantly, I congratulate him on realizing his deepest desires and his biggest dream of being a world-class father and teaching his boys the game of life, the love of God, and the true meaning of success.

He is our hero. God bless, and go West Texas.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HOULAHAN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of Heaven and Earth, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House with focus and purpose as they gather these few days before Thanksgiving. May their efforts give true cause for Americans to gather to give thanks.

As infections continue to spread and hospitals nationwide are pressed to their limits, look with mercy upon Your people. May we all, together, be mindful of the part we can play in addressing the spread of coronavirus.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING MARIA CERDA

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on November 8, we lost a trailblazer for the Latino community due to COVID-19.

Maria Cerda was the first Puerto Rican woman and first Latina appointed to the Chicago Board of Education.

In that role, she secured funding for bilingual education programs and culturally responsive curricula that helped children like me, whose first language was not English, succeed.

She went on to cofound the Latino Institute and later served as an appointee to President Jimmy Carter's National Council on Educational Research.

In the 1980s, Mayor Harold Washington appointed Maria Cerda to head the Office of Employment and Training to oversee Federal job training programs.

The role she played in turning Chicago into a sanctuary city also deserves recognition.

Maria was once accosted by immigration agents in a clear case of racial profiling. The incident prompted Mayor Washington to issue the Nation's first ordinance preventing harassment of people of immigrant backgrounds.

We celebrate her for her outstanding commitment to social, educational, and economic equity for Latinos in Chicago and throughout our country.

Rest in power, Maria Cerda. We are eternally grateful for your work.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Rural Health Day and to commend our healthcare providers across the 25th District of Texas for their determination during this once-in-a-generation public health crisis.

Throughout COVID-19, these men and women have stepped up to continue serving Texans and protecting the well-being of our families.

I am proud to closely partner with rural health facilities in our district like Goodall-Witcher in Clifton and Baylor Scott & White in Marble Falls, and to provide them with tangible relief and resources under the CARES Act.

To further support their mission, I introduced the Ensuring Telehealth Expansion Act that would help ensure ease of care for both physicians and their patients, especially during the pandemic.

As our world becomes more dependent on technology for healthcare delivery, it is crucial we adapt by creating policies that ensure the highest quality of care possible.

To our central Texas doctors, nurses, physicians, first responders, and all other medical professionals, we simply say thank you.

May God bless you, may God bless Texas, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

In God we trust.

RECOGNIZING TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Transgender Day of Remembrance and honor the memories of far too many transgender or gender-nonconforming people, at least 36 of whom were lost this year to fatal violence, the majority of whom were Black and Latinx transgender women.

I want to take a moment to lift up the names and stories of a few of the Black transgender women who faced violence this year in the city of Philadelphia to honor their memory, because when we fail to acknowledge this issue, we cannot begin to address it.

Dominique "Rem'mie" Fells was murdered on July 9. A friend described her as a beautiful and unique soul. We are heartened by the fact that an arrest in her murder has finally occurred.

Tracy "Mia" Green was murdered on September 28. Her friends and family shared how "her smile was so perfect and so contagious" and how she always made people laugh.

Kendall Stephens was brutally attacked in her own home on August 24. As she was beaten, her attackers yelled transphobic slurs and said they would "come back to finish the job." Thankfully, Kendall survived the assault and dedicates her work to healing the transgender community in Philadelphia.

This violence is motivated by anti-transgender bigotry, and the intersections of employment, housing, and other forms of discrimination put too many transgender people, particularly transgender women of color, at risk of violence.

This Transgender Day of Remembrance, we honor those lost, honor their survivors. As an ally, I rededicate myself to working for change to protect this community from discrimination and violence.

HONORING LEE PAULL III

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my long-term friend, Lee Paull III, of Wheeling, West Virginia, who passed away earlier this month.

There was nothing Lee loved more than his family and being from Wheeling. He was an absolute pillar in the community, a successful business owner, an active member of the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce and Rotary, and a passionate supporter of the Linsly School and Wheeling Hospital,

as well as numerous other organizations.

His active role in political circles earned him the nickname of "Mr. Republican."

Lee was a proud supporter of conservative values and principles. But most importantly, Lee worked hard to try to make Wheeling, West Virginia, a strong and vibrant community for generations to come.

He and his wife, June, touched the lives of thousands in our area.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, their three children, and six grandchildren as we all mourn his passing.

Lee, you made a difference. You will be missed.

REJECTION OF DEMOCRAT POLICIES

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to welcome my new colleagues who will join the 117th Congress. This group includes individuals from diverse backgrounds, including a historic number of conservative women.

The ideals that these conservative Members stand for are a rejection of the ideals of the radical left.

The American people have spoken and voted against defunding the police, against overreaching legislation to take election independence away from our States, against adding Justices to the Supreme Court, and against moving our country toward the failed policies of socialism.

Instead, the American people are interested in issues that will move our country forward, like supporting our veterans, securing our border, addressing our aging infrastructure, and ensuring our country remains a safe place to live, worship, and raise a family.

In short, the American people want and deserve from their leaders real solutions to problems facing our Nation, and I will continue to work with others toward finding those solutions and advancing our conservative principles.

HONORING THOMAS LOWRY

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Lowry of Taylorville, my friend, who passed away last Sunday.

In 1971, Tom opened a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in our hometown and operated it until he retired in 2015. Tom will be remembered in the community for his dedication to running the KFC and making everyone who walked through the door feel like family.

For a long time, he was also on the board of directors at First National Bank.

But I am going to remember Tom the most because he was my neighbor. After every single snowfall, since I lived right by him, and all of us on the same street, we would never have to wake up to an unplowed driveway because that is just what Tom did.

I am going to miss seeing Tom with his dog on his golf cart rolling down our street, but he is also going to be mostly remembered for the love of his kids and grandkids.

His passing is a loss for Taylorville and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Shannon and I send our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Fran; his kids, Cheryl and Jerry; his grandkids, Joel, Anna, and Jillian; and his sister, Gloria.

Tom, we will miss you, man. May you rest in peace.

CHINA TASK FORCE

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of Republican Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY and Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member MIKE MCCAUL for their hard work on the China Task Force.

After months of meetings and investigations, the task force released 82 key findings and 430 associated recommendations. That number of recommendations demonstrates the important work that we have to do as a Congress to address China's refusal to play by the rules as a global power.

What was most disappointing, Madam Speaker, was that Speaker PELOSI refused to participate in this effort.

Many of the recommendations, and legislation linked with the recommendations, are bipartisan. I have heard it directly from my Democratic colleagues with concerns about China's actions in a variety of areas, from human rights, intellectual property theft, and military incursions in the South and East China Seas, just to name a few.

Tackling China as an issue should be a bipartisan one, and I hope my Democratic colleagues will come to the table in the coming months to collaborate with Republicans on the proper strategy to counter China's decision to threaten the global system.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTHCARE DAY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize National Rural Healthcare Day.

One in five Americans calls rural America home, including the great people of northern California.