

for winning the 2022 Quality Award at their national conference.

Big Brothers Big Sisters aims to connect mentors, or “bigs,” with local youth, known as “littles.”

This prestigious Quality Award is granted to only a third of chapters in the country. To achieve it, the chapter must succeed in having 73 percent of mentors meet with a youth member for a whole year. Additionally, 54 percent of participants must meet with their “littles” at school for that year.

The Harrisburg-Rockingham chapter knocked that standard out of the park, reporting a 70 to 80 percent meeting success rate.

According to Lindsay Douglas, the executive director of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham chapter, the reason for the chapter’s superb performance is strong communication between the mentors, children, and their parents.

It is community organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters that foster an environment where our youth can thrive.

Congratulations, again, to the Harrisburg-Rockingham chapter.

UPHOLDING OUR END OF THE PACT WITH VETERANS

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, this week, we are making history as we pass the Honoring Our PACT Act and move one step closer to sending the legislation to President Biden’s desk to be signed into law.

The journey to this point has been long. As a member of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of the PACT Act when we introduced it over a year ago.

Now, we are finally at the finish line, ready to expand healthcare to 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service.

We are upholding our end of the pact we made with our veterans to ensure they have the care they need and deserve when they come home.

I am grateful to the veterans and military families in my community who have made their voices heard on this urgent cause, and I am thankful for the tireless advocacy of the VSOs across the country who have made this moment possible.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDWARD C. MAHEN

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly great American, Mr. Edward C. Mahen, who unfortunately died last fall. This was an amazing man, and he will be missed.

Mr. Mahen was a dedicated civil servant, an Air Force combat veteran, and an extraordinary engineer with more than 50 years of service to our country.

In 1972, Ed joined the Air Force. In Vietnam, he earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses and eleven Air Medals flying 144 combat missions. He retired as a colonel in 1997 after a career of assignments in classified strategic and electronic warfare programs.

In 1998, Ed was recruited by the director of the NRO to become the chief technology officer for the Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate.

He was a remarkable leader. He left a legacy within the IC by hiring and guiding a new generation of IC professionals.

May he rest in peace. May his wife and family be comforted knowing he was a true patriot, a true friend, and one who endlessly loved his family and this country.

HONORING JUAN CARLOS REYNAGA

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of my constituent, Juan Carlos Reynaga.

Juan was 17 years old; he was a lineman for Anaheim High School varsity football team, and he was keeping his grades up. He wanted to become a certified crane operator after graduating from high school.

Sadly, last Friday, after working his late-night shift at Walmart, when he was walking home, a car drove up; two individuals in the car asked him: Are you a gangbanger? And he said: No, I am not a gang member. They shot him in the back, anyway, killing him.

Juan was a hardworking, honest young man. He was looking for the American Dream and working hard to achieve the American Dream. Sadly, his life was taken from him by gangbangers.

My heart goes out to his family. As the father of four, I can’t imagine the pain and the grief of losing your child to a senseless gang shooting.

Juan, thank you for giving us so much in your very short life.

Go Colonists.

REMEMBERING VINCENT BECHARD AND PRAYING FOR PETER KREINER

(Mrs. MCCLAIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. On July 8, there was a terrible car crash in Sherman Township in my district that involved two of my constituents, Vincent Joseph Bechard and Peter Kreiner.

Sadly, this tragedy took the life of 67-year-old Vincent from Marlette.

Vincent is survived by his children and several grandchildren. This horrific accident has also put 62-year-old Peter Kreiner, also from Marlette, in the hospital in critical condition.

Both men have championed the right to life and been decades-long devotees to our country, our communities, and its founding ideals. Their impact on their community will be felt long after this terrible tragedy.

My prayers go out to the families of Vincent and Peter, and I am asking my colleagues in this Chamber to please pray for Mr. Bechard’s family and for the speedy and full recovery of Peter Kreiner.

NATIONAL DEFENSE IN THE CARIBBEAN

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on my amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that directs the Department of Defense, in conjunction with the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security, to assess the standing U.S. military force posture in the Caribbean Basin and the value, feasibility, and cost of increasing U.S. military capacity in the region.

The Caribbean region has long been a place of geopolitical exertion of power by foreign forces. Presently, China has planted flags in numerous Caribbean nations through investment and infrastructure. The United States is vulnerable from a national security posture.

This amendment is bipartisan, with support from our colleague representing the island of Puerto Rico, Congresswoman GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. This amendment is warranted, given the importance of the U.S. national security apparatus to capably fight transnational crime and protect U.S. national and regional security in the region. Too often, the Caribbean is ignored, and this amendment ensures that our Third Border is not forgotten as it confronts increasing regional political instability, hostile foreign engagement, and transnational criminal activity.

PRESIDENT BIDEN’S IDEOLOGICAL PURGE OF THE MILITARY

(Mrs. MILLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, last week, the Biden administration announced that they are cutting off the benefits for 60,000 National Guard and Reserve soldiers who do not want to take the COVID vaccine.

We are losing some of our best and brightest servicemembers to the Biden administration’s ideological purge of our military.

