

rare to encounter those who are truly selfless, truly dedicated to a cause larger than themselves, and who truly care about preserving the best of our natural resources for future generations. Greensboro's Eddie Bridges is such a rare person.

Madam Speaker, Eddie is an unselfish leader whose love of the outdoors and sportsmen's community has led him to become one of the most effective conservation leaders in the history of North Carolina.

On behalf of North Carolina's congressional delegation, I want the world to know what an impact Eddie has made and to thank him in this official salute, which nobody has ever deserved more.

Madam Speaker, Eddie founded the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, which raised \$5 million and has funded \$1.5 million in conservation projects across North Carolina.

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Eddie has been the driving force behind wildlife resource improvements that will benefit future generations forever. Thanks to Eddie's persuasive abilities and creative thinking, he has recruited the State of North Carolina and others to join him—to the tune of millions of dollars in projects—to improve wildlife restoration, water quality, and habitats statewide.

Eddie's foundation has funded, for example, a quail habitat project in the Sandhills Game Land, a bass habitat project at Jordan Lake, a North Carolina State University black bear research project in Hyde County, and created the Frank A. Sharpe Junior Wildlife Education Center in Guilford County.

We can all thank Eddie Bridges for the idea to create the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's Wildlife Endowment Fund, which currently has \$130 million in assets and has funded \$70 million for wildlife restoration and habitat improvements.

Madam Speaker, Eddie also helped create the State waterfowl stamp and State income tax checkoff for nongame and endangered wildlife, which together have raised \$10 million for nongame wildlife and waterfowl projects. The endowments founded by Eddie have raised more than \$200 million to preserve and improve our natural habitat areas.

Eddie served 12 years on the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission after being appointed by Governor Hunt. He has received top national awards, including the Field and Stream Conservation Hero of the Year Award, the Budweiser National Conservationist of the Year Award, the prestigious Feinstone Award, the Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award, and the Chevron Conservation Award. Last year, Eddie was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

But talk to Eddie and he will tell you these awards aren't about him; they are about his desire to give something

back. As Eddie said to the Wilmington Star-News last January: "It's about much more than me. It honors the 1 million men, women, and children who hunt and fish and inject more than \$1.3 billion into North Carolina's economy every year."

An accomplished athlete at Elon University, a leader in the sportsman community, and a hunter and angler legend, conservationist Eddie Bridges has made a positive impact on North Carolina's natural resources like no other before him.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the entire delegation, I wish to thank Eddie for his years of service, his incredible resource development to strengthen our State's wildlife, and the educational impact on our youth and future generations. It is truly an honor to know Eddie and to recognize him today.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP HIGHLIGHTS NUMEROUS SUCCESSES

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, just over 12 hours ago, President Donald J. Trump stood in this Chamber and delivered an incredible State of the Union Address. He highlighted numerous successes during his time as President of the United States:

Over 7 million jobs created;

Record unemployment—record unemployment—for five decades;

The lowest unemployment in over 70 years for women;

Record unemployment for African, Hispanic, and Asian Americans;

Doubling of the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000;

Orchestrating phase one of the China trade agreement, which increases the amount of agriculture products that the Chinese have to purchase from American farmers—the largest purchase in the history of our country;

Passing of the USMCA agreement. The President campaigned on it. It was a promise made. It was a promise kept;

The largest military pay raise in the history of this country.

The President said he was going to build a barrier along the southern border. He highlighted 100 miles of it being finished in his State of the Union Address yesterday, with 500 more miles still planned.

He highlighted how his administration has approved a record number of generic drugs, and, for the first time in over 50 years, drug prices have actually gone down.

He highlighted numerous successes that all Members of Congress who attended heard. It was unfortunate to sit in this Chamber and watch the Democrats on the other side not stand, not applaud for these successes for America, these victories for America, the people who sent us to Washington, the people we serve, the people who are our bosses. These are their victories. These

are their successes. But just because they came out of the mouth of President Donald Trump, the Democrats oppose them.

Folks, that is chaos in government.

Ever since the Democrats took control of this Chamber, they have had one mission, one mission alone, and that is to remove the duly elected 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump.

Their mission wasn't about lowering the cost of prescription drugs. Their mission was not getting government off the backs of small businesses, family farmers, and individuals. Their mission was about removing Donald Trump.

This partisan impeachment sham, this impeachment circus will be done today. In the United States Senate, President Donald J. Trump will be acquitted for life. You will see the process that happened in the House of Representatives was clearly a sham in impeaching the President of the United States.

It was so unfortunate yesterday to be sitting here and watching Speaker PELOSI, after the end of the speech, tear up the official speech of the President of the United States. That shows the true hatred that the Democrat socialists have for the President of the United States. That conduct is not fitting for the Speaker of the House.

When the Speaker tore up that State of the Union speech, she ripped up the words that recognized one of the last living serving Tuskegee airmen.

When she ripped up that speech, she ripped up the story of a 21-week-old surviving child who was born in a Kansas City, Missouri, hospital.

When she ripped up that State of the Union speech, she ripped up the story and the recognition of the families of Rocky Jones and Kayla Mueller.

#### RECOGNIZING MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT MELISSA FIKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, the prestigious Milken Educator Awards have been called the Oscars of teaching. I rise today to pay tribute to a resident of Missouri's Fourth District who was recently honored as one of the Milken Family Foundation's outstanding educators.

Melissa Fike of Oakland Middle School of Columbia, Missouri, has taught for 14 years and was not told ahead of time about her award. She was shocked to hear her name announced during a recent school assembly packed by Oakland Middle School students and staff.

As a winner, she receives an award, the recognition of her colleagues, and a check for \$25,000.

