

therapy, which is a rarely used treatment prescribed by Dr. Lewis that provided the necessary suction for obtaining adequate blood flow for the severed finger.

Dr. Lewis and Dr. Nord, along with the entire nursing staff, went above the call of duty to take part in a successful surgery lasting over 5 hours, until the middle of the night, in order that a 5-year-old boy could have a normal hand with all five fingers.

The 2 weeks of post-op care by Dr. Lewis and Dr. Nord was exceptional, and Blair now has the full use of the two once-damaged fingers on a fully functional hand.

The dedication and passion that Dr. Lewis and Dr. Nord demonstrated, along with the nurses and staff, where they were willing to sacrifice their time and use their medical talent to perform a surgery that had a minimal chance of success was a testament to the age-old statement "service above self."

Dr. Dan Lewis and Dr. Keith Nord are a living testimony of the Hippocratic oath, which they swore to uphold as medical professionals. As the ending statement reads, "May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help."

May God bless those two doctors and nurses and staff that made this surgery a total success.

□ 1015

FEDERAL TRIO PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss something that is very, very important to me as public policy, but it is something that is really personal to me, and that is the Federal TRIO Programs.

The TRIO programs are a set of higher education initiatives authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965 that provide an educational opportunity to first-generation, low-income students.

You see, in 1969, at age 18, as a high school senior, I became pregnant with my first daughter, Jesselynn. I was a college-bound student, suddenly feeling that I was derailed from my prospects and my future, but the outreach of the TRIO programs in Marquette University enabled me to get a high-quality education at Marquette University, else I might have slipped through the cracks.

You see me here standing today as a Member of Congress, but even prior to that, I contributed greatly to my community, because of my educational opportunity, as someone who created affordable housing through our State agency, put together a financial institution, a credit union for low-income communities to fill the financial gaps, and contributed in so many other

ways, including paying taxes—and by the way, my daughter is a special education teacher today.

But without TRIO support, I wouldn't be here, and there are so many other millions of young people who are talented, but they are just poor and don't have the family background to enable them to get to college. Access to quality and affordable education can change your entire life because a college education is one of the greatest democratizers and greatest equalizers in our democratic society. And that is why it has been the honor of my career to be the cochair of the bipartisan TRIO Caucus here in Congress to pay it forward for the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce a resolution, along with my cochair, MIKE SIMPSON, in recognizing November 8 as National First-Generation Celebration Day, a day that commemorates the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 by President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

I thank the many Members who signed on to our resolution, especially our Senate cosponsors, Senator WARNOCK, a TRIO alum, and Senator MARSHALL, a first-generation college graduate, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to highlight how the Build Back Better Act will help to advance the goal of helping more first generation and students of modest means get to college and be able to benefit from the programs like TRIO that can help to ensure that they graduate and gain the skills necessary to participate in our ever, ever complicated economy. And without efforts to make higher education affordable and reducing the debt burden on our students, I am afraid that many students will never have the opportunity to benefit from TRIO, so we need to do more to make sure that cost is not a barrier to quality higher education.

And that is why I think the Build Back Better effort—and I just want to call out Chairman BOBBY SCOTT for all the work he did in increasing the maximum Pell grants to help low-income students get to college. It is clear that Pell grants haven't kept up with the rising costs of college and would provide \$500 million over 7 years for grants to States and institutions of higher education and Tribal communities and universities to improve student outcomes, including enrollment retention, completion, and employment placement.

So I just thought it was important to say that when the Build Back Better bill gets to the floor, we should all support it for the educational initiatives that are in it.

But the story of TRIO is a remarkable one that benefits students of all races, creeds, colors, both genders, veterans. It ought to be celebrated.

Mr. Speaker, I am urging, when it comes to the floor, that you all support the bipartisan resolution to celebrate National First-Generation Day.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF KELLY ROWE

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a trusted leader in Lubbock County and a man I am blessed to call a dear friend, Sheriff Kelly Rowe.

Sheriff Rowe was recently elected by his peers to be president of the Sheriff's Association of Texas. I can think of no better Texas lawman to represent the character and noble calling of the law enforcement profession, and the central tenet of a free society, law and order, than Kelly Rowe.

Sheriff Rowe served in the United States Army and the Texas National Guard. He has been part of the Sheriff's Department since 1999, but he has been our sheriff for the last decade.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, law enforcement in Texas is under tremendous strain as they work to protect our citizens and secure our southern border, which is in complete chaos as a result of our Federal Government's failure to defend our country and our President's failure to uphold the laws of the land. As unprecedented numbers of crime, drugs, and gangs pour through our open border, our law enforcement officers have never been more important to the safety of our neighborhoods and our families. Sheriff Rowe is a leader among his colleagues and the Lone Star State is safer and stronger as a result of his service.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank his lovely wife, Nola, and their family for sharing Kelly selflessly with our communities. Law enforcement, as you know, is a family commitment. It is a family sacrifice.

So congratulations to Sheriff Rowe on this great honor. We are incredibly grateful for his service. We are extremely proud of his leadership contributions to West Texas and beyond.

God bless the men and women in blue. God bless America. And go West Texas.

CONGRATULATING BRYAN MUDD

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bryan Mudd on 20 years of service at KAMC, which is a local television station there in Lubbock. Bryan's dedication to keeping the citizens of Lubbock and the surrounding area informed about what is happening at home and across this country has been invaluable to West Texas.

Bryan and his wife, Sherry, are both servant leaders who go above and beyond their work to give of their time and talents to support many causes and multiple non-profits in our community. And I know their fellow West Texans and I am deeply grateful for their efforts.

I have always appreciated Bryan and his commitment to excellence in journalism and his unwavering dedication to bringing timely, fair, and balanced news to the people of West Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Bryan and his family in our Nation's capital.

