

leaders of our State and country, is a crucial component of our society.

I congratulate Brandon Elementary School on being recognized for this outstanding achievement and encourage the school's administration to keep up the wonderful work they are doing that is having such a meaningful impact on the lives of young men and women.

HONORING THOMAS HUFFORD

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Thomas Michael Hufford, who passed away on August 29, 2021, at the age of 86. Mr. Hufford was a prominent business owner and community leader in the Roanoke area.

Mr. Hufford was born on August 14, 1935 in Huntington, West Virginia to Genevieve Eloise Kirley Wippel Hufford of Huntington and Anthony Wippel. He graduated in 1953 from St. Joseph High School in Huntington, West Virginia where he served as president of his class. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia, graduating in 1957. Following college, he was in the army reserves at Fort Knox.

Mr. Hufford was an insurance agent by trade and owner of Hufford Insurance in Roanoke, Virginia. For all his life, he sustained a strong voice in politics and his community. He served as the Planning Commissioner of Roanoke County for several years. He also ran for State Senate and Congress of Virginia in the 1970s. His civic service through business and leadership made a profound impact on his community and those around him.

Mr. Hufford was preceded in death by his wife, Ada D. Hufford. He is survived by his two daughters, Karen Hufford and Jill Hufford, and his younger brother, Frederick M. Hufford. He also has two granddaughters, Morgan Dilling and Samantha Hufford, and a great-granddaughter, Melah Grace Dilling. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ELLA B. SPEED ON HER 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Apalachicola native Ella Breedlove Speed, who is turning 101.

Mrs. Ella is a pillar in her community and a role model for many. For more than two decades, she worked for the Franklin County School District as a bookkeeper. She also has served as a missionary in the Holiness Church of the Living God and is currently serving as an elder and bishop in the Love Center Church.

Bishop Speed's heart for serving others is unmatched and her energetic spirit is infectious. Make no mistake, age is just a number. Mrs. Ella is still just as sharp as she was in her younger days and she has not stopped serving and comforting others.

I want to personally thank this incredible woman for her contribution to Apalachicola and Florida's Second Congressional District as a whole. Happy birthday to Mrs. Ella.

HONORING DR. PATRICK BURCHFIELD

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Dr. Patrick Burchfield, Director of the Gladys Porter Zoo, which is located in Brownsville, Texas. Under Dr. Burchfield's leadership, the Gladys Porter Zoo has grown significantly since it first opened in 1971, and he has served at the forefront of one of the world's most notable international endangered species recovery programs.

Dr. Burchfield joined the staff at the Gladys Porter Zoo in 1971, working in every capacity and eventually became director in 2007, which he earned through hard work and dedication to the Zoo.

As director of the Zoo, Dr. Burchfield has led efforts to make the zoo more inclusive and accessible to all members of his community—but especially those with disabilities. Last year, the zoo opened a newly renovated Giraffe Landing Feeding Experience—complete with an ADA-accessible platform so that all may participate.

Under his leadership, the zoo has added facilities for critically endangered species such as Orinoco crocodiles and threatened species like nurse sharks. Along with creating a safe environment for these imperiled species, the Gladys Potter Zoo has showcased species that are native to the Rio Grande Valley such as diamondback terrapins, black-spotted newts and red-crowned amazons.

Forty years ago, endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles were on the brink of extinction, but this changed shortly after Dr. Burchfield, then the Zoo's Curator of Herpetology, stepped into the picture. In 1981, Dr. Burchfield, at the request of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, accepted the role of Coordinator for the U.S. contingent of the U.S./Mexico Binational Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Recovery Program. Program activities included protecting the wild nests and hatchlings of this imperiled species at its primary nesting grounds in Rancho Nuevo, Mexico. From 1985 to present, the number of nesting female turtles rose from 283 to an estimated 7,000 to 9,000.

When asked why he cared so much about Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, Dr. Burchfield said, "I saw an opportunity to try and do something meaningful, and that maybe we would have a shot at saving this species. So, my job was to do whatever I could do to help make that happen."

Since 1992, Dr. Burchfield has been an instructor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in the Department of Biology. He is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of the introductory zoo biology course, a prerequisite for all aspiring zoologists. In this capacity, Dr. Burchfield sought to further the efficacy of his animal conservation efforts by inspiring the environmental champions of tomorrow right in the heart of South Texas.

Madam Speaker, not only is Dr. Burchfield a leader in animal conservation, but he is undoubtedly one of the most humble men I have had the pleasure of meeting. His work has never revolved around self-interest or accolades, but rather his genuine desire to save species and raise awareness about the need to preserve our planet's dwindling natural resources. I thank him for the essential role he has played in shaping a healthier future for all and for choosing to make Brownsville, Texas his home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding a vote I missed on September 23, 2021. Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 284 to H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, I would have voted no. I do not believe that a 10 percent across the board reduction in funding, as this amendment proposed, is a responsible way to reduce spending.

SEAN NEELAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sean Neelan of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the 2021 Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes a member of the Wheat Ridge community for their outstanding volunteer services and contribution to their local community. Sean Neelan is the recipient of this year's award due to his unmatched willingness and dedication to answer the call of his community. Sean went above and beyond and dedicated countless hours of service to the Wheat Ridge community.

Congratulations to Sean Neelan for his public service and I extend my deep appreciation for his contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make Roll Call vote No. 277 as I was required to preside over a subcommittee hearing. Had I been present, I would have voted YES to Roll Call No. 277, Mfume of Maryland Part C Amendment No. 26.