Teachers make an indelible mark on the lives of young people through their kind words, encouraging smiles, impartation of knowledge, or by helping

plant a seed that bears fruit in future years. Melissa Fike has distinguished herself and made an impact that will be felt for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend Melissa Fike on her great work making a difference in the lives of so many young people and congratulate her on this prestigious award.

RECOGNIZING MORRIS BURGER, FORMER PRESIDENT AND CEO OF BURGERS' SMOKEHOUSE

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, it is with great joy that I share news of Morris Burger, former president and CEO of Burgers' Smokehouse of California, Missouri, being inducted into the Meat Industry Hall of Fame.

After serving his country in the Army, Morris returned home to run the family business with the goal of producing the finest cured ham in the country. The business was extremely successful and expanded numerous times over recent decades to the point that its business orders now exceed 500,000 hams and tens of thousands of pounds of bacon, sausage, and specialty meats each year.

Morris retired in the 1990s, and the business is now run by the third and fourth generations of Burger family members.

Morris Burger has left a legacy to be proud of as Burgers' Smokehouse continues to epitomize quality, taste, and innovation, while playing an active role in the community and remaining an influential leader in the industry.

Congratulations, Morris Burger, for being inducted into the Meat Industry Hall of Fame, a well-deserved honor.

STOP DRUG SMUGGLING BY FILLING THE TUNNELS ASAP

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, last week, our U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents announced the discovery of a highly sophisticated, illegal, 4,309-foot cross-border tunnel from Mexico into California built by the drug cartels.

Unfortunately, while the tunnel was first found in August of 2019, it will still take several months to close the tunnel as the agency completes a mandatory environmental review and a lengthy contractor bidding process.

In October of 2018, I visited the southern border and heard directly from Customs and Border Patrol agents in Arizona, and I heard a similar story.

The process of closing drug tunnels is arduous and time-consuming. It often takes 3 to 4 months to abate this threat. That is unacceptable.

Last year, I introduced H.R. 3968, the Eradicate Crossing of Illegal Tunnels Act, to address these problems.

This bill expedites the approval process by removing the unnecessary red tape currently preventing our CBP agents from addressing this critical vulnerability. It allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive the environmental review and for indefinite contracts to be secured so drug tunnels can be filled in a timely manner.

We need to ensure our Border Patrol agents have the tools necessary to effi-

ciently and effectively remove illegal access into our country, hurting our community with illegal drugs. It is time to pass this crucial legislation, and I call on my colleagues to support my bill.

#### CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as Career and Technical Education Month. Each year, this month highlights the benefits of a skills-based education and the valuable contributions that CTE students make to the American workforce and the American economy.

More specifically, February 2 through February 8 is SkillsUSA Week. SkillsUSA is a leader in the CTE movement. This annual celebration represents nearly 370,000 SkillsUSA members across the country who are developing the personal, workplace, and technical skills necessary to earn and keep good-paying and rewarding jobs.

A one-size-fits-all approach to education is not an effective way to prepare students for the workforce. We are doing students a great disservice when we only promote what is considered a traditional college experience.

When we look at the potential of our Nation's learners and contrast that with the 7 million unfilled jobs nationwide, clearly, there is a disconnect. This is often referred to as the skills gap, and CTE can help us bridge this divide.

Now, I have the privilege of serving as the co-chair of the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus alongside my colleague and good friend, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN.

Over the years, we have met with many educators, counselors, administrators, and students to better understand the resources necessary to support learners of all ages.

I am proud of the legislation that we have put forward to ensure students have the tools they need to pursue a rewarding education, and, eventually, a rewarding career.

With this kind of support, we can help empower students and better prepare them for a 21st century workforce. Most recently, that includes H.R. 5092, the Counseling for Career Choice Act, a bill that would invest in career counseling for high school students as well as professional development opportunities for the counselors who support them.

Career and technical education is not a plan B. It is a valuable educational option that is empowering learners of all ages to take control of their personal and professional futures.

To me, the ideal educational system is one that allows students to get in with as few barriers to entry as pos-

sible, get the education that they need, and get out. By providing students with a clear picture of what the workforce entails—or, more specifically, by investing in career and technical education—we can help make that a reality.

Madam Speaker, I am asking my colleagues to join me in celebrating Career and Technical Education Month by supporting the Counseling for Career Choice Act and other common-sense, bipartisan bills that help provide quality CTE opportunities to our Nation's students.

#### 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 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

Rabbi Seth Frisch, New Shul of America, Rydal, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Almighty, I stand before You in prayer and in memory as I am reminded of Solomon, King of ancient Israel, who would preside over a most unusual judicial hearing, one in which two mothers would lay claim to the life of one child, a child they each would insist to be their own.

This parable allows us to see Solomon's wisdom as preserving the nation, as we are sadly reminded, so soon after his death, that the kingdom is split asunder.

I, too, am reminded of Abraham Lincoln, when he spoke with prophetic-like prescience: "A house divided cannot stand," which was soon to become a war of brother against brother. From this we would soon learn that our future lies not in enmity, but in unity.

For, Lord, the Book of Leviticus, from Your Torah, teaches us in words inscribed upon the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land, to all of the inhabitants thereof," thus uniting one of our Nation's ideals, "e pluribus unum," out of the many, one.

Lord God, the Founders of this Nation understood our strength to be in the celebration of our differences while assiduously working to put our divisions behind us.

And so it is, Dear God, that we pray You remain with us. Continue to guide all of us in realizing the dream of this great country, to be a Nation indivisible, a Nation seeking liberty, and above all, a Nation providing liberty and justice to all.