

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an invaluable member of my staff on her well-deserved retirement. Jacquelyn Smith, “Jackie” to those of us who love her, retires this week, Mr. Speaker, after two decades of service to the Fourth Congressional District and more than a half century of work in government, education, and politics.

Her contributions to the State of Florida and to her colleagues are immeasurable, and our Nation is truly better off thanks to her efforts.

Jackie began her life of service as a teacher, moving often because of her husband’s assignment as a United States Air Force pilot.

She eventually found herself in politics, working on a Presidential campaign before eventually becoming district director to my predecessor, former Congressman Ander Crenshaw. When I took office in 2017, I was fortunate that Jackie stayed on as the director of special operations in my Jacksonville office.

Mr. Speaker, for over 20 years, Jackie has served northeast Florida. She has helped countless families with case-work, served as my representative throughout the district, and made a significant impact on thousands of young people and students in our community.

Jackie has truly helped shape the next generation of Americans, especially those who will be going into military leadership. Each year, Jackie runs the military academy nomination program. She works tirelessly with students who apply, coaching them through the process and vouching for their selection.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you no one knows nor works that system harder and better than Jackie Smith. And she does it simply for the benefit of her students. Thanks to her efforts, District Four historically has one of the highest selection rates in the country.

Jackie also runs our congressional arts program and the congressional medal program, both recognizing the many talented students in our community of northeast Florida.

Jackie often serves as my liaison to community groups, many of which she is already a part of, including the Rotary Club, the USO, and the local Chamber of Commerce. It often seems she knows everyone in northeast Florida, and unsurprisingly, they all consider her a friend. She loves them, and they love her.

Every day, Jackie comes to work with a servant’s heart, a sharp wit, and a contagious optimistic attitude. No job is too big; no job is too small. Most importantly, she embodies the virtues of integrity, hard work, and selflessness that Americans expect from their government.

Jackie leaves big shoes to fill in my office. However, as she is known to do, she leaves it better than when she found it.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, congratula-

tions, Jackie. May your retirement be filled with warm, sandy beaches and continued memories with your husband, David, and your many friends and loved ones. We are so proud of your many achievements, and we thank you, Jackie, for your service to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you, I look forward to hearing all about her next career as a used shoe salesman for Ocean Sole Africa, as they improve the lives of citizens of Kenya and boost the economy here at home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAUL MONTES, SR.

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor a family man, a caring neighbor, and a selfless public servant, my dear friend Raul Montes, Sr.

Raul was the ward superintendent for the 22nd Ward in the city of Chicago, a community known as Little Village. Raul and I share a common background. We both came to this country at a young age, settled in the Chicago neighborhood of Little Village, and started organizing for the improvement of our neighborhood and for the greater political representation of Chicago’s Latino community.

Raul created a block club in our neighborhood that worked to improve and beautify homes, backyards, and streets. They installed lamps in their front lawns, planted sod in the parkways, and established block watches and activities for children and teens.

This deep involvement in community life is why I appointed Raul as a Democratic precinct captain of the sixth precinct when I was a member of Chicago City Council. He was the most effective and beloved precinct captain in Chicago’s 22nd Ward. His hard work helped me and many others win elected office.

As ward superintendent in the Department of Streets and Sanitation, he was frequently seen driving down streets and alleys, conversing with neighbors, and paying personal attention to their service requests. Even after he retired, he would ride around the neighborhood, asking people if they needed anything to be fixed in their homes or streets.

Raul organized the best block parties and loved to sing and dance with his wife, Maria. They enjoyed traveling, spending time with their grandchildren, and, of course, having big parties. He also enjoyed helping out at the corner grocery store or restaurant to stay busy and catch up on what was going on in the neighborhood after he retired.

Last month, Raul died of COVID-19, leaving a huge void in his family, his neighborhood, and the entire southwest side of Chicago. Today, we recognize his labor in the House of Representatives.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

A few words in Spanish. Today in the United States Congress we recognize the friendship, work, and efforts of a great public servant. Raúl Montes was a great superintendent of the 22nd District and Little Village community. We celebrate his life, all his efforts, and we’d like to express to Raúl’s family that his life was well lived, and for that reason, we give him this recognition.

