

to be college-ready and have the resources to successfully complete their post-secondary education.

In El Paso, the GEAR UP-Proyecto to M.A.S. (Motivating Aspiring Scholars) is a partnership between the Ysleta Independent School District and the University of Texas at El Paso. The program currently serves 3,400 students through tutoring, mentoring, financial education, and college visits to ensure readiness and awareness of higher education opportunities.

As a former educator myself, I know that programs like GEAR UP are essential to communities like mine where over 80% of our population is Latino. Many of our students come from families where they will be the first in their family to go to college. I am so proud of the tremendous impact GEAR UP makes in the lives of young El Pasoans through its tools made available to our communities.

I am grateful to the educators and families who work tirelessly to support our youth, I applaud all the students who have immersed themselves in this program and express my best wishes and hopes for their success.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE
SUNCOAST

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of the Suncoast. Their tireless work is being recognized this week when they will be named the Highest Performing Board Team of the Year. Board Chair Jeff Tanzer, Vice Chair Kyle Barr, Vice Chair Rolfe Duggar, Esq., Vice Chair Christie Sullivan, Esq., Vice Chair Beth Homer, Esq., Treasurer Danielle Cartier Wendt, CPA, Secretary Elizabeth Constantine, Esq., Immediate Past Chair Angela Wright, and Past Chair Doug Lewis have all excelled to make our local Boys and Girls Club worthy of this designation.

The mission of the Boys and Girls Club of the Suncoast is to provide high quality, out of school time Club experiences that proven to ensure our young people are on track to graduate from high school with a plan, demonstrate good character and citizenship, and live a healthy lifestyle. With over 21,000 kids and teens served and a 96 percent graduation rate among High School Seniors that are club members, the Club supports the next generation of community members that can make a positive impact. I have been proud to support their tremendous efforts during my time in Congress and look forward to their continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL A.
JOHNSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has served

as a distinguished community leader from a young age and has continued to enrich future generations as a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Scoutmaster for the past 37 years, Michael A. Johnson. Recently, Michael was awarded the Book of Golden Deeds Award by the Exchange Club of Albany in May 2022 for his exemplary record of community service and improvement, volunteering, and improving the lives of young people. His retirement as Scoutmaster for St. Teresa's Catholic Church Troop 3 will be celebrated on October 9, 2022 at three o'clock p.m. at the church's school cafeteria in Albany, Georgia.

Born into an Air Force family by the union of Michael and Marcia Johnson, Michael moved to Southwest Georgia when his father was transferred to Albany in 1971. He began his Scouting journey as a young boy in the Cub Scouts and in 1971 joined as a Boy Scout in St. Teresa's Catholic Church Troop 3 where he would earn several awards and distinctions. Additionally, Michael attended high school in Albany and went on to earn a degree in Architecture from Auburn University.

After achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in 1977, Michael continued his servant leadership within the Scouting community by serving as a Troop 3 Assistant Scoutmaster from 1985 to 1990, and then as Scoutmaster in 1990, a position he still holds today. Throughout his life in Scouting, he has been revered as a steadfast mentor and positive influence on the hundreds of young people who have passed through his troop. It was important to Michael that all Scouts had the opportunity to experience trips to BSA's National Jamborees, summer camps, and other high adventures activities, and he personally made sure that funding was never an issue for them to attend. And notably, of the 194 Eagle Scouts from Troop 3, 145 achieved the rank under Michael's leadership, affirming his record of dedication to each of these young people as they completed service projects to improve their neighborhoods and the greater community.

Michael demonstrates impeccable community leadership in so many ways. He currently serves as a Leader in Boy Scouts of America's South Georgia Council, which is comprised of 28 counties in the region. As the Vice President of Properties for the South Georgia Council, he spearheaded the efforts to restore the Council's 2 Scout camps following damage sustained by three tornadoes and a hurricane in 2017 and 2018. He also leads by example by participating in many community service projects, such as Flint River Cleanups with Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful; food drives to support St. Clare's Neighbors in Need; Christmas tree recycling with the YMCA and the City of Albany; parking cars for Phoebe events; and supporting the Exchange Club's car shows. But his dedication goes beyond community service and mentoring youth and young professionals; Michael's strong faith in God led him to contribute greatly to the spiritual development of countless young men and women. As Scoutmaster, he initiated a program that dedicates at least one weekly meeting each month for Scouts to work toward religious awards appropriate for their age and denominations.

