

As the men and women of my home state of Alabama know well, we have been blessed with a rich history in agriculture—largely thanks to the peanut.

In the early 1900s, as boll weevils devastated cotton crops and producers across the southeastern United States, Alabama farmers began to instead plant peanuts. This decision to diversify ultimately preserved the struggling region and led to new levels of success for its people.

Having grown up on a family farm, I know firsthand the hard work and dedication that it takes to succeed in farming. Genesis 2:15 says, “then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.” That is exactly what our farmers continue to do in South Alabama.

Today, we are proud to boast that the majority of all peanuts produced in the United States are grown within a 100-mile radius of Dothan, Alabama.

Since November of 1938, when Dr. George Washington Carver addressed the very first National Peanut Festival, countless friends and families have gathered to celebrate the annual harvest and the many successes the peanut has brought to the Wiregrass.

The festival has grown from a three-day event in 1938 to a full ten-day celebration in 2021, with over 200,000 expected attendees.

I am proud that Alabama has continued this tradition—a tradition that commemorates the true grit of our people and the pride we have in our history.

I join the Second Congressional District of Alabama, as well as the entire state, in congratulating the National Peanut Festival on its 77th year, and I look forward to celebrating with this community for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 92 OF ROCKLAND, MI

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 100th anniversary of American Legion Post 92 for their century of service to veterans, their families, and our communities. Through their tireless work, exceptional leadership, and steadfast selflessness, Post 92 has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula and the State of Michigan.

Post 92 was created in 1919 in Victoria, Michigan, following the national charter of the American Legion by Congress. The post was formed to establish a local organization to bring fellow Yooper Veterans together within the U.P. Two years later, the Legion moved to Rockland, Michigan, where they have been headquartered ever since with the mission of defending the U.S. Constitution and honoring our men and women in uniform, amongst many other goals. Over the last century, the American Legion has grown to two million members with over thirteen thousand posts nationwide. Post 92's work has significantly improved the lives of countless Veterans and their families, and their dedication cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize American Legion Post 92 for a century of

service to the veterans and communities of the Upper Peninsula. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such devoted organizations and citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MONALISA DUGUÉ AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise, along with my colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, to thank Monalisa Dugué for her nearly five years of service to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Monalisa came to the Committee after spending more than a decade with the Public Defender's office in Chicago and several years working for non-profits and as a consultant. Before starting her career, Monalisa received her B.A. from DePaul University and her J.D. from Valparaiso University School of Law.

Monalisa joined the Committee in 2017, as Deputy Chief Counsel of our Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. Since then, she has played an indispensable role in working to reform our criminal justice system.

As Deputy Chief Counsel, Monalisa worked on a broad range of issues, including criminal justice reform, juvenile justice reform, and Tribal justice—including addressing the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women. Monalisa has been instrumental in the House's work to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, to enact the First Step Act, and to fund evidence-informed strategies to reduce community violence and fund community violence intervention programs that address the cycles of violence in communities.

Monalisa's work in the committee has had a lasting impact on the American people. She has played a key role in passing numerous bills into law, some of which include the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act, the Not Invisible Act, Savanna's Act, the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act, the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act, and the Strengthening the Opposition to Female Genital Mutilation (STOP FGM) Act.

Throughout all of her work, Monalisa brought her commitment to justice and equity and her tireless work ethic. Our committee, Congress, and the American people greatly benefited from her wisdom, experience, and contributions. Our country is a better place because of the mark Monalisa has left on it.

While we will miss Monalisa greatly, we are glad she is not going far, as she will be continuing her public service career as Chief of Staff to Senator WHITEHOUSE.

We thank Monalisa for her service to the Committee and wish her the best of luck with this new chapter.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WILLARD KINZER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my long-time friend Willard Kinzer, a World War II veteran, racecar driver, and successful businessman in Eastern Kentucky. He is a loyal patriot of this great nation, a generous philanthropist for Kentucky's Appalachian communities and an innovative leader for the Kinzer Drilling Company.

One of the most iconic symbols in Eastern Kentucky has become the giant American flag flying in front of the Kinzer Drilling headquarters in Prestonsburg, Kentucky. It represents Willard's consummate pride in the American way of life, our military, and his dedication to the people of our region. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Willard joined the U.S. Navy when he was only 16 years old—he adjusted his birth certificate, determined to help his country in World War II. He narrowly missed the deadly explosion on ammunition ship USS *Mount Hood* just before he was sent back home to the United States. That explosion killed the entire 300-plus crew on board and nearly 100 more crew members on the nearby USS *Mindanao*. It injured 371 more, sank 22 small boats and damaged 18 larger ships. On that day, Willard's perspective forever changed, and he began living with a new fearless lease on life.

Willard Kinzer is the type of person who wakes up and hits the ground running. In fact, he has a sign at home that says “Life begins at 200 mph.” With a passion for fast cars, he has won countless trophies and awards for drag racing and hill climbing competitions over the years, and he holds the record for being the first person in history to drive a stock suspension car faster than 230 miles per hour. It should come as no surprise that he celebrated his 90th birthday winning a drag race championship in Bristol, Tennessee. He is truly a thrill-seeker at heart.

For 70 years, he was blessed to share every adventure with his wife, Lucy. Together, they raised a beautiful family and invested in local communities, helping build the Mountain Arts Center, the Wesley Christian School in Allen, and Hope in the Mountains in Prestonsburg. They also grew the Kinzer Drilling Company into a successful gas and oil business, spanning 800 miles in Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia.

