

important, teachers and has been a key economic and cultural educational institution for Alamosa and the entire San Luis Valley.●

RECOGNIZING THE 2020–2021
NATIONAL FFA OFFICER TEAM

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 2020–2021 National FFA officer team who recently retired at the 94th National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, IN. Team members include president Doster Harper of Georgia, central region vice president Paxton Dahmer of Missouri, eastern region vice president Miriam Hoffman of Illinois, western region vice president David Lopez of California, southern region vice president Artha Jonassaint of Florida, and from my home State of Arkansas, National FFA secretary Anna Mathis.

The Future Farmers of America was founded in 1928 by a group of young farmers with dreams of developing an organization to address the challenges of feeding a growing population. Their leadership was founded on their experience and passion for agricultural pursuits. Now known as the National FFA Organization to represent its diverse membership, FFA grows the next generation of leaders, builds communities, and strengthens agriculture. There are 735,038 middle and high school FFA members in 8,817 chapters in all 50 States and Puerto Rico.

Each year, six student members are elected to represent FFA as a national officer. They serve the organization at the highest level, promoting FFA and inspiring members, advisers, staff, teachers, alumni, and supporters. These individuals pause their educational pursuits and other commitments for an entire year in order to fully dedicate themselves to bettering the organization and the agricultural industry. National FFA officers spend time attending, speaking at, and facilitating FFA camps, conferences, and conventions and often meet with donors, stakeholders, and alumni. Additionally, national officers serve as members of the National FFA board of directors, a testament to FFA being a student-led organization. It is no secret that these young leaders have a profound impact on the future of the organization and agriculture.

The 2020–2021 National FFA officer team led the organization with character, determination, and grit in the midst of a global pandemic. During this year and a half when many schools moved online and extracurricular activities at school, such as FFA, were unable to meet and continue normally, it is remarkable that, under this team's leadership, the number of FFA chapters in the organization increased despite the hardships faced. Their tenure as a national officer concluded after planning and leading the 94th National FFA Convention and Expo. The largest youth convention in the country, this year's convention drew over 60,000 registered attendees.

Behind every great team are hosts of people who support them. I commend the families, staff, advisers, teachers, mentors, students, alumni, and others who supported these leaders and FFA. Their tenacity and leadership is encouraging to those they serve and to myself. I had the opportunity to visit with these national officers during their year of service. It has been an honor to meet and interact with this team. I am ever-increasingly optimistic about the future of agriculture, especially with passionate, dedicated leaders like themselves at the helm. Doster, Anna, Paxton, Miriam, David, and Artha, I wish you the best in your future endeavors and congratulate you for your year of service as the 2020–2021 National FFA officer team.●

CONGRATULATING THE KINDRED
HIGH SCHOOL VIKINGS

● Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, for the second time this year, I have the privilege of congratulating my alma mater, Kindred High School, on a State championship.

In March, my hometown school celebrated the boys basketball team's first-ever State championship. Eight months later, on November 12, the Kindred Vikings football team won the State 11B title at the Dakota Bowl State Football Tournament. The Vikings defeated longtime rivals, the No. 1-ranked Hillsboro-Central Valley Burros, by a score of 37 to 14, for the championship. They had earlier won their first three games, defeating Lisbon, Central Cass, and Bishop Ryan teams.

This was the first State championship for the Vikings since State playoffs sponsored by the North Dakota High School Activities Association began in 1975. They had made only one other Dakota Bowl appearance in 2016. To advance to the tournament this year, the Vikings defeated the Langdon-Edmore-Munich Cardinals, which had played in every Dakota Bowl since 2016.

Graduating from Kindred High School in 1979, I lettered for 4 years in football, basketball and track. I was the starting quarterback my junior and senior years, and our team was bad, me especially.

Knowing firsthand what it is like to persevere on a losing team, watching these Kindred Vikings, who ended the season with a 12–1 record, was thrilling. I saw very talented athletes excel by tapping into the strength of each player. Notably, the impressive skills of running back Trey Heinrich did not go unnoticed when he was named the MaxPreps North Dakota Player of the Year.

