

region's art and culture landscape. As a lifelong supporter of the theater community, Nancy worked tirelessly to advocate for the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art. She was an outstanding artist, actress, and musician who used her talents to bless others.

A lifelong Blair County resident, Nancy was born on July 9, 1935 in East Freedom and attended Altoona High School, where she was elected president of her class and graduated in 1953. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother whose compassion and care for her family was evident to everyone she met. In addition to her artistic pursuits, Nancy served the Altoona community as a member of the Blair County Historical Society. We also shared a love of gardening.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, it is my privilege to celebrate the life of Nancy Hicks Sheetz and honor her legacy. She leaves a profound void in the community that I share alongside all who knew her. As we remember Nancy for her many contributions to Blair County and our commonwealth, I extend my deepest condolences to the Sheetz family.

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND ROY L. FERGUSON

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Reverend Roy L. Ferguson, a beloved pastor and active community leader who passed away at the age of 76 on April 15, 2021. In 1983, Rev. Ferguson was elected Pastor of Saint John Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he served his congregation valiantly for 38 years. Demonstrating a continued dedication to public service, Rev. Ferguson contributed to the lives of many through mentorship and ministry, lifting spirits and soothing troubled souls.

Born on July 16, 1945, in Pickensville, Alabama, Rev. Ferguson graduated from Mississippi Valley College, where he studied physical education. He continued his education attending Birmingham Bible College and Samford University. In 1978, Rev. Ferguson answered the call to ministry under the leadership of Dr. J.C. Curry, Pastor of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Flint, Michigan. Shortly after, Rev. Ferguson's employer transferred him to Tuscaloosa, where he began his tenure as an associate minister at Saint John Baptist Church in 1982. He married Coleen Hudson, and together they had seven children.

Rev. Ferguson was a dedicated public servant who contributed to the progression of Civil and Human Rights through his positions as a board member of the State Southern Christian Leadership Conference, President Emeritus of the Tuscaloosa County Chapter Southern Christian Conference, and President of Tuscaloosa Ministerial Alliance. Expanding his influence outside of ministry, Rev. Ferguson gave back to the Tuscaloosa community by acting as a mentor in the Stars Program at Tuscaloosa City Schools and Tuscaloosa Juvenile Detention Center. He lived his life by example, encouraging the members of his community

and congregation to live up to their full potential in Christ.

Throughout his life, Rev. Ferguson prioritized the importance of teaching the next generation about Black history. He believed that if we are to truly bring about change in this Nation, it is our responsibility to preserve the legacy of those on whose shoulders we stand.

On a personal note, I am eternally grateful for the support, friendship, and wise counsel that Rev. Ferguson and his dedicated wife Coleen always extend to me. The amazing congregation of St. John Baptist Church was a special refuge to my staff and I and will always be a comforting source of love and support. I am forever indebted to Rev. Ferguson for representing Alabama's 7th Congressional District at the National Day of Prayer in Washington, D.C. I could always count on Rev. Ferguson to extend his ministry for the good of our community. I was constantly reminded by the example that Rev. Ferguson set on how to extend favor and fulfillment to others. May we find comfort in knowing that the legacy of Rev. Ferguson will live in the many people that he touched. Let us be renewed by his giving spirit to make a difference in our communities. Rest In Peace.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and legacy of Reverend Roy L. Ferguson and his outstanding contributions to the Tuscaloosa community.

SHARK FIN SALES ELIMINATION ACT OF 2021

HON. GREGORIO KILLI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, on Earth Day 2021, together with Rep. MCCAUL and 103 other original cosponsors, I am reintroducing the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act.

The Act bans the buying and selling of shark fins in the United States and passed in the 116th Congress with bipartisan support and, ultimately, 287 cosponsors. It was the largest number of cosponsors for any ocean conservation bill in the previous Congress.

The Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act has such strong bipartisan support, because it is an effective way to remove the United States from the devastating global trade in shark fins, at no cost. And because it does so without stopping those who want to fish for sharks and use them whole.