Unas palabras en español. Hoy en el Congreso de los Estados Unidos reconocemos la amistad, las labores, los esfuerzos de un gran servidor público. Raúl Montes fue un gran superintendente de nuestra comunidad en La Villita y el Distrito 22. Celebramos su vida, todos sus esfuerzos y le comunicamos a su familia que la vida de Raul Montes fue bien vivida, y por eso le hacemos ese reconocimiento.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Raul Montes, rest in power, my friend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

PRODUCERS WORKING HARD FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the farmers and ranchers whose work does not stop.

Even in the face of extreme freezing temperatures this month, the likes of which we have not seen in decades, Kansas stood strong and got the job done.

The big First District of Kansas is one of the most productive agricultural areas in the country. The district is home to more than 60,000 farms and is made up of farmers, ranchers, feedlot managers, nutritionists, ethanol producers, ag lenders, and agribusiness owners who feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

I grew up in Quinter, and I spent thousands of hours on a tractor in fields and on horseback, doctoring cattle in our family’s feed yard. I know well agriculture’s working conditions are demanding on a good day, but especially so when our business partner, Mother Nature, is as unforgiving as she has been lately.

In the past month, Kansas spent 13 consecutive days with temperatures below freezing. This is a stretch of freezing temperatures we have not seen in our State for nearly 40 years.

But those who stand with snow up to their knees in the depths of winter or haul water in the drought of summer know agriculture does not take days off. No matter the temperature, our ag producers head to work long before most of us are awake and stay out until many of us have already laid our heads down at night.

They are people like Cody and Ashley Bornholdt of Inman, who bust ice by hand at all hours so their cattle have access to water and are still able to joke that after several days of negative

temperatures, zero degrees feels like a heat wave.

They are people like Gary Capoun of Alma, who delivers baby calves and hauls them on the floorboard of his pickup to someplace warmer where they can be bottle-fed to ensure that they get the nutrients needed to grow and survive in the wind chills.

They are the men and women staying up through the night so a baby animal gets a shot at life, a piece of equipment is ready to go early the next morning, the neighboring producer has the help they need to milk their herd, and so people like you and I have a safe and secure food supply.

As many across the country learned this last spring, our food does not come from a grocery store shelf. The importance of the agriculture and food supply chain cannot be overstated. This supply chain represents millions of people working every day in the U.S. It begins with farmers, ranchers, and growers, and it includes food processors and manufacturers, shippers, transportation workers, and, finally, those working in the grocery stores and restaurants. Each of these people is vital in ensuring we have food on our plates.

While most of us in the "Big First" of Kansas know how important agriculture is, I know that message can sometimes be lost on the way to the grocery store. So on behalf of Kansans and all Americans, I share a sincere thank-you to the farmers, ranchers, and producers who supply our food, fuel, and fiber.

Thank you. Thank you for pulling the baby calf out of the snowbank and nursing it back to life. Thank you for busting ice early and feeding hay late. Thank you for putting the needs of your livestock before yourselves. Thank you for your never-ending, backbreaking days. Thank you for, especially on cold days, working so hard for the extra hours and extra strength. Your efforts feed us and keep us warm, too.

It is an honor to represent you in the U.S. House of Representatives and on the House Agriculture Committee. May God bless you.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL FFA WEEK

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to celebrate National FFA Week.

The national FFA organization was founded by a group of young farmers in 1928 as the Future Farmers of America. Their mission was to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding the world.

Today, more than 760,000 blue corduroy jacket-wearing FFA members in more than 8,700 chapters across the country, and more than 9,600 members in 220 chapters in Kansas alone, are still working hard to advance our Nation's most critical industry, food and agriculture.

□ 1045

These members are our future farmers, ranchers, engineers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, scientists, communica-

tors, and businesspeople. They are the next generation of leaders.

This week, they will celebrate National FFA Week as a long-held tradition during George Washington's birthday to respect agriculture's heritage and recognize its future.