HONORING MEL HUBER

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Melvyn Jay Huber of Blacksburg, Virginia. At 92 years of age, this Marine Corps veteran is not done serving his country or looking out for others. Mel has been troubled by the divisions too often found in our country and the despair it has created for some. For them, he has a simple message: your life matters.

"Your life matters" is how he greets people. It is what he writes on the lowest left of every envelope that leaves his mailbox. He purchased 100 yard signs with this message, and since he is currently in hospice care, others have come by to pick up the signs and put them on display. Currently, the signs can be found in six counties and two independent cities of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District, which I represent, as well as three north-eastern states.

For someone in trouble, hearing from another the simple words "your life matters" can be tremendously reassuring. I commend Mel Huber, a resident of the Ninth District, for sharing his healing message.

CELEBRATING FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, this October, I am proud to celebrate Filipino American History Month, which acknowledges the vast contributions of Filipino Americans to our communities in Michigan and across the country. I am thrilled to join the residents of Macomb and Oakland Counties in highlighting the vibrancy of this community and celebrate Filipino Americans.

For generations, Filipino Americans in Michigan have influenced the culture and history of our state—engaging deeply in public institutions, our local economies and statewide cultural events. I am grateful for their emphasis on service and selfless commitment to their neighbors. Further, Filipino Americans have gifted Southeast Michigan with a rich culture and history that enhances the fabrics of our communities. I also recognize the vital contributions of the Filipino Americans in building spaces free of discrimination, prejudice and ignorance.

Additionally, I am honored to present the United States Pinoy's 4 Good Governance (USP4GG) Michigan with special recognition for their efforts throughout the state. USP4GG has been instrumental in promoting Filipino culture and tradition in Michigan, helping all of us develop a better understanding of their history.

Madam Speaker, I urge Michiganders to follow the many ways USP4GG and our other Filipino neighbors are helping us celebrate the Filipino American History Month this year.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ARIZONA STATE REPRESENTATIVE FRANK PRATT

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Arizona State Representative Franklin M. Pratt. Frank represented the 8th Legislative District of Arizona well and served his community as a member of both the House and the Senate. A principled conservative who stood firmly for the values he believed in, Frank tirelessly advocated for the people of rural Arizona. He loved the state he called home and led a long and admirable life of civil service.

In addition to Frank's public service as a state legislator, he also served his community as a farmer, rancher, businessman, and was a dedicated family man. Madam Speaker, I am here to express my appreciation for the impact of Frank's service in our Arizona communities and to offer my deepest condolences to his family and beloved wife, Janice. Frank's achievements and community impact will never be forgotten by the people of Arizona.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4350, THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member ROGERS, and the Members of the Committee for their leadership in crafting a Defense Authorization Bill that is in line with what Secretary Mattis said we needed in the 2018 National Defense Strategy: 3–5 percent real growth from FY22 to FY25.

This bill addresses the critical areas of emerging tech, research and development, Airpower and Sea power, shipbuilding, and Space among many others.

I would specifically like to thank the Chair and Ranking Member for the inclusion of critical innovation priorities that I requested, such as:

The designation of Entrepreneurial Innovation Projects, which will more effectively transition Small Business Innovation Research programs into the Services' budget process;

The Pilot Program to Facilitate the Agile Acquisition of Technologies for Warfighters and new line for Agile Procurement Transition Pilot programs in the amount of \$100,000,000. This authorization will be critical as we seek to compete with China by leveraging the innovative power of our private sector;

And for the much needed report on flexible funding for transitioning science and technology.

The DoD should not be doing research and development for the sake of doing research. We should always have an eye on developing cutting edge capabilities for the warfighter. For far too long the DoD has struggled to transition and scale critical innovative technologies from development projects to acquisition pro-

grams in a time period that meets the needs of the warfighter and ensures technology providers are able to survive. This report will help Congress understand why so we can develop ways to solve the problem of "the valley of death".

Let me be clear, we are in a geopolitical competition with China, and experts on both sides of the aisle agree that the current budgeting and acquisition process is not adequate to compete and win.

As the Defense bills move through Congress, I look forward to Authorizing and Appropriating the funding, capabilities, and resources that our warfighters need to fight tonight and modernize for the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PINE BLUFF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, ENGINEER CORY COLLINS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Cory P. Collins, a Fire and Emergency Services Engineer at Pine Bluff Fire Station No. 6 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Engineer Collins passed away on August 21, 2021, after a battle with COVID-19.

Cory was a 9-year veteran of Pine Bluff Fire and Emergency Services where he served his community honorably alongside fellow emergency responders who were like brothers to him. He excelled as a firefighter and was promoted to engineer in May 2018. Engineer Collins was a "jack of all trades," and in his free time, he enjoyed working on numerous projects, spending time with his family, and escaping to the outdoors. He will be greatly missed by his family, his brothers and sisters at Pine Bluff Fire and Emergency Services, and by his community.

I take this time today to honor Engineer Collins' exceptional service to our Pine Bluff community. His steadfast approach and dedication to his neighbors during the current public health crises will be forever cherished. With a heavy heart, I thank Engineer Collins and his family for their unwavering dedication to the city of Pine Bluff and surrounding area.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, including my three amendments included in this legislation.

The FY 22 NDAA authorizes critically important funding and programs for our Armed Forces who put their lives on the line to protect our nation and our people. The legislation ensures our servicemembers and their families have the resources they need and deserve to continue serving our country.

As a parent to two adult sons, nothing is more important to me than my children being