President Biden’s military purge weakens America and emboldens our adversaries, especially China.

I am proud to join Congressman MASSIE on his amendment to prohibit vaccine mandates for our servicemembers and to reinstate servicemembers who have been forced out due to the mandate.

I will continue to advocate for our troops.

FOOD SAFETY IS A SECOND-CLASS CITIZEN AT THE FDA

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Food Safety Administration Act, which I am introducing today, along with Senator DICK DURBIN.

The FDA regulates almost 80 percent of our food supply. Consumers and industry depend on the FDA to perform its regulatory role. Every year, nearly 48 million people get sick from foodborne illness, resulting in 128,000 Americans being hospitalized and 3,000 dying. This is preventable and costly.

Between inadequate responses to recalls, a failure to implement a culture of outbreak prevention, and proposed rules and initiatives that languish for years, FDA's food program has struggled in its role to protect consumers.

Food safety is a second-class citizen at the FDA. As highlighted by the infant formula crisis, there are dire consequences when food safety is not prioritized. The FDA has the authority to appoint a deputy commissioner of foods with a background in food safety but has yet to do so. This affects all aspects of FDA's food program.

That is why I am introducing this bill that will establish the Food Safety Administration under Health and Human Services and incorporate the existing food programs within the FDA into a separate agency. This will increase leadership and accountability, strengthen oversight of the food supply, and enhance the industry's ability to operate effectively.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CHUCK RHEEM

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Chuck Rheem, who was a leader in the Korean-American community and chairman of the U.S.-Korea Alliance Association.

Dr. Rheem had a special love for the United States and his home country of South Korea and dedicated himself to advocating for policies with numerous Presidential administrations to strengthen U.S.-Korea relations.

As a veteran of the Korean war, Dr. Rheem also had a passion for honoring our Korean war veterans and hosted numerous events to thank them and honor their sacrifices.

While Dr. Rheem is no longer with us, I know that his legacy will continue to live on through the efforts of the members of the U.S.-Korea Alliance Association.

I pray for God's peace for his family, friends, and anyone who knew him.

OVERTURNING ROE OVERTURNED OUR FREEDOM

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, overturning Roe overturned our freedom. The freedom to make our own healthcare decisions is fundamental to our humanity and our dignity. It is about the right to control our own lives.

It is about the mother of three who simply can't afford to care for another child. It is about a young rape victim who shouldn't be mandated to carry her attacker's pregnancy to term. It is about the mom who desperately wants a baby but has a miscarriage and needs abortion care to prevent a potentially lethal infection.

Government-mandated pregnancy, that is our new reality.

This week, House Democrats will protect access to abortion and secure the right to reproductive care. We will fight against the Republican's scorched earth campaign against freedom for women, freedom to practice our faith, and freedom to make decisions for our families. We will fight to let every person control their bodies, their choices, and their futures.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAXINE RANDALL

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Maxine Randall of Hillsdale, Michigan, who recently passed away at the age of 92.

After graduating from North Adams High School in 1948, Max played for the Fort Wayne Daisies of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, which was founded during World War II.

During her 6 years in the league, Max was named as an all-star five times and compiled 116 wins—fifth in league history.

Decades later, the women's baseball league that Max starred in served as a catalyst for the hit movie "A League of Their Own."

Following her pro baseball career, Max worked at Jonesville Products for many years, where she met her late husband, Bob.

As one relative described her, Max was "salt, grit, and a baseball mitt."

We send our condolences to the Randall family, and we celebrate an inspirational life lived to the fullest.

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PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE FREEDOM

(Ms. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, while the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade has impacted millions of Americans, we must also acknowledge its economic and racial implications.

We live in a country plagued by generations of healthcare inequities and racial disparities. Black, Latino, indigenous, and other communities of color already face healthcare barriers and will only continue to suffer in the aftermath of a post-Roe America.

State trigger bills that restrict or ban more than half of a country from reproductive healthcare access have already stripped millions of their fundamental right to decide their reproductive care. But our fight continues.

I implore my colleagues in Congress to unite to pass legislation to protect every American's constitutional right to travel freely and voluntarily throughout the United States, including for reproductive healthcare.

RECOGNIZING THE LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL LADY PANTHERS

(Mr. BABIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Liberty High School Lady Panthers for winning the 2022 Texas University Interscholastic League Division 4A State championship.

This is the Lady Panthers' second consecutive State title and the third in the last 5 years. Amazing.

During their historic season, the Lady Panthers had a record of 38 wins and only 6 losses before defeating the Sweeny Bulldogs in the State championship game on June 5.

I am proud to say six Lady Panthers were named to the State UIL Softball 4A All-Tournament Team: Kylie Bishop, Kamdyn Chandler, Reese Evans, Hollie Thomas, Bryana Pantalion, and Bailee Slack. Senior third baseman Kylie Bishop was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

In a pregame ceremony before Liberty's State title game, Head Coach Karen Slack received recognition as the 2020-2021 National Federation of State High School Coaches' Texas State Softball Coach of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I again congratulate the Lady Panthers on their season of triumph. I am so very proud of all of them.