God bless Bryan, my dear friend. Congrats, and go West Texas.

BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, Congressional Democrats have been focused on working with President Biden to deliver long overdue investments for the American people and for our future.

We started earlier this year with the American Jobs Act, which got critical resources, including vaccines, into our communities and put money in people's pockets. We helped struggling businesses and schools, and we did so much more.

Now, we are on the cusp of passing two bills that will enormously improve the lives of all Americans, the Build Back Better Act and the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. These two bills together will rebuild America's aging and failing infrastructure, create jobs, cut taxes and lower costs for families, protect and recognize the contributions of immigrants, tackle the climate crisis, and so much more.

Mr. Speaker, my district of El Paso, Texas, has long suffered from chronic poverty due to lack of access to many resources and economic opportunities.

On healthcare, my State of Texas has the highest rate of uninsured residents in the Nation. In my community of El Paso, a quarter of my residents have absolutely no health insurance whatsoever.

On climate, El Paso has seen the second highest increase in average temperatures over the past 45 years with the number of 100-degree days predicted to double.

On family care, nearly half of the people, 48 percent of the people, live in a childcare desert with no access to childcare whatsoever.

On education, in my State of Texas your education and the amount of money invested in K-12 kids depends on your ZIP Code and where you live.

The historic investments that we will be making with both of these bills will strengthen healthcare access to Texas families by expanding Medicare coverage for those who have been denied. They will protect our communities from the consequences of the climate crisis by helping us lower emissions, advancing a clean energy economy, and advancing environmental justice.

These bills will support families with the child tax credit, which will benefit 173,000 children in El Paso alone, in addition to the investments in childcare, home healthcare, paid family and medical leave, workforce development, and universal pre-K, which is probably the best predictor for school success and for kids who end up going to college.

My community needs that. My kids in El Paso deserve that.

Americans everywhere need this health and support, and they need it now. These investments are fully paid for. They will not add to the deficit, and because these expenditures represent less than one percent of our GDP over the next decade, and because they are paid for in part by making corporations and the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share, the Build Back Better Act will not increase inflation.

I am so proud to have played a role in crafting these bills. I am so proud to advance them and ensure that they uplift El Paso families, improve our economy, and help save our planet.

RECOGNIZING BILL WOMACK, WORLD WAR II HERO

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in advance of Veterans Day, to take a moment for our country, to take a moment and to thank those who have served. You are going to see some faces on here, and I am just going to highlight five individuals from my district in West Texas, amongst the thousands who have offered to serve. Many of these are part of the Greatest Generation and this is the greatest country in the world, and it is because of their sacrifices.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a World War II hero, Mr. Bill Womack of Midland, Texas, who celebrated his 100th birthday this year. Mr. Womack joined the National Guard immediately after graduating high school. And after the Pearl Harbor bombing, Mr. Womack became an artilleryman stationed in North Africa and Europe.

Bill is one of the legendary Texas Liberators, a group of 488 Texans who fought against the Nazi regime to liberate Jewish prisoners. He was among the group of heroes who first breached the concentration camp, Dachau, and helped bring World War II prisoners to safety.

Countless lives were saved because of the efforts and the selflessness of Mr. Womack.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING PHIL GEORGE

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a hero of mine, Mr. Phil George, of San Angelo, Texas, a distinguished veteran and university basketball coach.

Mr. George is a legend in my hometown of San Angelo. He is a veteran of not only World War II and Korea, but also of Vietnam where he spent years as an incredibly talented fighter pilot.

When our Nation called, he answered, multiple times. I cannot overstate the sacrifices that he made both professionally and also in his community after his service in the military. Not only is he a hero, but he is also a mentor to so many.

He leaves a legacy in San Angelo to this day of the selfless ability to lead others, to motivate others, to a life of service. His stories are incredible. His faith in God is palpable, and his love for his late wife, Toddy, and his entire family, are inspiring.

In addition to his record of service, he has an incredible record as a basketball coach and athletic director at Angelo State University.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. George for his service to this Nation.

RECOGNIZING MAYNARD SCHWERTNER

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Maynard Schwertner, a Vietnam veteran who spent his entire life in the service of this country, both in Vietnam and back at home.

As a well driller in Vietnam, Mr. Schwertner spent his time providing clean water for civilians and the military. Back at home, Mr. Schwertner has dedicated his life to serving fellow veterans, and that includes helping establish Vietnam veterans chapters, memorials, and support groups in San Angelo, Texas. He is a distinguished member of the community who lives a life dedicated to supporting our Nation and our Armed Forces.

RECOGNIZING GILBERTO TORRES

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Gilberto Torres for his service in World War II. Gilberto was part of the second wave of the D-day invasion of Normandy, the legendary amphibious invasion that turned the tide of the war and led the allies to liberate Europe.

Tragically, when trekking through war-torn Europe, Gilberto was fired upon and struck by enemy machine guns. He survived his injuries and was honorably discharged, but not before earning many medals for his heroism and his bravery, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal, and many more. He is in his 90s today and he hopes to visit Normandy. I hope he can do that.

RECOGNIZING J.L. STEVENS

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. J.L. Stevens, a west Texan, a World War II veteran who also took part in both the Normandy invasion on D-day and the invasion of Okinawa.

His service to this country was inspired at the age of 17 as he enlisted in the Navy with the desire to follow in the footsteps of his brother. Stevens' sacrifice helped create a safer world for his two daughters, his six grandchildren, and his 12 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for us to recognize the service of all of these servicemembers as we approach Veterans Day. These are just a few stories, among many, bipartisan in all of our districts. My hope is that this country can look to the service of these, many of whom are part of the greatest generation, and we can realize that this is the greatest country in the world, but it is not without sacrifice.