Madam Speaker, sharks are absolutely critical to life in the ocean. As apex predators, they help maintain balance by keeping prey populations in check. They are also critical to the tourism economy of our coastal communities. In Florida alone, tourists, who go diving to see sharks, generate more than 200 times the value of the trade in shark fins for our entire country.

Despite their importance ecologically and economically, sharks are in serious trouble. Each year, fins from up to 73 million sharks are sliced off and sold in the global marketplace. And, largely due to this demand for fins, some shark species have now declined by more than 90 percent.

Our nation has wisely banned the inhumane practice of finning sharks and throwing them back into the ocean to die. Yet, we still allow fins to be bought and sold here. And many of the fins we are buying and selling come from countries that simply do not have the same level of protection the U.S. gives sharks.

Now is time for us to take that next step. Only by banning the shark fin trade once and for all within our borders can we ensure we are no longer supporting an unsustainable use of ocean resources.

Recognizing this unsustainability, the Northern Mariana Islands, my home, was the very first U.S. insular area to ban the trade of shark fins in 2011. As an island culture 3,000 years old, the people of the Marianas understand and respect the important role that sharks play in maintaining the life of our oceans.

We are not alone. Thirteen U.S. states and three territories have also passed their own shark fin bans. But this patchwork of state laws can be challenging to enforce. That is why we need a federal ban on the shark fin trade in the United States.

A ban on the shark fin trade is supported by 45 domestic and international airlines, by 22 shipping companies, 15 major corporations, and nearly 700 U.S. businesses and organizations. A 2020 national poll found 4 of 5 American voters support a national ban on the buying and selling of shark fins. Hundreds of scientists, chefs, fishers, and dive and surf businesses have written to Congress requesting passage of a national shark fin ban.

I want, especially, to thank Oceana, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, and the Animal Welfare Institute for those environmental organizations' work to build legislative support for the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act.

I look forward to quick action in the House on the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act of 2021.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 130. I would like to reflect how I would have voted.

On roll call vote number 130, I would have voted YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 99; YEA on Roll Call No. 100; YEA on Roll Call No. 101; NAY on Roll Call No. 102; and NAY on Roll Call No. 103.

HONORING ANGOLA'S MEMORIAL
VFW POST NO. 7205

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Angola's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7205 as they prepare to celebrate their 75th anniversary.

Founded in the wake of the Second World War on May 26, 1946, the Angola VFW post was named after George Anspaugh, a Steuben County native who was killed in the war while serving in the U.S. Navy.

The post, which boasts 178 members and 200 auxiliary members, earned "All American Post" status in 2019 for its community contributions, participation in VFW events and ability to recruit and retain members.

I am inspired by the mission of Angola's VFW, and VFW posts nationwide, to not only help veterans recover from the wounds of war but also to ensure that the national memory of those who served is never forgotten.

From holding a Poppy Drive every year on November 7 to commemorate the end of the First World War to hosting Veterans Suicide Awareness Day to raise proceeds for the Veterans Suicide Crisis Hotline, and more, Hoosiers thank Angola's VFW Post for their work.

This record is testament to VFW Post No. 7205's longevity and achievement, for which Angola, and northeast Indiana, is grateful.

IN RECOGNITION OF REBECCA
WRIGHT

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rebecca Wright, a student at Windber Area High School, on being crowned the 74th Maple Queen at the Pennsylvania Maple Festival.

A pianist, Rebecca earned accolades at the competition for her performance of "Midnight Rhapsody," including the Anna Ruth Thomas Memorial Talent Award. She also won the Promenade Award and the Interview Award.

As the Maple Queen, Rebecca will represent Somerset County's robust maple industry. Since 1947, the Pennsylvania Maple Festival has been hosted by maple producers from across the region to showcase maple production.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Rebecca and her family on this incredible achievement. As Rebecca commences her service as Maple Queen, I wish her every continued success.

4/23 ANNIVERSARY OF JOSEPH
STONE'S DEATH

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the fourth anniversary of the tragic death of Joseph Stone, a U.S. paramedic serving with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in Ukraine.

My heart and prayers go out to his family who still feel his absence each and every day.