As a past chapter FFA president from Quinter, Kansas, and a proud FFA alumnus, I am honored to join nearly 80 of my colleagues to introduce H. Res. 150, expressing support for the designation of February 20 to February 27, 2021, as National FFA Week, recognizing the important role of the National FFA Organization in providing the next generation of leaders who will change the world, and celebrating 50 years of National FFA Alumni and Supporters.

Kansas FFA and the National FFA Organization have had a profound impact on me. FFA taught me belonging when I put on my FFA jacket the first time, responsibility when caring for my family's livestock in the bitter winters and drought-ridden summers, and pride in sharing about the organization I love on the House floor today.

Because of FFA and the next generation of agriculture, I know our brightest days are ahead.

Happy National FFA Week.

HONORING THE LIFE OF W. EUGENE BURRELL

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a community leader and longtime friend, W. Eugene Burrell, of Fannett, Texas, who passed away on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at the age of 86.

Eugene was a lifelong cattle rancher, rice farmer, and civic leader in southeast Texas. He had the respect of all who knew him. Eugene was born on October the 27, 1934, in Beaumont, Texas, to Louise DeVillier Burrell, and Walter Jordan Burrell.

He began farming rice at the age of 18 and worked in that role until the age of 21, when he decided to serve his country in the United States Army.

After serving the Army from 1955 to 1957, where he was stationed overseas in Germany, Eugene returned home and continued rice farming, an occupation that would last for 52 years.

Apart from growing rice, he was also a dedicated cattle rancher for more than 70 years. Eugene served as a board member on numerous industry and community boards, such as the American Rice, Inc., board in Houston; American Rice Growers board in Cheek, Texas; the Coastal Cattlemen's Association board; the Equalization Board from the Jefferson County Appraisal District; the West Jefferson County Municipal Water District; and the Texas Rice Festival, where he volunteered with his wife, Sandra, who was the love of his life.

In 1999, Eugene was named the Texas Rice Festival Farmer of the Year, and

subsequently its Pioneer Farmer of the Year in 2017. His steadfast faith was always very important to him. In fact, he served as a member of St. Mary's Fannett Knights of Columbus organization.

In addition to "Eugene," his friends and family lovingly referred to him as "Dad," "Pawpaw," "Boogie," and "Fred." Supporting his children, and later his grandchildren, by attending their sporting events and various competitions over the years was always a very top priority to him.

Eugene is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Sandra Ray Burrell; daughter Karen Burrell Reneau and her husband, Charlie; daughter Kelly Burrell Alton and her husband, Randy; son, Troy Eugene Burrell and his wife, Shelly; grandchildren Landon Reneau and his wife, Hillary; William Reneau and his wife, Amanda; Lane Stuart; Reid Alton; Mary Alton; Abby Alton; Cody Burrell; Cameron Burrell and his wife, Lauren; great-grandchildren Eli Reneau, Ella Reneau, and Bryar Burrell; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Louise and Walter Burrell; and his brother, James Jack Burrell.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor my friend W. Eugene Burrell for his very many years of faithful service to his community.

My thoughts and prayers remain with his family and friends during this very difficult time.

May God bless his family.

DISAPPOINTING COVID RELIEF PACKAGE

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep disappointment on the bloated, partisan bill that my colleagues are calling a COVID relief package.

That is the name on the bill, but the reality is far from it. The reality is that we just passed a \$900 billion package in December. The package wasn't perfect, but it was bipartisan. This one is not.

The reality is that hundreds of billions of dollars remain unspent. As of last week, there were unofficial estimates of unspent or non-disbursed relief that included \$183 billion for another round of PPP; \$199 billion for healthcare; \$136 billion for expanded unemployment insurance; and \$46 billion for direct stimulus payments. That is money we still have, unspent.

The reality is that this administration can't or won't even give Congress an honest estimate of where that money is and what they will do with trillions more.

The reality is that this bill is not for emergency relief, but for leftwing spending programs years from now. Nearly half of the funds under this bill won't be spent until 2022.