I want to recognize this year's team members Charles Biewer, Masen Allmaras, Lukas Klabunde, Izaak Spelhaug, Maxwell McQuillan, Andrew Trom, Taylor Stefanowicz, Carter Schmitz, Caleb Klabunde, Connor Rolland, Jack McDonald, Wyatt Briscoe, Graham Glasoe, Jordyn Sunram, Hay-

den Cichy, Owen Hoyme, Kylan Swenson, Jorgen Swenson, Camron Schwartzwalter, Trey Heinrich, Ty Roesler, Tyson Johnson, Chase Miller, Jeremiah Dockter, Alex Moffet, Jacob Hiatt, Samuel Jenness, Jacob Lund, Jack Huesman, Blake Houska, Tate Miller, Landon Kottsick, Grant Spelhaug, Andrew Haley, Colin Lunde, Ethan Fornshell, Mason Nipstad, Kelby Erdmann, Dilon Filler, Riley Sunram, Jack Packer, Jack Olson, Hunter Bindas, Maxwell Opgrand, and Ryker Lachowitz.

I congratulate the team, as well as Coach Matt Crane, his assistants Brad Ambrosius, Eric Burgad, Joe Harder, Nate Safe, and Ryan Sunram and all the hometown fans on winning this championship.

I join the rest of North Dakota in thanking the Kindred Vikings for inspiring all of us to achieve excellence. For the second time this year, they have demonstrated what can be achieved by combining faith and passion with determination and teamwork.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. BECKETT

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, with the U.S. Supreme Court set to consider *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in oral arguments on December 1, 2021, I am taking time to recognize individuals whose dedication to the pro-life cause has led us to this point. In this case, I pay tribute to Mr. John D. Beckett from Elyria, OH. His activities have been intertwined with championing pro-life and religious freedom.

Mr. Beckett graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1960, after which he initially worked as an engineer in the aerospace industry. In 1963, he joined his father's small manufacturing business, R.W. Beckett Corporation, and 2 years later became president following his father's death. Under Mr. Beckett's leadership, this small company grew over time to become a worldwide leader in producing engineered components for residential and commercial heating. With its affiliates, the company employs nearly 1,000 people.

In addition to his business endeavors, Mr. Beckett has long been active in both church and community-related activities. This is where he has established himself as a champion of the pro-life movement.

In 1973, Mr. Beckett became a founding member of the Intercrossors for America, a national prayer organization, and he continues to serve on the board today. The Intercrossors for America has helped lead grassroots efforts for people of faith to unite in prayer for the pro-life movement and for the unborn. In addition, he also became a founding board member of King's College in New York City, a Christian university, and he also serves on the board of Cru—Campus Crusade for Christ International. Alongside

these community activities, Mr. Beckett also found time to become a published author, writing two books about faith in the workplace.

For these business and community activities, Mr. Beckett has received numerous accolades. He received an honorary doctor of law degree from both Spring Arbor University in 2002 and also from King's College in 2008. He was also named Christian Businessman of the Year by the Christian Broadcasting Network in 1999 and the Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young in 2003.

Today, he resides in Elyria, OH, with his wife, Wendy, to whom he has been married since 1961.

I am thankful to John D. Beckett for his support of many nonprofit organizations that defend the rights of the unborn and religious freedom. His work in helping establish the Intercessors for America has led to untold numbers of prayers being raised for the pro-life movement. I am pleased to honor his work through that organization as well as his lifetime of service to so many worthy causes.●

TRIBUTE TO PHIL BRYANT

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I am honored to pay tribute to former Governor Phil Bryant of Mississippi. While there are many things for which the Governor deserves praise, today I specifically want to speak about Governor Bryant's stalwart work during his term of office from 2012-2020 to protect and defend the most vulnerable of our society: unborn children.

While running for office, Phil Bryant promised Mississippians that he would work tirelessly as Governor to protect the rights of the unborn. He fulfilled that promise. Throughout two terms in office, Governor Bryant was a driving force behind legislative efforts to protect life in Mississippi.

In April 2012, Governor Bryant signed Mississippi House Bill 1390. This bill required abortion practitioners to be certified as obstetrician-gynecologists and to maintain admitting privileges at a local hospital. Through these requirements, this legislation sought to strengthen abortion regulations and ensure that women receive quality care for any complications following an abortion.

In April 2014, Governor Bryant signed Mississippi House Bill 1400, banning abortions performed after 20 weeks. This legislation cited a plethora of medical evidence, showing that a baby can feel pain at this stage, and that pregnant women are at increased health risks, even death, when undergoing later-term abortion procedures.