It is because of Michael's commitment to his Scouts and the betterment of his community that he has been recognized with numerous awards and distinctions. As a Cub Scout, he earned the Arrow of Light rank—the only Cub

Scout award that can be worn once a Scout enters Boy Scouts. While a Boy Scout, he achieved membership in the Immokalee Lodge, Order of the Arrow, and the Ad Altare Dei religious award, as well as earning the rank of Eagle Scout. As an adult, Michael received BSA's District Award of Merit; has been awarded the St. George Religious Emblem for his service to youth; was honored by the Blue Angels as one of their Hometown Heroes; the Silver Beaver; Outstanding Eagle recognition; and most recently, the Book of Golden Deeds Award, which is the most prestigious award presented by the Albany Exchange Club.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm once said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Michael has paid his rent many times over and continues to give back to the community that raised him. As a member of the American Cancer Society, he was a Captain on the American Cancer Relay for Life Team, a member of the Albany Clean Community Commission and American Institute of Architects. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus Lodge Number 3607 and attends St. Teresa's Catholic Church in Albany.

Michael has served countless people and accomplished many things throughout his life, but none of these could have been possible without his faith, the love and support of his wife of 36 years, Linda, and their four children—Patrick, Ivy, Hope, and Grant. Being a family rooted in community involvement, Linda Johnson was for many years an elementary school teacher and now serves as the Assistant Principal at St. Teresa's school, while both Patrick and Grant have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, following in their father's footsteps.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Michael A. Johnson upon the occasion of his retirement from his over three decades of service to the community through Scouting, youth mentoring, and servant leadership, all of which has improved the lives of so many.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRO-
MOTING NATIONAL SERVICE AND
REDUCING YOUTH UNEMPLOY-
MENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Promoting National Service and Reducing Youth Unemployment Act to address one of the greatest workforce tragedies—our unemployed young people—while filling the employment gap the public sector is facing as more workers choose the private sector. Youth unemployment is harming our young people and costing our country billions of dollars each year in lost productivity and tax revenue, among other costs. Although the total unemployment rate has reached a relative low (3.7 percent), the youth unemployment rate is nearly 7.9 percent. These young people have not had a fair chance to use the high school or college education we strongly urged them to obtain.

What is particularly disappointing, especially in today's low unemployment economy, is the high unemployment rate for young people who heeded our advice to graduate from high school and college. The unemployment rate is currently 7.9 percent for people 16 to 24 years old, which is 4.2 percentage points higher than the total unemployment rate, and hundreds of thousands of them now compete for unpaid internships wherever they can find them.

By significantly adding 500,000 new members to AmeriCorps, my bill would need no new administrative structure or bureaucracy but would allow unemployed youth to earn a stipend, obtain work experience and develop a good work history to help secure future employment. The bill would significantly expand job opportunities for young people who have done what they could to get a job, but, despite their best efforts, remain unemployed. AmeriCorps participants receive a living allowance and are also eligible for an education award equal to the value of a Pell grant, school-loan forbearance, health care benefits and childcare assistance. By expanding AmeriCorps, we would reduce the number of unemployed young people, provide them work skills and experience and help understaffed state and local governments provide services.

My bill would also establish that the minimum wage for any AmeriCorps State & National member would be 200 percent of the federal poverty line, and would not allow for a decrease in that amount, as is allowed under current law. AmeriCorps members serve their country and gain skills, but we should increase the minimum wage for everybody, including national service members.

For some time, it has been clear that policies to address the most stubborn forms of unemployment need to be targeted in order to be effective. Without significant targeting, many young people will continue to face their first years as adults without jobs and with no way to acquire necessary work experience. They deserve a better start in life as adults.

I ask my colleagues to support this urgently needed, targeted assistance for our unemployed youth.

HONORING ARMY VETERAN ALBERT EMILE VAN LUCHENE ON HIS CENTENARIAN BIRTHDAY

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Army veteran Albert Emile Van Luchene on his 100th birthday, and honor his service in the United States Armed Forces.