Joseph Stone was killed on April 23, 2017, when his vehicle struck a landmine in Russian-controlled territory in eastern Ukraine. Born in my district in Milwaukee, he was a courageous young man whose life ended much too soon.

Stone gave his life serving a noble mission: helping those who document the human suffering inflicted by the Kremlin's senseless assault on Ukraine. The mission he served with, established in 2014, monitors implementation of the Minsk Agreements, which were designed to bring peace to eastern Ukraine. It is an unarmed, civilian mission that serves as the international community's eyes and ears on the security and humanitarian situation in the war zone. The SMM operates under a mandate adopted by consensus among the 57 OSCE participating States, including the United States, Russia, and Ukraine.

The tragedy of Stone's death—a direct result of this needless conflict—is compounded today by the continuation of Russian aggression against Ukraine. Recent weeks have seen a dramatic escalation by Russia, which has amassed forces and equipment on Ukraine's land and maritime borders and in Crimea, which Russia continues to illegally occupy. Moscow's actions are accompanied by boldfaced denial that these threatening moves should be of any concern to Ukraine or its friends.

The latest Russian escalation only underlines the crucial role of the SMM and the need to ensure that the mission Joseph Stone died serving can fully carry out its mandate. Moscow currently blocks the SMM from accessing Russia-occupied Crimea. And in parts of Ukraine where the SMM is able to operate, its monitors are harassed, blocked, and threatened on a daily basis by Russia-led forces, who also interfere with the SMM's equipment by jamming UAVs or blinding static cameras.

Madam Speaker, all OSCE states, including Russia, must do everything possible to support the OSCE monitors who, to this day, face unacceptable threats and restrictions as they shine a light on the daily cost of this war. The monitors must be allowed unfettered access throughout Ukraine—including Crimea. And rather than deploying more troops, Russia should be working with the OSCE to help de-escalate the situation, including to support the

deployment of more monitors to prevent further conflict and provocation moves. The mission's efforts will remain crucial in ensuring the international community has full visibility on the Kremlin's malignant actions against Ukraine.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in marking the solemn anniversary of Joseph Stone's death. Let us use this solemn occasion to redouble efforts to work for peace. I also want to use this opportunity to applaud the men and women of the SMM who are still serving today, even as Russia continues to escalate. Their work is a critical part of efforts to restore Ukraine's territorial integrity and ensure respect for its sovereignty.

RECOGNITION OF THE POPE
FRANCIS PREPARATORY HIGH
SCHOOL HOCKEY TEAM'S 2021
USA HOCKEY DIVISION 1 NA-
TIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Pope Francis Preparatory High School boys' hockey team on winning the 2021 USA Hockey Division 1 National Championship. The Pope Francis Cardinals defeated New Trier, of Illinois, 3-0 in the championship game. This win capped a six day national championship tournament in Omaha, Nebraska, where the Pope Francis Cardinals won 6-0, and outscored opponents 48-5.

The tremendous amount of dedication and commitment to excellence was led by Head Coach Brian Foley, who has led the Pope Francis Hockey program for eighteen years. The impressive efforts on the ice was led by goalie Ben Zaranek, with 23 saves that ensured the shutout, and by Brandon Spaulding and Ryan Leonard, that scored the three goals to solidify victory and the national title.

It gives me great pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the entire team, which also includes Matt Hanscom, Jack Moltenbrey, Jake Iby, Ryan Hemenway, Colin Foyle, Evan Phaneuf, Andrew Bolduc, Jack Kennedy, Ryan Shaw, Bryce Russ, Joseph DiMichele, Stephen Rougeot, Jack Turowsky, Matthew Burke, Christopher Calvanese, Ryan O'Leary, Ryan Rhodes, Ben Zaranek, Josh Iby, and Gage Sperlonga. All should be proud of their contribution to this victorious season that furthers the legacy of Pope Francis athletics.

Madam Speaker, the players, coaches, and entire school community should be very proud of their accomplishments. I wish the graduating seniors all the best in their future endeavors and good luck to those who will return for a chance to make another run at the national championship.