Additionally, Governor Bryant signed into law the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act in 2016, banning dismemberment abortions or those involving the practice known as D&E or "dilation and evacuation." Dismemberment is the most prevalent method of second trimester abortion, accounting for 96 per-

cent of all second trimester abortions. With the enactment of this law, Governor Bryant not only banned these violent dismemberment procedures from taking place in the Mississippi, he also prohibited the illegal trafficking of the bodies of aborted babies in Mississippi.

Governor Bryant did not stop there and continued working to keep his promise to make Mississippi "the safest place in America" for unborn babies. In 2018, he signed the Gestational Age Act, which banned abortions after 15 weeks in most cases. It is this law being challenged at the U.S. Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*.

Throughout all of these laws, Governor Bryant maintained steadfast courage and held tightly to his promise to the people of Mississippi to fight continuously to protect the unborn. I love what he once said when groups threatened legal action against our State's pro-life legislation. He said, "We will all answer to the good Lord one day. I will say in this instance, 'I fought for the lives of innocent babies, even under threat of legal action.'"

That is indeed true. When his time comes, Governor Bryant can stand tall before the Lord, having fought the good fight to protect the unborn. And indeed, when the Supreme Court hears oral arguments in the *Dobbs* case on December 1, Governor Bryant can smile in the knowledge that his work was not in vain.

For all these reasons, I call attention to Governor Phil Bryant. He deserves laudable recognition for his 8-year fight to protect and defend the right to life for the unborn babies in the womb, reflecting the character and values of the people of our State, Mississippi.●

TRIBUTE TO BECKY CURRIE

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, it is an honor to pay tribute to Representative Becky Currie, a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives, who authored the Gestational Age Act. It is this State law that underlies the U.S. Supreme Court's consideration of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* this term.

When the Supreme Court hears oral arguments on *Dobbs* on December 1, 2021, it will hear a defense of the pro-life cause generating from the work of Becky Currie, my friend and my representative. In the Mississippi House, she represents district 92, which covers my hometown of Brookhaven.

Becky's forethought in introducing this bill and shepherding it through the State legislature has led us to the point where the Supreme Court is considering a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade*. By prohibiting most abortions after 15 weeks, the Gestational Age Act presents directly the question of whether *Roe's* viability standard remains good law.

Becky's background as a nurse, her tenacious personality, and her heart

for the unborn made her the perfect person to sponsor this important bill. She knows how to fight and isn't afraid of criticism. Her stubborn persistence in promoting policies to protect the unborn has made Mississippi a safer place for women and their babies. Through the Supreme Court's consideration of her bill, Becky Currie has the potential to do that for our entire Nation.

As the Supreme Court prepares to hear oral arguments in the *Dobbs* case, we are all indebted to Representative Currie's her courage and tenacity in sponsoring the Gestational Age Act. Praise God for bringing us this far. I also pray that He will continue to work through Representative Currie, using her law to overrule *Roe v. Wade* and make our Nation a safer place for the unborn and their mothers.●

TRIBUTE TO MARK LEE DICKSON

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to Pastor Mark Lee Dickson of Longview, TX, who founded the Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn Initiative in 2019. This innovative organization works to encourage cities and towns to adopt ordinances declaring themselves as Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn.

Under Pastor Dickson's leadership, this grassroots Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn movement has saved many babies throughout the Nation in 41 towns and cities that have adopted these ordinances.

This is not the only way that Pastor Dickson has dedicated himself to championing the pro-life movement. He also serves as the director of Grassroots for Right to Life of East Texas and as the senior pastor of Sovereign Love Church in Longview.

Across our Nation, pro-life citizens of all ages and backgrounds represent the backbone of the grassroots movement to protect the unborn. Individuals like Pastor Dickson who take it on themselves to help promote life and prevent abortion in their own communities drive the passion in this movement.

The Pastor Dickson and millions of other Americans have kept this issue salient for our political discourse and has led us to the place where the U.S. Supreme Court will be reconsidering its misguided abortion jurisprudence established by *Roe v. Wade* when it takes up a challenge to a Mississippi law banning most abortions after 15 weeks gestation. In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the stage is set for the potential overturning of *Roe* and returning the issue of abortion to the States.

I pray for Pastor Dickson and that God would raise up more like him. Pastor Dickson's example shows that the courage of one person can make a difference.●