On this Veterans Day, I count it a great honor to join the people of Eastern Kentucky in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Willard Kinzer, saluting him for his valiant service during World War II and his continued work across Eastern Kentucky.

WISHES FOR PEACE BETWEEN ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, it has been over a year since the end of the 2020 44-day

war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This short, but furious and deadly, conflict stemmed from historical differences regarding geographic territory based on ethnicity and religion. I do not pretend to know the details of this conflict. The seeds for this conflict were sown decades ago, perhaps even a century ago, with the advent of the Soviet Union as well as the decline of the Ottoman Empire.

Here is what I do know. The Armenians and the Azerbaijanis deserve to live and prosper in peace. Nations require territorial integrity. The boundaries of a given nation should also reflect history, ethnicity, and religious differences to minimize conflict.

I am hopeful for the future that these two nations, both with a proud and great history, will be able to resume their relationship in peace and that the parties work, in good faith, to resolve their issues without bullets.

God bless the people there and through His will it is my hope peace will prevail.

HONORING PATRICIA THOMPSON

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Thompson and wish her well in her retirement after 43 years of dedicated service to the township of Willingboro, New Jersey.

Patricia first joined the Willingboro Police Department in 1978 as a traffic guard and since day one, she has been a comforting presence to Willingboro students and residents. Having lived in the town for most of her life, I was not surprised to hear that throughout her tenure, Patricia was eager to take on additional responsibilities like overseeing the bicycle auction. Her commitment to Willingboro earned her a promotion to Crossing Guard Supervisor in 2011, where she has been a vital addition to training the next generation of crossing guards.

On behalf of our entire district, I want to thank Patricia for her tireless commitment to the township of Willingboro, New Jersey. I wish Patricia every enjoyment in retirement with her husband and children.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GEORGE LABLONDE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life of George LaBlonde, who passed away recently after a lifetime of service. Through his extreme dedication to the public good, George became an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America.

A native Yooper, George was born in Ironwood, Michigan, on October 17, 1938. He was raised in Ironwood and graduated from Luther L. Wright High School in 1956. With a deep-rooted drive to serve others, George furthered his education at the Michigan Col-

lege of Mining and Technology in 1960 while also earning a commission as a Second Lieutenant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He went on to attend several other prestigious institutions including Purdue University, the U.S. Army War College, the Department of Defense Language Institute, the Army Command and General Staff College, and completed numerous other specialized courses. In addition to his impressive and comprehensive military education, George's 30 years of service earned him several honors and decorations including the Legion of Merit Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, the Parachute Badge, amongst many others. As a retired Marine myself, I greatly appreciate the longtime devotion George gave to our Nation.

George passed away on October 29, 2021. His steadfast care and friendly nature towards all members of his community will surely leave a lasting mark on those who had the opportunity to know him. He is missed dearly by his family and friends, and his legacy will undoubtedly live on for generations to come. George's tireless dedication to public service touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of George LaBlonde. His legacy will forever live on in his family and in the many lives he bettered through his service.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE LEONARD AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise along with my colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, to thank Christine Leonard for her service to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Christine came to the Committee as part of a career focused on judiciary and criminal justice issues. Before joining the Committee as Counsel, Christine had a long history of working closely with the Committee in various roles, including as Counsel to Rep. Delahunt, Senior Counsel to Sen. Ted Kennedy, Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs at the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as the Director of the Vera Institute of Justice's DC Office, Executive Director of the Coalition for Public Safety, and as Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Christine received her B.A. and J.D. from Boston College.

Christine joined our Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security as Counsel in 2020 and has played an integral role in our prison and drug enforcement reform work. Among other things, she also played a critical role in helping to advance my bill, the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act—which would reverse failed federal policies criminalizing

marijuana and would take steps to address the heavy toll this policy has taken across the country, particularly among communities of color—through the Committee.

The Committee and the country at large have benefited greatly from Christine's dedication to reforming our criminal justice system and ensuring our laws are equitably applied. We will greatly miss her strong work ethic and passion for justice, as she takes the next step in her career.

We thank Christine for her service to the Committee and wish her the best of luck with this new chapter.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRIAN MASON

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Brian Mason. Lt. Colonel Mason enlisted as a medic on Active Duty in 1985. He served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm as a medic on a Forward Area Surgical Team assigned to the 44th Medical Brigade (Airborne), and his unit was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation. He commissioned as an Engineer Officer in 2002 assigned to the 875th Engineer Battalion then deployed as a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer with the 239th Engineer Company, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Iraq in 2003 through 2005. He has had various full-time duty assignments in the AGR program, culminating now as a member the Adjutant Generals' special staff, State Public Affairs Officer and Director of Communications.

He was an Assistant Professor of Military Science and Executive Officer of the Red Wolf Battalion when U.S. Army Cadet Command tried to eliminate the program at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He also served two years in the command position, the Professor of Military Science, bringing the program back from closure and into viability standards. During his six and a half years at Arkansas State University, he commissioned 102 officers for the Active Duty Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve.

Upon retirement, Lt. Colonel Mason and his wife, Loretta, plan to enjoy their grandchildren and hiking. He will continue teaching classes as an Adjunct Faculty member at Arkansas State University for the College of Nursing and Health Profession's Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management program. I thank Lt. Colonel Mason for 36 years of total service and 26 years of Active Duty service to our Nation, State and community.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join