Mr. Van Luchene was born in Huntley, Montana on October 3, 1922, to farmers who immigrated from Belgium to Montana in 1911. At eighteen years old during World War II, Mr. Van Luchene enlisted in the Army and experienced combat as a Communications Sergeant during the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes region of Belgium from December, 1944 to January, 1945. Mr. Van Luchene's valor and heroism during this time would see him later receiving the Croix de Guerre avec and Etoile de Bronze medals from the French government, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Service medal, the American Cam-

aign medal, the American Service medal, the Bronze Star, the American Defense Service medal, the Good Conduct medal, and the American Combat Infantry medal from the U.S. government. Most recently he was also awarded the Quilt of Valor Award.

Today, on behalf of Montana's At-Large Congressional District, I thank Mr. Van Luchene for his service to our Nation, and I warmly wish him a happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE BILLY DE FRANK CENTER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Billy DeFrank Center. The Center has been an incubator and catalyst for emerging groups and organizations working to meet the needs of the LGBTQ+ community.

The Billy DeFrank Center opened its doors on March 1, 1981, in a two-room storefront. They turned opposition into opportunity by using funds from a failed campaign to repeal ordinances extending housing and employment protections to the gay community to finance their Center.

The Center named itself after William Price, a popular African American drag queen, Billy DeFrank. A mural on the outside of the building honors his commitment to the community and his inclusive spirit.

The Billy DeFrank Center housed several important groups, including High Tech Gays, a major force for change in the 80's and 90's. They successfully sued the Federal Government's Defense Industrial Security Clearance Office (DISCO) for discriminatory practices in issuing High Security Clearances to the LGBTQ+ community.

Sister Spirit Bookstore, a cultural hub for queer women, moved to Billy DeFrank Center's new and larger site in 1986.

Currently, the Center collaborates with various service providers and Silicon Valley Pride to build, unify, and strengthen the LGBTQ+ community in the South Bay.

Throughout the past 40 years, the Billy DeFrank Center has been a beacon of hope, a place to be who you are within your chosen family, to share information to address the diversity of needs in the LGBTQ+ community. Please join me in celebrating this significant milestone.

IN MEMORY OF BOBBY FLYNN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a great American, Mr. Robert Douglas Flynn. Known to everyone as Bobby, he passed away September 22, 2022.

Bobby Flynn was born July 25, 1927, in Lexington, Kentucky. He attended Lafayette High School where he excelled in athletics, especially track and basketball. Bobby joined the United States Army and later served in the

Merchant Marines. On August 3, 1946 he married Ella Ritchey. He attended the University of Dayton on a basketball scholarship. Bobby became the first white man to play on an all-black semi-pro baseball team, the Lexington Hustlers. He was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Bobby and Ella had 3 children, Doug, Brad, and Melanie. Bobby owned a restaurant and then pursued a career in the insurance business, where he worked for 30 years. Bobby was elected and served in the Kentucky Senate from 1968 to 1972. He served on Lexington's city council from 1988 to 1996. His love for athletics never stopped, as he enjoyed and excelled at golf, bowling, and fishing for many years. He served as a referee for football and basketball. He was the manager of press row at Rupp Arena for many years. Bobby was also involved at Keeneland, the Lexington Legends, and KHSAA games. Due to his long-time support of Lexington sports, the annual Bluegrass Sports Award is named after him. His last years were spent at Sayre Christian Village, where he received a Lifetime Achievement Award for service to the community.

Most importantly, Bobby Flynn was a devoted man of faith and a member of Grace Baptist Church. His faith in God directed his life and he modeled his faith in the way that he lived. He was always willing to help others, even at personal sacrifice.

It is my honor to recognize the life of Mr. Bobby Flynn; an outstanding citizen, a patriot, and a man of integrity who loved and served God through his service to the community of Lexington. America is great because of people like Bobby Flynn and I am forever grateful.

RECOGNIZING MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Malnutrition Awareness Week.

According to the Department of Agriculture, 33.8 million Americans struggle with food insecurity, and in my district in Central New York, nearly one in seven children are food-insecure. We have to do more to keep food on the table for American families and address the root causes of malnutrition. That's why in Congress, I have been proud to support crucial federal nutrition programs like SNAP, which millions of Americans rely on, and have been a consistent advocate for the Meals on Wheels program.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing Malnutrition Awareness Week and I urge continued work on efforts to combat food insecurity in America.